

nosis and more specific treatment available both inside and outside the prison walls seems important. Dr. Gibbens raises the question of more systematic screening interviews at court, and the use of a condition of treatment as a more usual part of a probation order; Dr. Epps raises the question of a treatment regime in prison for the large group with what she describes as personality disorder "whose constructive handling presented considerable difficulty."

On the question of screening in the juvenile population, the report stresses the difficulty of excluding cases from court appearance on superficial grounds, since "the nature of the offence, however trivial, gives no indication of the degree of disturbance which lies behind it." In this study, approximately 40 per cent of both boys and girls showed a well-marked

disturbance in their family or personal life which would have merited supervision and treatment, and an equal number could not, in the confines of this study, be investigated at all. Such evidence as there is from the Portman Clinic and from a previous study by Dr. Grunhut, suggests that treatment results "have not been unsatisfactory." It is clear that in this area of diagnosis and treatment, as in others mentioned by the authors, the need for further study and for experimentation and follow-up is great.

Shoplifting — by T. C. GIBBENS and JOYCE PRINCE

is obtainable direct from the Institute for the Study and Treatment of delinquency, 8 Bourdon Street, Davies Street, London. W.1.

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Why Rationalise?

In private enterprise
It pays to advertise
And so capitalise
On public need.

Although we sympathise
We even televise
Until the public buys
Beyond its need.

We long to civilise
But only compromise
And almost idolise
The public greed

Should we express surprise
That all the crime rates rise?
When such things signalise
The public creed.

JAMES GOEHGAN