

In *God is for Real, Man*, Carl Burke, chaplain to an American prison, has brought together a number of paraphrases of Biblical stories, from both Old and New Testaments, made by young underprivileged people, in their own beatnik jargon. To judge by these essays, which one should regard as enlightening rather than intentionally amusing, the youngsters seem willing to accept, on their own terms, not according to the forms of a Church which has seemingly deserted them, the concepts of God as Maker and Christ as Saviour. They relate the Bible stories to their own experiences of hate and love and meanness and kindness. They are beginning to understand that, maybe, God is for real.

What emerges from both these little books is that children often become criminal because they lack love and understanding from those who should be standing in the place of God to them. They are young persons in need of God's love and care, who cannot be expected to have respect for the idea of God as Father when their own parents are depraved or inadequate. As a young borstal lad once said to me: "Why are they surprised if I am violent? Violence is the only thing I have known in my life".

If these small books, each in its own special way, help anybody to penetrate only a little to the minds of the alienated young ones in prisons and borstals, they will have done well.

CONTRIBUTORS

R. COOPER joined the Prison Service from the Probation Service in 1962. After completing the 19th Staff Course he was posted to Wandsworth as an assistant governor and is still in this post.

MAXWELL ATKINSON was an assistant research officer at the Home Office Research Unit and is now a research assistant at the University of Essex.

W. J. KEAST joined the Prison Service at Camp Hill in 1950, has since served at Portland and Dover, and is now a principal officer at Gaynes Hall.

JOHN DANIEL WHEELER is a police court officer in Suffolk. He is the author of *The History of the West Suffolk Constabularies* and lectures and writes on police law, history and organisation. In 1965 he was awarded a commendation for his entry in the Queen's Police Gold Medal Competition of 1964.

REV. JOHN A. V. BURKE, Roman Catholic parish priest of St. John Fisher's Church, Rochester, and part-time chaplain at Rochester Borstal, is a film critic, member of the International Catholic Film Office Executive Committee and the Critics' Circle Council: he is a regular contributor to the *Universe*, *Tablet* and *The World*.

Miss J. M. SADLER, B.A. is careers information officer of the Inner London Youth Employment Service. She was previously for 11 years a careers advisory officer working in London grammar and comprehensive schools.

FRANK LIESCHING has been deputy governor of Wandsworth and is now warden of Latchmere House Detention Centre.

recommendations of the Mountbatten Report are seen as a whole, they offer a great opportunity for the realisation of the hopes of a great number of prison officers and, I would add, of those who work with them.

It would be most distressing if we lost this opportunity. Already "security officers" are being trained at Wakefield; it is up to us to urge our Department that corresponding implementation should be given to the other side of the coin—to press for similar training in group work and rehabilitation.

The urgency of this matter cannot be over emphasised. For, already, it seems that a hasty decision has been taken: in agreeing to implement the report's suggestion (section 17) for a new grade of senior prison officer has the Prison Department avoided consideration of the much more relevant type of reorganisation of grades proposed by Mr. Nicholson?

If 1967 is eventually seen as a year which marked only a fresh concern with the implementation of our custodial aims, the fault will be ours and not Lord Mountbatten's.

I am,

Yours etc.,

CHRISTOPHER R. BRAND,
(Psychologist),
H.M. Prison,
Grendon.

CONTRIBUTORS (continued)

MARTIN WRIGHT is secretary and librarian of the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge, and a member of the U.K. editorial board of *Excerpta Criminologica*. For five years he was a prison visitor at Wormwood Scrubs. He is a member of the National Council of Companions of Simon, and chairman of the Cambridge group of companions, who are planning to open a Simon house in Cambridge.

H. C. GUNZBURG, M.A., Ph.D., F.B.P.S.S. is a consultant psychologist whose main interest is the designing of assessment instruments and teaching aids to further the social competence of dull people. He is the author of the "Progress Assessment Charts of Social Development" (P-A-C) which have been translated into several European languages. In *Social Rehabilitation of the Subnormal* (Bailliere, Tindall and Cox) he deals with the practical issues of educational and therapeutic work with dull people and his forthcoming book on *Social Competence and Mental Handicap* (to be published early in 1968) will deal with the assessment of social incompetence.

L. A. PORTCH is Governor of Reading Borstal.