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officer to the magistrate who has given him a new probationer: "With respect, sir, my case-load is already too heavy to enable me to give proper supervision to an additional client." I dare say some magistrates would look askance. But if the probation officer stuck to his guns, some real progress would have been made, by calling attention to the futility of trying to do the impossible in order to save one's face. The inability of a probation officer to give the concentrated, individual attention necessary to the boy whose character he is required to assess (say to aid a borstal report) is sometimes reflected in the boy himself, after he has arrived at an Allocation Centre. At two Allocation Centres I visited, I had pointed out to me by the officers in charge of workshops—each of them men of long experience—the various boys they instinctively recognised as unfit for borstal, because patently untrainable. All that was done about them—and I see no reason to consider them as isolated cases—was to make the best of a bad job. Not that the job had in the first place been badly handled by the probation officer. The poor man simply had not had the time any more than had the other contributors to his report, thoroughly to judge the boy's qualities—or lack of them.

The above instance of confused endeavour is not as unrelated to the subject of this review as it may at first appear to be. The point I wish to make is this: that until a sufficiently numerous staff has been recruited to facilitate the proper working of the Prison and Probation systems as they exist, extravagant notions of what miracles a team of dedicated specialists—sup-

posing you could find enough of the right sort—might work, are somewhat misplaced. And I am not at all sure that in this argument Mr. Klare doesn't find himself on my side. Eager reformer in spirit he may be, but the spirit is attached to a mind as balanced as it is penetrating. No one could more appreciate the difficulties which face the Prison Commissioners at the present time, nor is his understanding of the prison officers who serve them, at whatever level, any less acute. In no other book about prisons have I come across such sympathy for, and understanding of, the prison officer and his attitude towards his extremely demanding job. Mr. Klare has obviously studied the prison staff from every angle and has obviously gained their confidence in the course of his researches.

As a blue print for the future, to be put away (but not forgotten) until the time is ripe to act upon his constructive suggestions, his book is admirable. And no member of the general public who seriously wants to know what prison is about, can afford to miss it.

SEWELL STOKES

CRIME AND THE PENAL SYSTEM.

Howard Jones, B.Sc., Ph.D.

University Tutorial Press Ltd. 1956
pp.269 16s. 0d.

"OCTOBER. This is one of the peculiarly dangerous months in which to speculate in stocks. The others are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August and February."

Had Mark Twain's delightful character Pudd'nhead Wilson been

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a creation of the mid-twentieth-century, he might well have made an equally pertinent observation about the dangers of speculating in the field of criminology as well as in the field of finance. The need for such a reminder was confirmed in 1950, by Dr. Scott's examination of opinions on crime expressed in the national press, and if it was appropriate in 1950, how much more so during the past four or five years when the rapidly increasing numbers of recorded crime and convicted offenders have provided such a fertile ground for the speculative. Within this context, Dr. Howard Jones' *Crime and the Penal System*, appearing as it did in 1956 as the first and much-needed English text-book on Criminology, came at a most opportune time. His first chapter on "Criminology as a Science", and the succeeding ones on methodology and the resultant theories of causation are an excellent antidote to the speculator. They stress, and give a valuable insight into, the complexity of "the jungle through which we have to find our way" and the as yet limited through roads made into the jungle.

Dr. Jones opens by indicating some of the basic problems besetting the claim of criminology to be a science. In the process, he intentionally or unintentionally trails his coat, thus making the book, for at least some readers, all the more stimulating. He, for example, deliberately and quite necessarily in a short text-book, side-steps the "age-old" dispute about "free-will" and "determinism", but not before he declares that to impute personal responsibility is to make the search for causal factors a waste of time. One would like to know whether Dr. Jones would accept the con-

verse, namely that a search for causal factors implies a denial of personal responsibility. In this case, would not the position of the criminologist be that of a determinist rather than an ethical agnostic, which Dr. Jones suggests he should be? Whilst the criminologist *qua* scientist must obviously eschew "question-begging moral judgements" has the criminologist to accept only two alternatives, either aiming to explain the whole picture, or, failing that, to give up the search for enlightenment altogether?

In the ensuing chapter, Dr. Jones outlines critically some of the explanations of crime coming from the variety of disciplines which have so far contributed to this still ill-defined subject of criminology—the constitutional, the psychological including the psycho-analytical, and the sociological theories. To attempt to select from, and condense, such a vast complex range of material into a relatively few pages is obviously a herculean and unenviable task, but one which the author does with considerable skill. He does, however, tend to be somewhat uneven in his critical appraisal and his apparently ready acceptance, for example, of the findings and subsequent hypotheses of Bowlby's "Forty Four Juvenile Thieves" sounds perhaps a note of caution. This, particularly in view of his omission to record Bowlby's own warning that "the number of cases is small, the contribution of the sample doubtful, the recording of data unsystematic, the amount of data on different cases uneven. Conclusions drawn in such circumstances are clearly liable to all sorts of errors". One cannot keep feeling that Dr. Jones' heart lies in the psychological theories rather than

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in the social aspects, with an intensive study of the individual offender rather than the more extensive study of crime as a social phenomenon. His chapter on "Some Social Factors", a most depressing title, tends to read like a catalogue of features which couldn't very well be left out, although curiously enough that important institution, the school, is unfortunately neglected. It is a pity that in this and other chapters on the social aspects the reader could not have been given the incentive to try to see criminal behaviour within the wider context of a rapidly changing society. If the family is so important in the understanding of personality development, the study of the changing structure and functions of the family is fundamental to an understanding of the overall problem of contemporary maladjustment. If the school is significant, the wider implications of the developing educational system and social mobility cannot be ignored. If youth is over-represented in the ranks of criminal offenders, the peculiar problems of adolescence in contemporary society are of immediate relevance. Provided that criminology is not only a science but "a reformist study, seeking to effect changes either in individuals or in society itself", the emphasis should not be too heavily weighted on the individual offender, but balanced with an appraisal of the relevance of the social structure, in which more immediate causal factors and remedial methods can have some perspective. This in no way detracts from the importance of Dr. Jones' theme in probably the most challenging chapter in his book, "Seeing the Problem Whole". He restresses

the need for integration, for a move from the study of a heterogeneous to a more homogeneous group of delinquents, and, at the same time, the need to operate on the basis not of a multiplicity of single causal factors, but on the basis of "constellations, in which . . . each member affects the operation of each other. Whether a factor is causal or not seems to depend on how, and with what other factors, it happens to be combined." Whether or not, however, we can say that "the future seems to rest for the time being with the case-study" is doubtful.

Dr. Jones devotes approximately half of his book to this overwhelming problem of criminal behaviour, the remainder to an extremely useful survey of the problems of punishment, the evolution of the penal system, including the process of selecting punishment and finally the possibilities of preventive work. It is at the end of the first section, that one begins to wonder whether the author was wise in throwing his reader into the jungle of causation, particularly since the inroads so far made are as yet limited and relatively unco-ordinated. In so far as the book was intended as an introductory work for the more academic student this has its merit. The comprehensive survey of causal theories, whilst of necessity restricted in respect of each theory, raises many of the important ideas and is well indexed. Although critical he avoids being so critical that there is no incentive to investigate original sources. There is an obvious logic about the progression from defining crime, through methodology and the study of causation, to the question of punishment and prevention. On the other hand, one suspects that for many people

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engaged professionally in the penal and judicial system, there is the danger that in starting with the subject of method and causation its very complexity and inconclusiveness will leave the reader either bewildered, if not confused, or cynical. This may seem a rather churlish point of criticism since, to the reviewer's knowledge, the book has been most valuable to many such readers. Obviously, too, no text-book can conceivably meet the particular needs of all individuals, and in any case it may be asked—what is to stop the reader choosing where to delve first? Indeed, this is not intended as a criticism at all, but rather a pretext for raising a problem which a first text-book should precipitate, the problem of how to encourage and develop the study of criminology among officials with a fund of practical experience in dealing with crime and criminals.

There is often, one feels, and Dr. Jones would seem to imply this if he does not state it explicitly, a degree of suspicion or even tension between the scientist and at least some of the practitioners in this, as in many other fields of learning. Tension need not imply an unhealthy situation, it may indeed be the very reverse, but it does, under certain circumstances, constitute a difficulty in the exchange and development of ideas. This may be due in part to the fact, as Dr. Jones put it, that "the criminologist cannot help but be a critic of the penal system so long as we continue to refine our understanding of the problems of treatment. He is, therefore, prone to fall victim to that occupational disease of the reformer: the tendency to lose one's sense of proportion and to see nothing good at all in the object of

criticism". In addition, set against the emphasis that most criminologists lay upon the reformatory functions of penal institutions, is the suggestion of Dr. Jones, in a rather sweeping generalisation which is however modified by the context, that "although both prisoners and officials pay lip service to the reformatory function of the prisons, neither really accept it". Finally, there is perhaps a natural tension between the approach of common sense and the basic prerequisites of scientific method—exactitude and "an examination of the facts of the real world, free from any preconceived ethical notions."

If these points are valid—there may well be justifiable protests against the second—and if, for the benefit of both parties, the lines of communication between scientist and practitioner are to be improved, the initial approach to the subject is of real importance. There is an overwhelming temptation, to which the reviewer has himself yielded, to begin with those areas where tension is likely to be greatest—the defining of crime and its relationship to morals, the problem of personal responsibility, the scientific approach to causation, the concept of causation itself. Is this, however, the most useful approach, even if one of the basic aims of such a study is to expose prejudice and unwarranted generalisation? Perhaps for those who approach the subject of criminology for the first time through Dr. Jones' book, and with a practical outlook, the starting point should be with the outline of the evolution of the penal system. If the study of the history of the present penal system "immunises" the criminologist against being over critical, it may

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equally well heighten the consciousness of change on the part of the student and present a common ground of agreement from which to embark upon a more critical study. The drastic changes, which Dr. Jones clearly shows, immediately precipitate a need to enquire into the reasons and implications of such changes. But it is imperative that the changing institutions should be seen within the context of the society in which they exist. The concept of the inter-reaction of a "constellation" of factors is as relevant to development of institutions as to that of the individual personalities and may be more easily grasped. What better example could be found than the emergence of the prison system and the prison ethos? The word "change" has been used deliberately rather than Dr. Jones' word "progress", for the latter implies judgement and a set of values which can too readily be taken for granted. Indeed, one of the most important aspects of the historical approach is to expose the danger of passing judgement on the basis of concealed values. It is all too easy to evoke a feeling of abhorrence for, and pour criticism upon, the penal institutions of the past, without making explicit the values that underly such feelings and judgements. If it is important for the student of criminology eventually to approach such problems as "natural crime", "responsibility", "causation" from the point of view of the ethical agnostic, perhaps this can be best achieved initially through the past rather than the present in which he is so acutely involved.

These sentiments may well merely reflect the reviewer's own

bias, in which case may he conclude by expressing his genuine appreciation for the bringing out of this most useful text-book.

NORMAN JEPSON.

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND SOCIAL PATHOLOGY

Allen & Unwin. 1959. pp.376. 35s. 0d.

Barbara Wootton

Descriptive.

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND SOCIAL PATHOLOGY was published in 1959. Many favourable reviews have already been published. Social Pathology is used not in its direct sense, but its transferred sense. That is to say it refers to the abnormal conditions themselves. Lady Wootton chooses, (she gives her reasons for the choice in her introduction), to consider law-breaking, illegitimacy, divorce, other marital separations, children, not offenders, committed to the case of fit persons, placed under supervision, sent to approved schools as in need of care and protection, beyond their parents' control, or failing to attend school, and persons without a settled way of life.

The book has three parts. The first part contains a review of the conditions of non-conformity just listed, and an examination of the way this non-conformity is spread over the population, and of the concept of poverty. There follows a review of twenty-one studies including the work of such familiar names as Healy, Burt, S. & E. T. Glueck, Carr-Saunders, Mannheim, Rose and Wilkins, and the evidence they offer as to the causes of delinquency. A remarkable chapter follows on Maternal Separation or Deprivation, a study of theories based on the age of the offender,