

chiatric clinics. Because of its broad approach, it will be of interest to clinical psychologists concerned with other projection techniques who may wish to contrast their material with a thoroughly well-documented study. It can equally be recommended to any recently qualified psychologist who wants to become really knowledgeable about a well-established children's projection test designed for the age range 3-10 years.

R. F. BARBOUR.

Group Therapy in Child Psychoses. By REX W. SPEERS, M.D., and CORNELIUS LANSING, M.D. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press and London: Oxford University Press. 1965. Pp. 186. Price 38s.

Some Approaches to Teaching Autistic Children. Edited by P. T. B. WESTON. Oxford, London, Edinburgh, New York, Paris and Frankfurt: Pergamon Press. 1965. Pp. 74. Price 7s. 6d.

The therapeutic approach to childhood psychosis is of doubtful efficacy, and even enthusiasts do not claim much for it. As other treatments are as yet no more commendable, psychotherapy of one or the other kind seems an essential in the management of psychotic children. As the incidence of childhood psychosis is small, none but the specially interested psychiatrist will have much experience in this field. I myself do not expect to see more than one new case in a year or even two years. Consistent psychotherapy is very time-consuming, and only the exceptional clinic can afford to take on any but the most promising and urgent patients for this procedure. The authors found themselves in this position of time shortage and decided to form a therapeutic group of four, later five, children, who were treated for 828 hours within 4 years. Besides, the mothers and later on also the fathers formed a therapeutic group. These children and their parents occupied, therefore, between a third to a quarter of a psychiatrist's time over the whole period, not counting individual therapy also given. The book traces very vivid sketches of the personalities involved, their interaction and their activities. If one can forget the largely unnecessary psychoanalytical jargon and some of the more unlikely speculations interspersed between factual descriptions and human insights, this is fascinating reading. The effect of the treatment as such remains unclear. These children were taken on around their fourth year of age, and much that is explicitly and implicitly represented as treatment results may have been due to growth and

general socialization. It also appears that the adults derived little benefit.

It would seem, therefore, that this type of therapy is still to be considered a research procedure. There is much to be learned from the book, which can be recommended for reading to all children's psychiatrists. But few will have the patients, the time and the resources for such a venture. Drs. Speers and Lansing must be congratulated, nevertheless, for their skill, enthusiasm and ability to put their experiences into words.

Mr. Weston has collected short accounts by teachers and psychologists from this country and America engaged in the education, teaching and management of autistic children. They all enthusiastically but simply present the difficulties and achievements observed in their work. These accounts are very readable but will not be of great interest to the psychiatrist, as no new points of view, procedures or theories are developed. The last essay, by Dr. Rutter, presents a very readable elementary account of the psychiatric aspects of autism and would serve well the D.P.M. candidate.

D. J. SALFIELD.

3. PSYCHOPATHY AND DELINQUENCY

Ten Studies into Psychopathic Personality. By MICHAEL CRAFT. Bristol: John Wright & Sons Ltd. 1965. Pp. 136. Price 25s.

These studies into Psychopathic Personality are the subject of a Report to the Home Office and the Mental Health Research Fund. They were made between 1958 and 1963, during which time the author was Medical Superintendent of Balderton Hospital, Newark. Part of the hospital was devoted to the treatment of psychopathic boys, and a research programme was devised to explore methods of diagnosis and to compare two different types of treatment, one being group psychotherapy on a self-governing ward and the other an authoritarian regime. It is of much interest to read that at the second annual follow-up it was found that significantly more boys were convicted of indictable offences and significantly more needed institutional recommitment from the group therapy than from the authoritarian unit.

But this is only one facet of these studies. The history of the concept of the psychopathic personality, the clinical features, differential diagnosis, aetiology, and methods of treatment and follow-up studies are all fully dealt with against a background of extensive research into Western literature on the subject. They

illustrate the continuum in personality disorder from normality through minor and common behaviour disorders to the most extreme and relatively uncommon psychopath.

Though the book has only some 130 pages, it is packed with detailed information and represents an immense amount of painstaking work. Yet, as is inevitable in a relatively new field of enquiry, fresh questions are constantly being raised, none of which are so far capable of being fully answered. On the final page the author states that so little is known about effective methods of treatment of the psychopath that one can only stress the need for more controlled studies.

This is a sufficiently important book, written by a worker of experience and authority, to merit a clearer style. Clumsy phrasing makes difficult reading, and there are a large number of misprints. It was painful to the reviewer to see in the bibliography that the late Sir David Henderson, who was the pioneer of psychopathic studies in the United Kingdom, is referred to as "Henderson, K."

FRANCIS PILKINGTON.

The Delinquent Solution. A Study in Sub-cultural Theory. By DAVID M. DOWNES. Routledge & Kegan Paul. 42s.

Juvenile delinquency is a major social problem in this country, in the United States and in many other modern industrialized countries throughout the world.

In the United States, the enactments of the late President Kennedy's regime gave great impetus to the study and control of delinquency. When the Delinquency Control Act of 1961 was passed, a nation-wide series of programmes got under way. One such programme in New York with the rather evangelical title of Mobilization for Youth began in 1963. After two years' study of the theoretical aspects of the problem, a team led by Cloward and Ohlin at the New York School of Social Work of Columbia University produced a plan of action to be applied to a certain sector of New York City. A theoretical perspective of the delinquency problem was formulated which represented an effort to extend and refine two great intellectual traditions, that of anomie as put forward by Durkheim and elaborated by Merton, and the theory of cultural transmission expounded by Shaw, McKay and Sutherland.

Albert Cohen in 1955 appears to have been the first to apply the term "sub-cultural" to certain forms of juvenile delinquency. This term was, however, first used some 22 years previously by E. O. Lewis to designate a class of mental defectives. This appeared

in his classic paper "Types of Mental Deficiency and their Social Significance", published in the *Journal of Mental Science* in 1933. Sub-cultures are "cultures within cultures" and evolve from systems acceptable to society as a whole, while retaining recognizable patterns of behaviour and procedure. Cohen was interested in the developmental aspects of the "gang" as a particular sub-cultural group. It may be that the very heterogeneity of American society in the past has lent itself to the formation of "gangs" by disenchanting young people. Much of delinquency can be plausibly understood as illegitimate ways of achieving success. The "fighting gang" seeks to achieve prestige ("rep") through violence. The criminal gang seeks to achieve money ("scores") through theft. The "consumption gangs" (drug and alcohol users) have retreated from the struggle and accepted defeat. In this country there has been in the past little evidence of equivalents to these specific gangs, but there are now signs of emergence of some of the patterns observed by Cohen and others.

The first half of Downes's book is concerned with a critical analysis of theoretical considerations by many authorities on sub-cultural theory. In particular the ideas of Cohen and of Cloward and Ohlin are thoroughly teased out. The arguments for and against and additions and modifications by other authors regarding the postulations of the main protagonists are analysed in turn. Downes skilfully weaves his way through a complex maze of theory, although at times in order to maintain a theme he reserves various topics for further development in later chapters. Thus he avoids too many tedious footnotes. At the same time he could well have "pruned" many of the overlapping ideas common to more than one author.

Downes chose to apply his own digest of these theories to a study of delinquent sub-cultures in Stepney and Poplar. He produced a formal survey of official statistical data that do not take the argument very far. In order to obtain a closer look he uses the technique of "informal observation" by "hanging around" in the area. This section, including summary and conclusions representing almost a third of the book is vividly described and produces a fascinating picture of some of the characters inhabiting these areas. His contacts are necessarily a highly selected sample and not a typical cross-section of the delinquent population. Nevertheless, the anecdotal data are interesting in taking the lid off.

Delinquency is a complex psycho-socio-economic phenomenon. This book emphasizes once more the sociological aspects of the problem. Paradoxically,