

Alcohol-Related Disabilities. Edited by G. EDWARDS, M. M. GROSS, M. KELLER, J. MOSER and R. ROOM. World Health Organization. 1977. Pp 154. \$7.20.

This WHO publication starts off with a Report by a Steering Group on 'Criteria for Identifying and Classifying Disabilities related to Alcohol Consumption'; the 'alcohol dependence syndrome' is outstanding among these disabilities but is by no means the only one. There follow six individual contributions, among them 'A Lexicon of Disabilities related to Alcohol Consumption' by Mark Keller, until recently Editor of the *Journal of Studies on Alcohol*; Measurement and Distribution of Drinking Patterns and Problems in General Populations by the Californian Social Research Worker Robin Room; a review of 'Psychobiological Contributions to the Alcohol Dependence Syndrome' by the late Milton Gross, himself a leading research worker in this field; and chapters dealing with detection instruments, legislation and social security programmes concerning alcohol-related disabilities. These chapter headings reflect the variety of important subjects debated in this volume by members of various professional disciplines. The material presented will repay close study by anyone interested in drinking problems.

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The Growth of Crime. By SIR LEON RADZINOWICZ and JOAN KING. New York: Basic Books. 1977. Pp 342. £6.95.

When an eminent scholar retires and writes a new book on his field of study high expectations are aroused. Sir Leon Radzinowicz's international background and international fame has intensified this expectation. *The Growth of Crime* is somewhat of an anti-climax, for it is a good basic introductory volume on criminology. It is certainly the kind of book that psychiatrists can read easily and quickly and indeed should read, for it will give them a glimpse into a discipline which impinges on their daily work but which was almost certainly neglected in their training. However, we are not here in the presence of a scholarly masterpiece. It is, for example, almost entirely unreferenced. There is no new theory, proposal, or philosophy discussed, in spite of the fact that the text of this two-author book is liberally peppered with 'I' and 'myself'.

Once the initial disappointment has faded it is possible to appreciate that the book is really a

balanced account of criminology today. It begins with the world-wide increase in crime figures and the evidence there is that this is only the tip of the iceberg. One or two criminological theories to account for this are briefly discussed before two good sections on the legal response and the enforcement of the law. I particularly liked the chapter on deterrence. It ends with two chapters on penology, one on prisons, the other on alternatives to prison.

Psychiatrists will be delighted that they are hardly mentioned, and the sickness model of crime, even the social sickness model, is eschewed. Maybe this is a further reason for regarding the book as a good brief up-to-date introduction to criminology.

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Child Behaviour Problems: An Empirical Approach to Management. By ROGER MCAULEY and PATRICIA MCAULEY. London: MacMillan Press. 1977. Pp 240. £7.95, £3.35 (paperback).

Although behaviour modification has won for itself a limited place in child psychiatric management in the United Kingdom, experience in its use has been confined to a relatively small number of centres. One reason for this may be that the texts describing its use are mainly American and are written in a language more suited to the understanding of the experimental psychologist than to the practising child psychiatrist. Ss and Es are only translated with difficulty into patients and therapists. The problem is, of course, by no means entirely linguistic, for the impression created by the clipped mechanical style of writing in such contributions is not calculated to appeal to the clinician who feels that his therapeutic effectiveness is determined by his personality as well as by his techniques.

This book aims to fill a gap by providing the clinician concerned with disturbed children with a body of behavioural theory and a repertoire of behavioural methods. I felt that it succeeds admirably in this task, and would recommend it wholeheartedly to all psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and non-medical psychotherapists who wish to extend their knowledge and therapeutic skills into the behavioural field. The two authors, a child psychiatrist and a social worker, have described behavioural assessment together with the planning and conduct of treatment regimes in a relatively jargon-free and unpretentious manner. The content contains a good balance of theory, systematic advice, case histories,