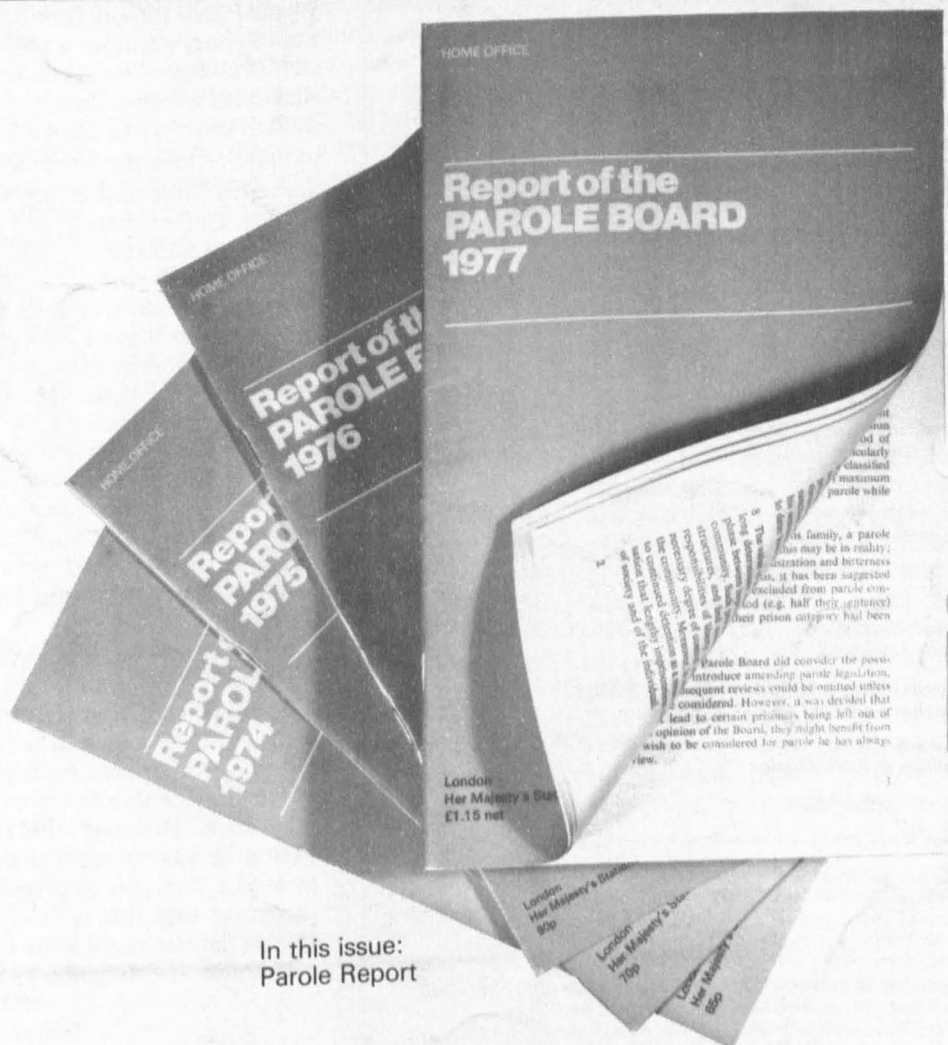


# PRISON SERVICE

# JOURNAL



In this issue:  
Parole Report



# PRISON SERVICE JOURNAL

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*The editorial board wishes to make it clear that the views expressed by contributors are their own and do not reflect the official views or policies of the Prison Department.*

## Editorial

By the time this magazine is received we shall know the membership of the proposed inquiry team into the Prison Service, together with its terms of reference. None of us will envy the team as it proceeds with its onerous task. The work of an inquiry is to receive evidence from all who consider that they have something worthwhile to say; to sift such contributions; to assess their value and finally to report their recommendations to the Secretary of State. The Prison Service has been the object of many such investigations in recent years beginning with the Wynn-Parry Report into pay and conditions in 1958. This Report occupies a hallowed place in Prison Service memory, and there are many who will use it as a yardstick with which to measure the effectiveness of the current inquiry. In 1964 a Royal Commission was set up to enquire into the whole workings of the Prison Service and much time and effort was expended by all interested parties. Unfortunately, the Commission never reported and it was allowed to perish. Again there are many who recall this with some feeling.

The other major inquiry in recent years was the Mountbatten Report into prison security in 1966 which rightly or wrongly caused the Prison Service to make a major directional change in its use of resources. The results of that inquiry have been far-reaching. Some argue that one of its less fortunate results was to ensure that just about every skill and specialism within the Service was thereby financially recognized except the skill of managing prisoners. As a consequence, the humane treatment of prisoners and the essential intercourse between staff and inmates were seen as of less importance.

The last few months have not been easy for the Prison Service. Its critics have had a field day, and every newspaper and magazine has given the public the benefit of its editorial views. It is right that members of the public, professional bodies and informed people outside of the Service should have the opportunity to present their ideas. However, real responsibility lies with the Prison Service to see that the inquiry is left in no doubt as to the thoughts and feelings of its members. We must recognize that this is an opportunity for us to make the Prison Service capable of serving the nation for the remainder of this century. We must not fail to take it.

# PAROLE REPORT

Richard Atherton  
*Senior RC Chaplain*

**It would be a pity if in the euphoria of celebrating the centenary of the Prison Service, we were to forget another—less impressive, yet not unimportant—anniversary which occurs this year—the tenth birthday of parole in this country. It was on 1 April 1968 that the first batch of prisoners was released on licence under the terms of the Criminal Justice Act of the previous year.**

Parole got off to a cautious start, and not surprisingly. If it was to succeed, it must have the support of the public; 'mistakes' must not be made. In fact, in the early months, no more than 8.5 per cent of those eligible managed to secure an early release, and yet in its first report the Parole Board was expressing the belief that in due course the introduction of parole would come to be recognized as "a milestone on the main road of progress". Since then there has been steady and encouraging growth in the parole 'industry'. The Parole Board itself now numbers some 30 members, plus chairmen, who work in three separate panels, operating from London, Birmingham and Manchester, while the Local Review Committees (thanks to section 35 of the 1972 Criminal Justice Act) have ceased to act simply as screening bodies for the Board and now, within certain limits, make direct recommendations to the Home Secretary. In 1976 alone, over 2,000 prisoners were released in this way, on the advice of LRC's without recourse to the Board.<sup>1</sup>

There are other significant facts also: that the number of those eligible for parole who decline to be considered at all has dropped by half, that the number who actually gain parole has risen above the 50 per cent mark, and that the number of recalls has been less than 10 per cent and in most cases not because of further convictions.

However, a tenth birthday is not an occasion for naive complacency and therefore it might be wise to con-

sider some of the criticisms that have been levelled at the parole system during the past decade. Broadly speaking, they fall under three heads:

First, those which point to *the illogicality of the system*. It has been urged that the advent of parole has led to an increase in sentences. As Professor Rupert Cross puts it: "Even if remission is something which the judge ought not to take into account . . . it is difficult to believe that an increase in its amount would have no effect on his sentencing over a period".<sup>2</sup> It has also been argued that though the White Paper on Adult Offenders, which first announced the government's intention of introducing a parole scheme, stated that the purpose of parole was to help those prisoners who have reached "a recognizable peak in their training", beyond which, "if kept in prison, they may go downhill"<sup>3</sup>—yet the provisions of the 1967 Act mean that a man sentenced to 30 years imprisonment is considered to have no chance of reaching the peak of his training for at least 10 years!

Second, those which allege that *parole is granted to too few, too late, after too lengthy a process*. In reply one

might say: (a) that the current rate of granting parole (as has been indicated, more than half of those applying for parole are now successful) probably does represent that 'plateau' of which Lord Hunt spoke;<sup>4</sup> any substantial increase would make parole normal practice, which would not only be contrary to existing statutes but would also, almost inevitably, lead to the more excessive sentences which some critics fear have already been provoked by present paroling arrangements; (b) that it is indeed unfortunate that many parole licences do not allow sufficient time for the probation officer to strike up a fruitful relationship with the offender (in 1972, for example, 50 per cent of parole licences were for less than six months),<sup>5</sup> but this can hardly be altered while the law insists, on the one hand, that the licence expire—except in the case of YO's and those on extended sentences—when the parolee would normally have gained his release, and, on the other, that no one be paroled until he has served at least 12 months of his sentence; (c) that the delay, which is so undesirable and often so agonizing for a prisoner and his family, is almost inescapable given the two—and often three—tier system that is operated in this country. Perhaps the only way out of this impasse would be a radical transformation of the whole procedure such as has been suggested by Dr. Keith Hawkins.<sup>6</sup> He would replace the LRC's by regional parole boards which would visit prisons, conduct personal



(After 10 years of parish work in the Liverpool area, entered the Prison Service in 1965 as the Roman Catholic Chaplain to HM Prison, Walton. In 1975 became Assistant Senior RC Chaplain, dividing time between chaplaincy of HM Prison, Appleton Thorn, and assistance to Senior RC Chaplain, especially in the North and Midland Regions. For some years was editor of the Chaplaincy publication "New Life". In October 1977 appointed Senior RC Chaplain).

hearings and have power to make final decisions in the granting of parole, thus leaving the Parole Board to hear appeals and to smooth out inconsistencies of approach throughout the regions, while the Secretary of State would intervene only where the national interest might be at stake.

Third, those which claim that the present system is *contrary to natural justice* in that it deprives the prisoner of the right to appear in person, to be represented, to be given reasons if he fails in his application or to appeal against an adverse decision. There is surely a strong case for giving the prisoner at least the option of appearing in person before the LRC, though it is clear that the amount of time required for such personal appearances might be too heavy a burden for the present LRC's to cope with. This latter point is still more relevant if we are to consider the possibility of the prisoner being *represented* before the LRC—and perhaps again before the Parole Board. Maybe the most that can be realistically proposed at the present time is that the parole applicant should have someone at least to accompany him and support him before the bodies who decide his fate.

The failure of the Parole Board to offer reasons for its refusal to grant parole has been a source of bitter complaint almost from the inception of the parole system. Many explanations are offered—for example, that in individual cases it might be impossible or undesirable to divulge the true reasons, that it would often be difficult to give the reasons in any precise or helpful way, that it would leave the prison authorities in a particularly unenviable position since they would not only have to inform the unsuccessful candidate but also have to live with him afterwards—but, happily, there is already the sign of a movement away from this somewhat paternalistic attitude and an acknowledgement by the Home Secretary of the feasibility of giving reasons for refusal of parole, chosen from a list of over 20 “causes for concern”.<sup>7</sup>

The next logical step is to consider the possibility of there being a right to appeal against the refusal of parole. Again the case is a persuasive one, but the practical difficulties which stand in the way of accepting it are enormous: the members of the Parole Board would almost certainly have to become full-time, whereas at present all but the chairmen work on a

part-time basis, and the regional parole boards suggested by Hawkins would not only have to come into existence, but they would have to be composed of members of the same calibre as those in the national Board and with the ability and willingness to devote themselves full-time to the task.

However, even within the framework of the present parole system, it seems possible to go some way towards meeting the kind of criticism mentioned in this article, and certainly it would be possible to introduce a number of valuable improvements: for example, the whole process of ‘vetting’ might be done more expeditiously, the veil of secrecy which cloaks so much of the work might be removed at least to the extent that those eligible for parole are not left completely in the dark, clearer guidelines might be offered to the likelihood of parole, so that suitable training of likely parolees might take place.

But, in the end, it would seem that a choice must be made: is parole to remain a privilege—in which case there are limits to the changes which can be introduced into the current system? Or is it to become a right—in which case an almost total transformation may take place, the procedure may become more judicial and perhaps more remote, and some of the advantages that have arisen from the existence of a Body, independent both of judiciary and executive, and enjoying a fairly favourable public image, will be lost?

That choice, whichever it may be, will affect decisively the manner in which the parole system of this country will work during the second decade—not to mention the succeeding ones—of its existence. In the meantime we have reason to be grateful for an innovation in penal policy which results at any given time in some 2,500 men and women (the equivalent of two large prisons and several million pounds of tax-payer's money!) being released from prison earlier than they otherwise would be, and, in most cases, with the additional advantage of the support and guidance of a probation officer.

We may not wish to go as far as the prison governor who likened the effect of parole on the prison system to that of “the laying on of hands”,<sup>8</sup> but at least we should feel no embarrassment in accepting the verdict of Professor John B. Mays that “the

parole system can now be said to have proved itself as a valuable addition to penological practice in this country. It can still be criticized . . . but it is evident that the Board . . . is eager to ensure that the prison custody of an offender gives way to responsible supervision in the open as soon as it is commensurate with public interest”.<sup>9</sup>

#### References

1. “Parole Board Report for 1976”.
2. “Punishment, Prison and the Public”, p.99. (This quotation though not referring directly to parole, which Professor Cross undoubtedly supports, is certainly relevant to it).
3. “The Adult Offender”, Cmnd.2852, para.5.
4. In a 1973 unpublished address. (This information is to be found in the first of two articles, entitled “Natural Justice and Parole”, by J. E. Hall Williams in the CLR of 1975. Both have proved invaluable to the present writer).
5. Dr. Donald West in the BJC of January 1973.
6. Dr. Keith Hawkins in the BJC, January 1973.
7. In a speech at the Mansion House to the “New Bridge” on 12 July, 1976.
8. “Changing Prisons” by J. E. Hall Williams, p. 73.
9. “Crime and its Treatment”, p. 128-129.

(Since this article was written, the Report of the Parole Board for 1977 has been published. It shows that “the overall paroling rate, i.e. the percentage of determinate sentence prisoners eligible for parole who receive it at some stage during their sentence”, now stands at 62 per cent, that in 1977 the failure rate rose for the first time to above—just above—10 per cent, and that as well as the meetings of the panels of the Board in Birmingham and Manchester there have been further meetings outside of London during the past 12 months, viz. in Cardiff, Leeds and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The Report indicates that the members of the Board are very much aware of the issues raised in this article. Perhaps its philosophy could be summed up in the following quotations: parole “was introduced because it was believed that the early release on licence of selected prisoners, under the supervision of the probation service, would be of more value both to society and the individual offender than continued imprisonment. We continue to believe this to be the case”, “it is our responsibility to make the recommendation that we feel to be best both for the individual prisoner and the community; we are very much aware that our work can only succeed if we have the confidence of the public” and “We always welcome discussion of the working of the parole system with a view to its improvement”).

A. R.



# A Wheelbarrow full of surprises



**J. D. Yates**

*Governor,  
HM Prison,  
Cookham Wood*

John Yates is the first Governor of HM Prison, Cookham Wood which he opened in 1977. He has had an eventful career in the Prison Service and has served in such diverse places as Lowdham Grange, South East Regional Office and Long Lartin.

He is well known for his musical ability both inside and outside the Service. He recently made his mark at the Kent County Singing Festival at Canterbury, where he took first place in four of the six categories.

He is married with three sons and a daughter.

If you were to come to the Medway Valley looking for Cookham Wood, you would look in vain. Like Shakespeare's Birnam Wood it has been moved, not to Dunsinane, but into oblivion. In its place you would find a new half-a-prison, an estate of 65 new houses, nearly all of them desirable semi's, and a small copse which seems to stand defiantly as the last remains of the wood.

In 1972 work began on a site adjacent to Rochester Borstal to provide Kent with a much-needed remand centre for male young offenders. This was intended to relieve Canterbury Prison which was then, and probably still is, the most seriously overcrowded male prison in the south-east. The original intention was that the remand centre would be built entirely by borstal trainees from Rochester, but after a series of difficulties in organizing the work-force, together with a near-tragedy on site, responsibility for providing inmate labour was given to the governor of Eastchurch (now Stanford Hill) Prison, while the professional work-force was supplied from the borstal works department. These arrangements have continued since then and will probably carry on until the whole prison has been finished.

Cookham Wood is being built in two phases. Phase One provides accommodation for 56 in single cells

each having integral toilet and washing facilities, while Phase Two will increase the population to 120 and is expected to be ready for handover in about two years time. The planning of the prison is such that what many would regard as essential services (workshop, gymnasium, canteen, laundry, punishment block) are not provided for in the first phase.

In September 1977 I took up post as the first governor of Kent's new and only remand centre. The Chief Officer arrived at the same time and the Administration Officer had been installed since early August. By some strange piece of administration, the full-time Education Officer was appointed in April, and at the time of my arrival had been in post for five months as the one and only occupant!

For both the Chief and I, the usual problem of family separation had been solved by the provision of temporary quarters by Rochester Borstal for which we were very grateful, especially as our transfer dates coincided with the beginning of the new school year.

Having been satisfactorily housed with our families, we could get down to the task of organizing the opening of the remand centre, a task which each member of the small staff tackled with enthusiasm and a sense of personal commitment. We were all fired with excitement and challenge at the prospect of being in at the beginning of a new establishment and it was as though we were to be the keystone upon which the whole future of this particular corner of the Prison Service would rest. Certainly no one could have doubted our eagerness to get started as a team.

One of the major problems in forming any new organization is that of co-ordinating the activities and contributions of the various headquarters divisions. This was the responsibility

of P7, and to do it they had set up early in the remand centre's history a Project Control Team whose function was to meet regularly and chart the progress being made on the building side. Later, when the first phase was nearing completion, a Commissioning Team was formed to look after the business of providing the means of actually getting the place operational. The whole process is rather similar to putting a new car on the road with the PCT providing the vehicle, the Commissioning Team supplying the petrol and the governor and his staff doing the driving!

I had come to Cookham Wood expecting to find, as seems common to such projects, quite a lot of opposition from the locals to the building of a prison where previously there had been an area of pleasant woodland; I was surprised to find that very few people in the Medway Towns, even those living close by and others whom one would have reasonably expected to know, had any idea that since 1972 a prison was being constructed on their doorstep, and even fewer showed any interest when they did know. I think the reason for this unusual lack of reaction must lie in the fact that the borstal, and before it the old Chatham Convict Prison, has been a part of the Rochester scene for so long that any building development nearby is regarded merely as an extension of the existing establishment.

Having previously visited the new remand centre I was aware of the two phases of building, and had supposed that very soon after arriving I would assume overall responsibility; but there was another surprise in store when I discovered that Cookham Wood Remand Centre was shared by myself and the governors of Eastchurch and Rochester. This arrange-

ment incurred several obvious difficulties for the staff working on the project, especially in the area of accountability, as neither staff nor prisoners were within my administrative domain and I had therefore little involvement in the operations of Phase Two.

Because of the pressure of numbers at Canterbury, the remand centre was needed as soon as possible, so we set ourselves a personal target of a mid-January opening for Phase One. This would give us four months to get things organized, and we knew we should all have to apply ourselves conscientiously to achieve our target date. Fortunately, during the preceding months and even years, the staff at Rochester Borstal had already done a great deal to lighten our load but there were still a thousand-and-one jobs to be done in the way of equipping the various departments, organizing routines, establishing liaison with the courts, police, fire and probation services to say nothing of our own colleagues at headquarters, regional offices and other establishments. There was a great deal to be done, and relatively little time to do it.

The Boards of Visitors at nearby establishments in Kent had been invited, by headquarters, to submit to the Minister the names of any serving Board members who would be willing and interested to serve on the Board of the new establishment. I, as Governor, was also invited to offer nominations, and, being new to the area, knew nothing of people who might be prepared to undertake this kind of service to both the remand centre and the community. In drawing up a list of nominees, I had to rely heavily on the advice and personal knowledge of colleagues and friends.

One of the most time-consuming exercises was in the organizing of the staff. News of the new remand centre must have spread far, and the response to the trawl for staff was overwhelming. The task of selecting 36 out of over 400 applicants was one of the most difficult we had to undertake.

Eventually, after four months of planning, we felt we had reached the stage when staff who had been selected for transfer could pay their preliminary visits and make provisional arrangements for schooling and employment. As we were in the somewhat luxurious position of having plenty of brand-new houses, we were able to let the staff choose their own quarters. Enthusiastic



wives took measurements, and equally enthusiastic husbands did their particular thing. Everyone seemed eager and ready for the opening which had been moved to the beginning of February because of some minor delays in completion. This was fortuitous and would allow us to phase in the staff and arrange a meaningful induction programme for each, especially those who were new to remand work.

By the third week in December it really looked as though it was 'all systems go!' and we were both elated and surprised that we were in sight of achieving our target—but the biggest surprise of all was yet to come!

During that week I was summoned to headquarters to receive my Christmas present for 1977—the staggering news that Cookham Wood Remand Centre on which I and my staff had so earnestly lavished four months continuous work, was to become a closed training prison for women. I cannot remember clearly my immediate reaction, but I am sure my blank look of surprise and incredulity must have given an amusing few moments to my informant.

The whole idea seemed so postposterous that the more I thought about it the more puzzled I became. Cookham Wood (Phase One) had been designed and built to accommodate short-stay teenage boys on remand and now, suddenly, and without any prior consultation or communication whatever, I was charged with getting it ready to receive sentenced women. Many of the facilities needed for a training prison would not be available for a couple of years excepting the hospital for which there was no provision in

the design anyway, as it had been arranged that part of the borstal's new hospital would be set aside for our use. With women prisoners this would now be out of the question. Added to this was the problem of providing the necessary ancillary medical services such as dental, optical and venereal care.

I have to admit that from a source outside the Prison Service I had heard rumour of a change of function as early as October, but as it seemed so absurd and, in any case, was flatly denied by those whom I approached at headquarters both central and regional, I gave the rumour no credence. Nineteen years in the Prison Service should have taught me better!

My staff were as surprised and unbelieving at the news as I had been and began to wonder if their positions would be affected by the change, but apart from the Chief Officer and myself there was no reason for any concern. The Chief particularly was now in a very difficult situation; I at least had been asked whether I would be willing to remain to govern a women's prison, and for professional and domestic reasons had chosen to do so. After all, the seemingly quaint notion of a male governor in charge of female prisoners has precedents going back to the turn of the century although I believe that Cookham Wood is the first all-women prison to have a male governor. But the idea of having a male Chief in an all-women prison has no such precedent, and there were many headaches and anxieties before it was finally decided that the Chief would remain.

There were many anxieties too for the staff who had been notified of their selection to serve at the new remand centre, and when they learned that they would not be required, our telephone at Cookham Wood didn't stop ringing. It seems that everyone had the same reaction as I had, and needed confirmation to dispel their disbelief. I felt very sorry for those officers and their families who had looked forward so eagerly to coming to this new establishment and I also felt powerless to ease their disappointment; I could only listen and sympathise.

Disappointment was the order of the day as various plans, programmes and routines, the result of four months work, were consigned to the waste-paper bin. Hardly an area of administration was unaffected. When news of the change broke in the



A daughter of J. Ramsay MacDonald, Labour Leader and Prime Minister, Sheila Lochhead studied at Somerville College, Oxford under Margery Fry. She first worked in the Boy's Prison, Wormwood Scrubs, as a Lady Visitor at the suggestion of Alexander Paterson who wished to see the effect of introducing a "young skirt" into the establishment. Appointed to the staff in 1939, she has subsequently been involved in prison visiting and aftercare in Trinidad, the Gambia, the Cayman Islands and Canada as well as in this country. Appointed JP in 1964, she has been Vice Chairman of the West and South Wales Region of NACRO (1969/71) and Chairman of the National Association of Prison Visitors (1975/79). She has recently returned from a visit to the Prison Service in Fiji.

*Elizabeth Fry visiting Newgate Prison. Photo: Library of the Religious Society of Friends, London.*

# PRISON VISITING

**Sheila Lochhead** *Chairman, National Association of Prison Visitors*

Prisons have been visited by lay people for a very long time. We read of Sarah Peters dying of gaol fever in 1748, just one month after she had started visiting in Newgate prison. A seamstress in Yarmouth, Sarah Martin, started visiting at the age of 19, and survived to a ripe age. Clearly there were many individuals unobtrusively helping to ease the plight of prisoners. This sort of activity, however, was not organized on a public basis until Elizabeth Fry came on the scene in 1817. She realized that the effectiveness and inspiration could be greatly increased through organized and co-ordinated efforts, and the first outcome was the Ladies Association for the Improvement of the Female Prisoners in Newgate. Her prison work took two main directions. The ladies' groups tried to better the lives and conditions of the women through humanitarian friendship, educational teaching and religious persuasion. Secondly, she used her knowledge and authority to plead the cause of penal reform in high places (the great social reformer, Fowell Buxton, was her brother-in-law), stepping independently in the footsteps of, but

sometimes disagreeing with, John Howard. If you read the accounts of prison conditions in those days, you appreciate the miseries inside and the apathy outside which had to be contended with. Prison visiting, as we now know it, developed steadily from those days, following the path of the humanitarian personal relationships. Elizabeth Fry's Association was the forerunner of the Duchess of Bedford's Ladies Visitors Association formed in 1817 in Bedford. Amongst other activities this group supported the experimental programme leading to the setting up of Borstals in 1908. Her organization expanded in its turn into the National Association of Visitors to Women Prisoners, the title of which suggests that there were already many such groups throughout the country. By 1922 the enlightened (as usual!) Prison Commissioners decided to apply this success story to men prisoners, and authorized a Men Visitors' Association, which thrived, and in two years became the National Association for Prison Visitors, albeit for men only. However, in 1944 sex discrimination was abandoned. The two societies fused to

become the present-day National Association of Prison Visitors.

## People not Prisoners

Prison visiting, as from the earliest days, directs itself to the *people* who are prisoners, not to their problems. Originally this personal friendship relationship was almost entirely religiously inspired. John Wesley describes how Sarah Peters, visiting the condemned prisoners in Newgate "exhorted them, prayed with them, and had the comfort of finding them every time more athirst for God than before". Elizabeth Fry, with no less religious fervour, expressed it in practical terms of schools and sewing parties. Nowadays, religion, social concern, interest in one's neighbours various motives, lead us to prison visiting, but we no longer exhort. Neither, except for administrative purposes in many prisons, are we connected to the prison chaplaincy, although happily it gives us firm support. Nevertheless, some people argue that we are handicapped by our link with the chaplaincy, as thereby the prisoners identify us with 'the religions'. I don't think this happens



## PRISON VISITING

much, and, insofar as we are thought to represent 'good works', there is nothing wrong with that. I think that the true position of our detachment, our non-alignment with anyone or anything is becoming fully appreciated. This is indeed one of our greatest strengths. Not being an authority-figure, the prisoner finds that he (or she) can behave naturally to us, can unburden himself of anxieties which are so often mixed up with authority situations. He finds himself gathering confidence in his prison visitor and, through him, in people in general, added to this, we are not directive. They know that we are not used by authority to report on them, we don't exhort, and our conversation dwells more on general topics, with some humour and inconsequentialness, than on a questioning of their lifestyle. An inmate once said to me of prison visitors "you are a great relief to us. We know we can talk about all kinds of things. We don't have to keep on remembering our crime". Naturally in the course of our acquaintanceship we do discuss their problems with them. Here our guiding attitude is to encourage them to work out solutions for themselves and if need be seek professional help and advice. Just as one would advise a friend. We try to avoid causing the situation where a prisoner applied to change his prison visitor because, he explained, he had enough problems of his own. The traditional one-to-one visiting in a cell, where the prisoner is host and the two of us can concentrate on each other (sometimes with the addition of a cell-mate), is still the kind of visiting we consider the most appropriate for our purpose. It allows us to cope with the vast variety of prisoners we meet, fitting our visits and the content of our visits to the inmate's needs in an atmosphere of comparative quiet and privacy. Nevertheless, development of the prison service prompts change. So we are continually watching to introduce modifications of our traditional approach in order to adapt to new circumstances. For example, we now have 46 women visiting adult male prisoners, where cell visiting is not generally suitable. This innovation could well be the subject of an article on its own as, to my mind, women visiting men bring special advantages which have not yet been fully exploited. Another development is visiting on visiting

orders. This is heartening to inmates who otherwise have no visitors and naturally want to be seen by their colleagues entertaining a friend in the publicity of the visiting room.

But for us, visiting only on visiting orders would be fatal to our existence. It runs against the principles which guide us. In the first place, flexibility (coupled with dependability) is essential for us, in order to cope with crisis situations, special demands and the uncertainties indicating the suitable length of our visit. Secondly, and this to us is an extremely important consideration, much of our value lies not only in visiting individual prisoners but in displaying to prisoners in general that the outside world is bothering about them. This happens when we are seen walking freely about the prison. Our presence shows that people 'outside' do care about what goes on 'inside'. What is more, we are also a welcome diversion in a very drab and boring situation. (I have been reprimanded for having a hole in my stocking). May I also add, for this Journal, that prisoners have remarked to us how surprised they are that the prison authorities are sufficiently liberal to allow us in. Certainly, having the freedom of the prison also allows us the benefit of being at least able to say hello to a great many inmates and—a point of paramount value which will be referred to later—it enables us to get to know many prison officers.

**Criticism**

Despite what I have said about our function, there are still those who tell us that there is no longer a place for us in the modern prison set-up. (Probably some of them are reading this article). One argument for this rests on the grounds of business. No longer are the inmates solitary. Their time is taken up with work, association, games, classes, etc. They now do so much. Our answer to that is that we are concerned not with their doing but with their being. If you are lonely inside yourself, activity on association may make your loneliness even worse, and if you are anxious and depressed, no amount of weight-lifting will ease your burdens. Friendship never becomes an anachronism, least of all in the prison service.

Another argument maintains that as the set-up of the service has become much more scientific and professionalized, we should either train to fit in to this new look or get out. We agree that professionals are needed,

but what we think we need for ourselves is commonsense, intelligence, a working knowledge of the prison system and a warmth and spontaneity of personality. Quite a credential. I trust that we are sufficiently aware of the dangers of being namby-pamby, of prompting self-pity rather than an unsentimental assessment of the inmate's own worth. The balance between an optimistic belief in human nature and a clear-headed appreciation of the need for discipline is precarious.

With regard to our fitting into a professionalized team, we cannot emphasize too strongly that when we meet a situation which involves another part of the prison service, when for instance it is a question of welfare services, or religious doubts, or training guidance, our instructions to one prison visitor are: always refer these special problems to the appropriate persons—the probation—welfare, the chaplain, the teacher, and always get your inmate's permission to do so first.

Another point of view is that, although we can be very useful, we do not set about the job in the right way. Somebody said to us the other day: "You behave like Lady Bountifuls". The tone of voice was disapproving. It depends how one defines that term. In itself, to be bountiful is a virtue. However, it is absolutely against the prison visiting code of behaviour to curry favour by the distribution of promises or flatteries or gifts. Mis-informed T.V. programmes may depict us so, but it is quite untrue. Were this a factor in our relationship we would long ago have been rejected as phoney by both inmates and Home Office. We also remember the remark made, allegedly, to one of our ancient prison visitors who, against all the tenets of prison visiting, went into a cell and said to the inmate "Well, my young man, what are you in for?", whereupon the young man, looking her up and down, replied "A perishing, boring half-hour". Nevertheless, there is an element in this charge to which we must be alert. I mentioned Sarah Martin the seamstress and the Duchess of Bedford the aristocrat in the same paragraph. This is as it should be. We try to recruit our prison visitors to include as widespread and varied a representation of society as possible. From our beginnings we have perforce on the whole been a middle - and upper-class group because these are the



people with time to spare, and mobility. But lately we have successfully been attracting more wage-earners, so that, with the lowering of our average age (now just above 40 years) and the introduction of women, we are heading for a far better balance.

Not that we believe in exact matching of class, age, colour, or whatever. It is useful to pair with discrimination, but we constantly find relationships developing across the various distinctions.

Beyond these considerations, vexed administrative problems affecting our functioning arise, the importance of which we profoundly appreciate. There is the question of security. Are prison visitors, wandering (though please note not unpredictably) around prisons, and with cell keys about them, an unacceptable security risk? Many a time we have been officially asked to pay special attention to 'difficult' categories of prisoners, such as the very long-term (who are often category A), the very depressed (who are often uncertain in behaviour), Rule 43 and hospital 'cases'. For a great many years in a great many prisons, we have been fulfilling this job without, as far as we know, dire consequences, and we are very willing to go on accepting the responsibility. Maybe violence and cunning on the part of prisoners is on the increase. To us, that is all the more reason why we should go in to ease the pressures on inmates, and prison officers too, which exacerbate the uneasy situation. Of course we agree that we should work under proper safeguards, for we realize that the staff naturally feel very responsible for us. For instance, we recognize the anxieties that some prison officers feel when women are visiting male inmates on their wing and we are very willing to conform to suitable visiting arrangements, both for their and our own peace of mind.

We may arrange to overcome the security risk difficulty, but are we not still often a confounded nuisance?

We ring bells to be let in (always will I remember the occasion when a visitor in my prison rang the alarm bell instead of the hospital door bell); officers have to stop whatever they are doing to fetch people for us; we threaten the orderly, uninterrupted routine of life inside. Again we do appreciate this botheration. We are often at fault and we should make every effort to cause as little inconvenience as possible. It is helpful to

have constant dialogue between the prison authorities and ourselves as to the functioning of the visiting service within the prison. But the best way we find to establish mutual goodwill and benefit is for visitors and officers to foster good relations. Our nuisance value can be turned to good value when it gives us a chance to become acquainted with the prison officers. As I said previously, we enjoy our contact with prison officers. It brings richness and interest to our work, and we hope that all prison visitors will cherish this side of their work. It certainly brings home to us the advantage to us of our not having to serve the dual role of both friend and turnkey. So much for some of the realities of the contemporary scene. One vital one still remains to be considered in more detail.

### Co-operation of Staff

When visiting prisons I sometimes am told, "We already have (say) six visitors. We don't need any more as we have no more prisoners who want them". This I find surprising. Maybe inmates are not asking for us. But often those who would especially benefit are just those who are too diffident, or too proud, to ask. Or they feel negative about us because they don't understand what prison visiting means. Evidence shows that where we have a lively Branch or an enthusiastic liaison officer, we are asked for by an ever-increasing number of inmates. So I think we are right to adopt the policy of actively seeking out the people who would profit from us. We cannot discover them only on admission. We need wide and continuing sources of referral. A landing or workshop officer knows his men, and can tell us of those who show anxieties or withdrawal. Tutors can suggest men whose reading we can help informally, leading, through this method of contact, to full-scale visits. Inarticulate prisoners can be helped to gain confidence in their ability to communicate through finding they can talk to an 'outside' visitor. I personally can vouch for the success of two other methods of contacting worthwhile referrals—visiting on association, and taking part in informal groups. This latter activity proves a most valuable part of the prison curriculum, too infrequently included in the prison regime. All this obviously entails close co-operation between the prison liaison officer (frequently but by no means always the chaplain) and our

branch members. Indeed, the whole organization of the National Association of Prison Visitors is very important.

We are a democratic body, with a national executive, regional secretaries and branches in most prisons. The officers and executive keep in close touch with the Home Office, and the national voluntary bodies concerned in prison affairs, over all matters of policy and organization. I would like to pay tribute here to the support we receive from prison personnel, and we are grateful to the Prison Department for its generous encouragement. We spearhead promotional work, publicity and recruitment, and encourage Branch activity and initiative. If a governor does not like the idea of having prison visitors in his prison, after informing the prison department we like to go to discuss the situation with him.

At the moment we are busy considering to what extent and by what means we should be increasing publicity about our work.

Not all prison visitors belong to the NAPV. Some prefer to keep working away quietly in isolation, without feeling the need for further stimulation and support. But we send copies of the Newsletter (financed by the Home Office) to all visitors, whether members or not.

### Members of the Team

At local level, we regard ourselves as part of the prison team whilst being comparatively independent. We conform to the prison rules, and work with all parts of the prison staff from the governor downwards, though arrangements as to how we work vary according to the type and facilities of the prison. At our branch meetings we particularly like to have representatives of the governor, the chaplaincy, the prison officers and the probation - welfare present, because this helps to ensure proper understanding and co-ordination, and brings forward new ideas as to what we can be doing. National also asks its branches to keep in touch with other voluntary bodies, including Boards of Visitors, working in the local prison area.

Reference was made at the beginning to the two directions taken by the prison visiting movement, the second being penal reform. The NAPV and individual visitors have built up extensive knowledge of the prison scene and are clearly in a position to

*continued on page 16 ►*

Grendon

Gelsenkirchen

# TWO OF A KIND?

## The Socio - therapeutic Institution of Gelsenkirchen

by Günther Romkopf

Socio-therapeutic institutions in West Germany are inter-disciplinary institutions for penal treatment. There are different interpretations of the term "socio-therapy", depending largely on the scientific viewpoint of its supporter, but the development of socio-therapeutic measures will fuse the methods of psycho-therapy, psychiatry, sociology, pedagogy, social work, vocational training and vocational promotion. The relative importance of these various contributions will differ from one institution to another, not only for conceptional but also for practical reasons: the development of a socio-therapeutic institution will depend on the staff as well as on the possibilities of convenient work, education and vocational training.

### Gelsenkirchen

In Gelsenkirchen, a scientifically based model is to be developed and tested in order to be taken over by future socio-therapeutic institutions. Socio-therapy is also expected to develop methods of treatment and models of organization which may be applied in ordinary prisons.

There are different theories about the factors leading to criminality. The socio-therapeutic institution of Gelsenkirchen starts from the following principles in its daily practice. Social

behaviour is influenced by the processes of learning; the same applies to socially deviant behaviour such as criminality. Therefore, processes of learning should be set in motion to activate and widen the behaviour that is required in our society. Criminal behaviour takes place as a result of failures in a person's social adjustment and for that reason behaviour therapy may make criminal behaviour retreat again.

The processes of learning largely take place in social interactions, so inmates are organized into residential groups. In spite of reduced living conditions, the outside world may be simulated to some extent in these groups. Because of the different origins of the deviant social behaviour, the socio-therapy is adjusted to each inmate's background. This requires a close co-operation among all staff members, in the course of which socio-therapeutic work is divided into four main fields:

- (a) Special psychological-therapeutic measures;
- (b) Individual and group social work inside and outside the institution.
- (c) Vocational training, vocational promotion and work-therapeutic occupation;

(d) Specific and general educational measures.

### Selection for Socio-Therapy

In December 1976, the Minister of Justice passed a decree about selection of inmates for socio-therapeutic institutions. These rules lay down that four selection prisons recommend suitable convicted prisoners for treatment either in Düren or in Gelsenkirchen. Such prisoners should be aged between 21 and 35 years; the probable end of their sentences should be from 18 up to 35 months. Excluded from treatment in a socio-therapeutic institution are prisoners who, after their prison term, await further trials or specific measures like preventive detention, or who await deportation or extradition. The minimum IQ should be between 85 and 95. To be exempted are prisoners who suffer from brain-organic derangements, drug addicts or alcoholics, and prisoners who are extraordinarily aggressive. In other words, recommendation from the selection prison is made if the prisoner (a) shows grave functional disturbances of his personality which are not primarily due to organic modifications, and (b) is evidently affected in his social relations and self-control because of a severe disorder of his personality.

The socio-therapeutic institution

itself decides whether or not to admit a prisoner. In doing so, the actual possibilities of occupation and vocational training should be taken into account. Admission may be revoked for therapeutic or penal reasons. The inmate's participation in any socio-therapeutic measure is voluntary: inmates in socio-therapeutic institutions may at any time demand their transfer back into ordinary prisons.

### **The Institution**

Under the Governor are 44 prison officers, two instructors for vocational training, one administration chief and six assistants. The therapeutic team consists of the author (a psychiatrist), four psychologists, six social workers, one sociologist and one teacher.

The institution offers 54 places for treatment in residential groups of nine inmates. It is divided into three floors with two residential groups on each. On the second and third floors, each residential group has its own social worker; the two residential groups on the first floor share one social worker. There are also five other staff members on each floor, and two psychologists are attached to each of the upper two landings.

### **Phases of Treatment**

Phase I, the admission phase, lasts six months. It allows the methodical exploration of the inmate's personality—including observations of behaviour, tests, history of preceding periods and examination—which results in drawing up a "treatment programme". The goal of therapy is determined in consultation with the inmate and proposals for treatment are made which will most efficiently reach the goal. For every inmate in the admission phase, a participation of up to three months in a job-training programme is obligatory. For the time after this, the treatment programme contains suggestions for vocational training, skill-preserving measures or training in another occupation. School classes or other educational measures are provided for all inmates. For those who participate in vocational training, 12 hours a week are provided for lessons; house workers (cleaners) regularly attend lessons for about six hours. The treatment programme determines which educational measures each inmate will use. Most inmates have difficulties in their social relations and in their ability to communicate. Consequently, the treatment programme contains suggestions about

how to learn to communicate and how to build up and maintain social relations. In the admission phase, there are no relaxations like short leaves or parole. Applications for home leave are not recommended.

Phase II, the treatment phase, lasts from six to 18 months. Its duration depends on the total length of an inmate's prison term. All treatment measures in this phase should be carried out energetically and under active co-operation from the inmate. Relaxations are usually possible once a week but only granted if they appear effective in helping to achieve the treatment goal.

Phase III, the practice phase, lasts from six to 12 months: the length again depends on the inmate's total prison term. The inmates in the practice phase are separated from the other landings. The inmate must leave his residential group because the purpose of this phase is a systematic and increased opening to the outside world and an enlargement of behaviour, encouraging the inmate's self-reliance and responsibility. In this phase, relaxations are no longer restricted to one a week. Daily work release is now possible too. Graduation to the practice phase depends on security risk and is only then agreed if treatment, as such, may be regarded as terminated. Inmates who do not fulfil the conditions for transition into the practice phase may be transferred back into an ordinary prison.

### **Conferences**

A staff conference, chaired by the governor, considers all measures with external effects: e.g. relaxations, probation and parole, transfers for penal reasons, applications for leaves, and temporary suspension of a sentence. Apart from these, general administrative and penal problems are discussed. The staff conference is a consultative body and the governor may decide alone. The staff conference takes place three times a week.

A treatment conference is chaired by the chief of the therapeutic team. It decides treatment programmes and alterations, transfers for therapeutic reasons, recommendations for relaxations etc., admission of new inmates and general therapeutic problems and questions. A large share of those decisions which have to pass through the treatment conference (all decisions concerning individual cases) are prepared in "treatment committees" in order to save time. Proposals, made by the treatment committees then

require acknowledgement by the treatment conference.

An inmate's conference is chaired by an elected inmate. Participants are all the inmates of the institution, the governor and staff members who can attend. The inmates' conference is a contributor on treatment, administrative and penal questions; it takes place once a month.

### **Work and Psychotherapy**

Vocational training and vocational promotion respectively are built up according to a gradual scheme to offer appropriate vocational goals to the greatest possible number of inmates, corresponding to their abilities. The inmate may acquire a certificate of skilled workmanship as an electrician or a locksmith. Moreover, the institution provides several jobs by work for contractors (lamp workshop) and some inmates are occupied with cleaning and catering.

Therapy is realized in single and group sessions, usually once or twice a week. The following psycho-therapeutic methods are used: behaviour therapy in single sessions only; client-centred therapy; self-experience groups and spontaneity training; and transactional analysis combined with "Gestalt-therapy". On top of this, residential group meetings take place once a week, carried out on group dynamic principles, and role plays are led by the teacher.

### **Other Considerations**

The institution has abolished disciplinary measures. Still, offences against relaxations are dealt with according to a "list of consequences" which has been set up by inmates. Participation in work-therapy, vocational training, therapy and education is an obligation. Nevertheless, all measures are discussed with the inmate and require his consent. Prior to his transfer to the socio-therapeutic institution of Gelsenkirchen, each inmate is given the following indication for his treatment:

"In any case, the inmate's intense co-operation is decisive for the success of the therapy. Whoever submits himself to socio-therapeutic treatment should realize that such an institution can only offer assistance to attain self-help, and that alterations of personality can only be achieved under sacrifices, consequently under postponement of short-sighted advantages".

# Grendon Gelsenkirchen

## TWO OF A KIND?



A New Zealander, Dr. Barrett graduated there in 1951 coming to the United Kingdom eight years later. He was Senior Registrar at Henderson Hospital, Sutton, Surrey from 1966/73 when he joined the Service at Grendon to apply his special skills in treating personality disorders using therapeutic community principles.

## A Comparison of some Aspects of Gelsenkirchen and Grendon

by B. J. Barrett

Grendon could be similarly described as a socio-therapeutic institution. It uses some of the methods operating at Gelsenkirchen, but quite deliberately excludes others.

The objects of Grendon are:

- To investigate and to treat offenders suffering from disorders which call for a psychiatric approach;
- To investigate the mental condition of offenders whose offences are due to medical disorder;
- To explore the problem of the psychopath and to provide treatment or management to which he might respond.

While the task of Gelsenkirchen is to develop and test the socio-therapeutic model in order that it be taken over by future socio-therapeutic institutions, this is not a necessary expectation of Grendon. The German model is seen as an organization to study the different theories about the factors leading to criminality, whereas the goal of Grendon is more specifically defined within the psychiatric context. From these differing objectives there result different emphases of approach. Grendon has an intensive therapeutic community approach with multi-disciplinary teams of professionals (prison officers by far outnumbering other professional workers) and with inmates collaborating in the treatment

regime. Gelsenkirchen includes specific work training schemes and educational programmes and places these aspects on an equal footing with other treatment techniques, whereas Grendon concentrates on the importance of the emotional, behavioural and relationship effects of living in a therapeutic community on a day-to-day basis.

### Criteria of Admission

These are seemingly similar in both institutions. Grendon appears to be a little more flexible in selecting from an age range of 16 to 40 years and Grendon's optimum period of treatment is regarded as approximately 12-14 months whereas Gelsenkirchen requires a period of about 18-35 months. Both institutions agree that patients are unsuitable for treatment if they are awaiting the outcome of administrative or judicial issues. The minimum IQ rating for Gelsenkirchen is 85-95 whereas Grendon normally will not accept anybody with an IQ of less than 95, although this difference is perhaps not too significant. Both Gelsenkirchen and Grendon exclude brain damage derangement. Grendon, however, takes drug abusers of all descriptions, alcoholics, and people who are extraordinarily aggressive, whereas Gelsenkirchen excludes these categories. Gelsenkirchen admits people showing grave functional disturbances of personality which are not due to organic modifications

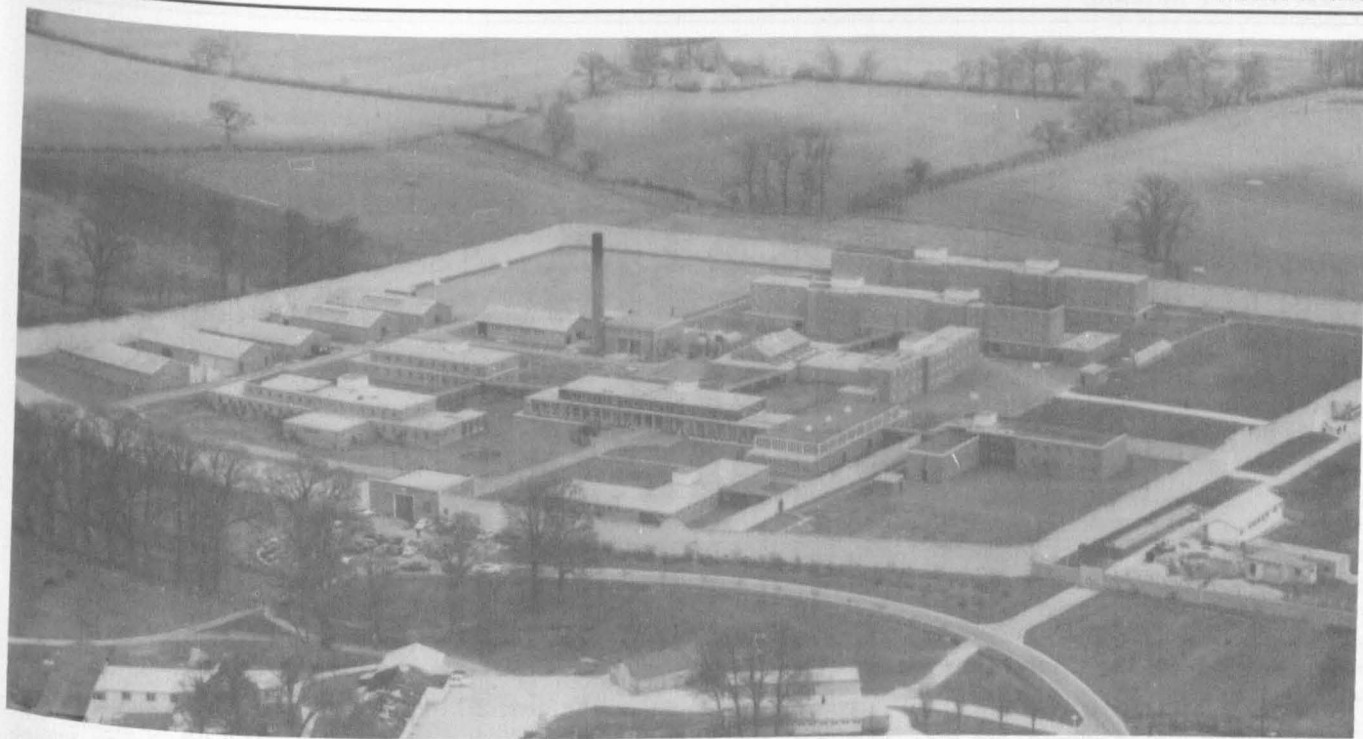
and if a prisoner is evidently affected in his social relationships and control due to a severe disorder of personality. This would precisely describe the inmate who is referred to Grendon. Both institutions will accept only inmates who have volunteered to come, to some degree, and in both there is freedom for the inmate to terminate treatment at any time.

### Organization

Grendon's staffing differs from that of Gelsenkirchen in that it has a medical emphasis, with a medical superintendent in charge and a number of medical officers with psychiatric experience and qualifications. The role of the prison officer in Gelsenkirchen is not specified, but in Grendon the relationship between the officer taking part in groups and the inmate is regarded as a cornerstone of treatment, and from that flows a number of implications for the staff structure which is geared to support that assumption.

Grendon has a population of about 200 inmates and is divided into six wings, three for adults and three for young offenders; each wing is managed by a medical officer and a hospital principal officer. All wings, except one young offender wing which is run as an individual therapy unit, operate on a group therapy approach based on the principles of the therapeutic community. Each inmate on



*Aerial view of Grendon*

arrival enters the Assessment Unit which has the dual purpose of wing allocation and building up a programme of research to evaluate how inmates change as a result of their experiences at Grendon. Grendon also has a hospital offering surgical facilities as a national resource.

### **Treatment**

The treatment programme in Grendon is apparently less formalized than in Gelsenkirchen but not less precise in its aims and goals. Education, although an important adjunct to treatment, is subsidiary to it. Grendon is subject to the same rules as any other prison or young offender establishment in the granting of home leaves or other paroles, and the issue has been raised as to whether this allows the treatment potential to be maximized. It seems that Gelsenkirchen has greater freedom in this area.

### **Decision-making**

We share the view that important issues should be sounded out, if not finally resolved, through meetings. We aim at having the structure of staff meetings which might be found in many other penal establishments. As with the governor at Gelsenkirchen, the medical superintendent accepts the final responsibility of making decisions about issues raised in such meetings. Although all other decisions are by their nature recommendations to the medical superintendent, in some areas much autonomy is delegated to the wings. On some wings, nearly all internal wing decisions are shared by the inmate com-

munity and the staff. On other wings, the staff take the group decisions as a multi-disciplinary team. On still other wings, decisions on administrative matters may be made by the staff and on treatment matters by the medical officer. In the main, there is collaboration on matters that concern the day-to-day life on the wing. On some wings, the community elects an inmate chairman for three months and he conducts the community meetings in which inmates discuss, amongst other matters, the administration of the wing. At such meetings, the chairman is responsible for seeing that the agreed procedures of the meeting are carried out properly. This meeting takes place three times a week, as opposed to once a month at Gelsenkirchen. The issue of participation in decision making by inmates at Gelsenkirchen is not elaborated in Dr. Romkopf's article but obviously occurs to some extent.

### **Work and Therapy**

Although in the small groups and in pre-release groups vocational needs are looked at and inmates are encouraged to plan an occupation, there is no specific vocational training at Grendon. Work is mainly regarded as another setting in which the inmate's behaviour may be explored and discussed on his group.

The main treatment component is the community with collaboration between inmates and prison officers assisted by psychiatrists, psychologists and probation officers using the techniques of group psychotherapy.

Some aspects of the group processes are the pressures and caring of the peer group and the opportunities for joint decision making and personal confrontation. Some subsidiary techniques include encounter group methods, transactional analysis and role playing sessions.

### **Other Considerations**

All inmates, or 'patients', who come to Grendon, do so solely via Prison Medical Services procedures. Tension between therapeutic objectives and penal requirements does sometimes obtrude, at least symbolically if not practically, but against that should be weighed the value of successfully developing the considerable therapeutic potential of non-medically trained prison staff. The reality is that there is little to match Grendon, in terms of its regime, in the National Health Service or elsewhere.

Formal disciplinary measures are used at Grendon, but not frequently: sometimes, as part of a treatment need, an inmate is allowed to test out the consequences of breaking certain boundaries of acceptable behaviour. Some wings have explicit minor sanctions built into their community system but, one suspects, it is the informal, unwritten expectations which provide the main controls.

We would not quarrel with the main theme of Dr. Romkopf's final statement about Gelsenkirchen. Grendon inmates must have some motivation for change and must expect such change sometimes to be painful and difficult. ■

# CoRT AND CRIME

by William and Edna Copley

## Introduction

Crime and punishment, retribution, rehabilitation and recidivism are the concern not only of sociologists but also of people in general. Since we began our research in the field of criminology we have been asked many times if we could give a reason for the rising crime rate. Is there an effective means of punishment which will act as a deterrent? What can we do to protect society? If we knew the answers to these questions we would be very happy and would be able to save the taxpayer a great deal of money as well as making a big contribution to the quality of life. Unfortunately, there isn't an easy answer and we do not pretend to be experts in criminology.

Our decision to try to use structured thinking as a means of changing the thinking and behavioural patterns of young offenders which, we hope, might reduce crime and recidivism, came as a result of a statement made by a nine-year-old boy who was discussing the question "Should there be week-end prisons for minor offences?" At the time we were extracting data from a recording of a timed discussion taped in the absence of a teacher of a group of nine to 10-year olds trained in CoRT thinking. He said:

"What's the use of putting 'em into prison and that and making 'em sew mail bags, or whatever it is they do in prison, when they are only going to do the same thing all over again and be back inside. It doesn't make sense to me".

It didn't make sense to us either. Are criminals born or made? Are they predestined, like Oedipus, to a pre-ordained end, or do they

just drift into crime, often at an early age as a result of the general malaise of our modern society? What is this malaise? Inadequacy, boredom, neglect, ineffective parents, indifferent backgrounds, too much money, unsuitable companions, the welfare state which will look after them because they don't have to work to survive, a general lowering of standards or the pressures which modern life puts on them and with which they are unable to cope? Perhaps it is a combination of some if not all of the things which we have mentioned and some which we have overlooked. Several years ago we asked an 18-year-old student who was in his final year at grammar school, a decent enough boy but who was a member of a very difficult sixth form:

"What's the matter with you lot? What's got into you? If you're not in trouble, you go looking for it".

His answer was very revealing: "It's your fault, you've done too much for us".

Nor shall we forget the remarks of a university professor who, speaking recently about student unrest, said:

"What do they want? Everything! When do they want it? Now!".

From personal experience we do know that an inadequate family background has a lot to answer for. If you were to ask us what we thought about the part a good background plays in the life of the child, especially in the formative years, we would say without hesitation:

"Show us the child and we'll show you the home".

If the background is bad, there is more than an even chance that the child will suffer. Unfortunately, however, the converse is not true—but that opens up a whole new area. We could also quote you the example of a young boy in our former school who was stealing watches because his pleasure-loving, affluent parents abandoned him at weekends. The ticking of the watches in some strange way consoled him.

It was, therefore, due to a chance remark, personal experience and the stimulus of challenge that, two years ago, a small body of volunteer researchers devoted personal time and effort to try to find answers to one of our biggest social problems.

## Cognitive Research Trust

Preliminary work carried out by the Cognitive Research Trust, Cambridge at NACRO (National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offen-



A graduate of Trinity College Cambridge, William Copley was with RAF Intelligence during the 1939/45 war. He was for 21 years a grammar school headmaster and later an Examiner for the Oxford and Cambridge Board. His wife, Edna, has been a staff member of CoRT since 1974 and together they have been involved in research and practical exercises in structured thinking with groups of young people in a wide range of ability.

ders), at another hostel for boys awaiting trial and latterly at a borstal suggests that a full-scale experiment should be carried out with young people in Community Homes and that further research should be done in borstals. The experience of other researchers at Guidance Centres for children with learning or behavioural problems supports this view. The purpose of teaching structured thinking skills directly to residents of homes/borstals is to try to broaden the perceptual range of these groups by providing strategies, to give them an alternative to violence, to replace inadequacy by self-confidence and to try to build up a skill in thinking so that a person looks both at his own thinking, at the general situation, at the points of view of other people and the consequences of actions, to see whether the frustration arising from the lack of communicating power can be reduced or even removed and to find out whether the teaching of survival skills can help to reduce or eliminate peer pressure. The training material has already been used over a wide range of ages and abilities in schools and with adults. CoRT material (CoRT is a shorthand word for Cognitive Research Trust) puts emphasis on the scanning of projected experience by the provision of seven thinking tools which the students can use so as to develop a structured approach to any problem. They are shown how to break down a problem into its different aspects, to consider each of these aspects and ultimately to come to a decision.

Clearly there are difficulties to be overcome in teaching thinking skills to such groups, but the results which we have already had from the various establishments show that such difficulties can be surmounted, that judgements can be postponed and that emotive topics can be discussed without emotion affecting the course of the discussion or significantly influencing judgement. We are now proposing to examine closely behavioural changes, survival skills, peer pressure and other aspects of the trainees' behaviour by comparing data collected before and after the course. A follow-up would try to investigate longer term results.

At this point many of the readers will say "What about group therapy?" Part of the theory of group therapy involves the airing of the emotions, so that each member having, as it were, "got it off his chest" benefits

from the relaxation of tensions. However, a weakness of this method is, it seems to us, that the process can often leave the participant emotionally and perhaps physically exhausted, the effect lasting until the emotions have had time to build up again, when the whole process is repeated. The aim of developing structured thinking, on the other hand, is gradually to replace emotions by a clear thought process, by a well-defined approach to any problem, emotive or otherwise, and so to reduce the temperature of the discussion. The end of the lesson, instead of leaving the participants exhausted, finds them stimulated and exhilarated, looking forward to and ready for the next stage in their course. Structured thinking becomes a tool of therapy. This method has been followed with success both with young, disturbed children of 11 years old and with teenagers at borstal. There is no reason whatever to think that children in, say, community homes would react any differently from the rest. If as a result the number of relapses were to be significantly reduced, the gain would be enormous. This programme of research has particular relevance to current problems of juvenile crime, but our problem is how to inculcate a self-sufficiency arising from the provision of survival skills sufficiently developed to enable them to cope with the return to normal, everyday life, with hostile or inadequate backgrounds and with unsuitable companions and so to reduce the number of children coming back into care or going on to penal institutions later on in life. We have to enable them to survive and to withstand pressures. But the pressures of life inside and outside borstal, for instance, are real problems which have to be coped with. Another of our aims is, therefore, to try to make an effective transition from artificial to real-life situations and to see whether the teaching of survival skills can help to reduce or eliminate peer pressure. As one borstal boy put it:

"You've got to be tough to survive in this place".

This last statement was reinforced by an education officer at a top security prison with whom we were speaking quite recently, who said:

"The most worrying part is not so much the fact that we cannot spend enough time with the large numbers being admitted, but that the average

age of the prisoners is falling drastically".

### Other People's Points of View

Very often in a closed community and indeed in everyday life, it is difficult to see other people's points of view (OPV), but in borstal, without training in OPV, it is nearly impossible. OPV is, in our opinion, the most important part of CoRT. If young offenders can be trained to see OPV it will bring about greater tolerance and understanding; to some extent in our research at borstal we have had a measure of success.

"You appreciate other people's points of view. Obviously we're going to argue, one way or another but, I mean, we—a lot of the time we're disagreeing with each other—in fact most of the time we're disagreeing with each other but you can see other people's points of view and obviously you've got no right to shoot their idea down in flames, unless it is wrong".

On the other hand we must also consider the trainees' points of view if we are to understand how their minds work and ultimately to find the answers to many of the problems which have heretofore baffled us. Perhaps it is from the trainees' answers that we can learn something and devise a course of effective remedial treatment. Perhaps we may even get a partial answer to the questions of what makes a criminal, how can we prevent crime from escalating even more, how can we reduce the number of young offenders and how can we minimize recidivism? It has often been said that bad housing is one of the causes for the increased crime rate, therefore the answer must be to pull down the slums, rebuild and thereby solve the problem. That would be a Utopian idea. This is what one of the boys had to say about slum clearance:

"People are people; they are not pawns, they've got minds of their own".

In all their discussions the boys' way of thinking was conditioned by the lives they had led. There was a definite pre-occupation with crime, so that it is quite clear that crime can very easily become an accepted way of life. When asked to give the bad points about taking seats out of 'buses, the reply was:

"It would make it easier for pick-pockets and that".

When discussing "Should all private cars be painted yellow?" they said:

## COURT AND CRIME

"... you'd be able to pick out the police cars more easily".

Or substituting plastic windows for glass:

"The crime rate would go up, plastic windows are good for burglars". "All they have to do is burn a hole in the window of a shop and take what they want".

We mentioned boredom as being one of the possible causes of increased crime. We asked them if it would be a good idea to have special TV for teenagers. Here are some replies:

"This would stop them going out and getting into trouble".

"Teenagers would stay in and this would lessen the rate of crime".

"... would be in a way showing them there's interest shown in them, so I think they would then show an interest in their own society".

Children with indifferent backgrounds, neglected by inadequate parents, seem pre-destined at a very early age to take the slippery road to crime. So what should parents do when they find that their son has possibly stolen a fishing rod?

"I'd try and find out why he took the rod—if I'd neglected him or something".

"The father should spend more time with his son".

The trainees were asked what rules should parents apply when dealing with their children.

"Explain to them and use logic, not violence, because violence often turns kids' minds".

They have their own opinions about the general lowering of standards, but notice how "family back-up" is once again referred to:

"Old methods such as grammar schools and private schools are slowly fading out and we're with a comprehensive system of education which I don't think, myself, is capable of bringing someone up to the standard of being a student without family back-up and a lot of money put into them".

Perhaps the strongest concept which is evident in all group discussions at all ages and abilities is that of fairness and it was to be expected that this concept would be present in the borstal discussions:

"Fair treatment of the inmates by the officers; not just left to exercise their superiority because they know there's nothing we inmates can do about it".

"If he (the governor) is biased

towards coloureds for example, it could lead to a very nasty situation".

We should perhaps mention that the above remark was made by a white member of a group containing both white and coloured boys.

However, they also realize the need for discipline, and are capable of respecting authority. In his introductory talk to the trainees, the research worker began by saying that he was not a do-gooder, nor was he interested in what they were in for; all he was interested in was the training of their minds to see if they could cope with their problems more efficiently after training. There was nothing in it for him—he was only a volunteer—but there might be a lot in it for them. This was their reply:

"Here we are in a borstal situation and we don't want any soft-soap".

The trainees are very clear what they expect of a governor. He should be:

"... a man to look up to ... somebody who is able to relate to people. People would have to feel that they could confide in him ... they must trust him, because if they don't trust him, they won't go to see him".

"I'd look for his interests, because they would rub off on the institution he's running. He should be able to form groups, so that he gets involved with all of them—he can then see what's going on from their point of view as well as what the officers are telling him".

But they also want a test situation to see what kind of metal he is made of:

"send him to a certain place where a crisis was active."

To earn their respect he must obviously be able to handle awkward situations with the right balance of fairness and firmness.

The desire for easy money has been regarded by people as being one of the major causes of crime and yet all the boys in the different groups chose job satisfaction as a priority even over pay. The following remark by one boy shows his view of money in relation to human dignity quite clearly:

Question: "Would you put your mother in a house or something?".

Answer: "No, I'd never do that! Human lives should override money any time".

Our suggestion earlier that unsuitable companions could be a contributory factor to the present increase in crime is substantiated by one of the boys' remarks:

"A lot of people nowadays are easily misled and turn to crime at an early age".

What else?

"Unemployment could boost the crime rate".

Emotive topics have to be handled with great care, but by showing the boys how to approach a topic in a detached way, treating the problem as an intellectual exercise, we found to our satisfaction that they were capable of tackling the most controversial topics without emotion affecting their judgement. The teacher asked the group to "put on a pair of policeman's boots" and to tell him what were the aims of a policeman.

"Cor, that's a tough one; but we'll have a go!".

"One of the main aims of a policeman is to keep law and order throughout the area he's patrolling, to assist the general public if in need, to give advice to those in need ..."

"To keep law and peace among the population".

"Would also like to have a friendly relationship with the people in his community".

"Eliminate people who are poisoning society, that is criminals on a big scale, and put them to training and hope they'll come back to society as normal citizens".

Their comments are, however, not entirely without a touch of cynicism:

"Make arrests and try to get promoted".

"... to earn money".

"If he wants to become a sergeant, he wants a certain amount of arrests behind him".

So, in a very modest way, with the kind permission of the Home Office and the co-operation of the various establishments, we have attempted to instruct a few delinquents to think about their problems and the problems of others. We have come a little way along the road to better understanding and, who knows, perhaps a pace or two towards finding a partial answer to all the questions and problems which surround this section of the community because, like it or not, we have to live and to cope with them and there is no reason to believe that the problem is going to decrease. We hope, at least, that we have given you a little to think about and in our search for quality perhaps we improve the quality of their lives. It is fitting, we think, to end with a few quotations



# READERS Write

THE EDITOR  
*Prison Service Journal*

Dear Sir,

## Dreaming about Custodial Sentences

Among the hazards of attempting correctional treatment in a custodial setting is the difficulty of providing an experience for inmates which is relevant to their "outside" world. People cannot learn from their mistakes unless they have opportunities both to make mistakes and to experience the consequences. Until this difficulty can be overcome, inmates will probably continue to await the passing of time without learning anything useful about themselves and their criminality. A correctional institution could be made more like a microcosm of the "outside" world by confronting each inmate with real choices, so that he could practice in a secure environment the skill of making wise decisions.

Like any other dream, mine is fantastic, hazy and highly-coloured. In it, I see offenders sentenced not to a period of time but to a sum of money—some might be paid like a fine, but some would be paid from earnings in the institution. The amount of each kind of payment would be determined by the judge.

On reception, therefore, each inmate is faced with paying a known sum from earnings to purchase his release. Each earns wages according to the nature of his work and his productivity. Each contributes weekly towards his release whatever amount he chooses. For any goods and services beyond a basic standard of food, accommodation and clothing the inmate must pay. The institution supplies goods and services according to demand—separate rooms, choice of menu, a bar, a betting shop, perhaps even a brothel. But each inmate pays for his own luxuries and entertainments if he wants them.

Some opt for a shorter sentence in spartan conditions. Others choose a longer period of greater luxury. A few might choose to have hot and cold running chambermaids (if he can afford them). None may be released until they have paid. In each case, the inmate governs his own life-style and release date.

For those lacking sufficient skills to earn high wages, trade training courses might be provided. For those lacking sufficient motivation to work hard, a long sentence at a basic standard of living "on the dole" ensues.

So inmates are faced with the same choices and temptations which confront us "on the out", and they might learn to live wisely.

Yours faithfully,  
D. A. Godfrey  
*HM Prison Service College  
Wakefield*

THE EDITOR;  
*Prison Service Journal*

Dear Sir,

I read the article under the heading of "The Prison Service I would like to see" and was moved to produce my own vision of the future. Here it is:

The large, fortress, urban prisons are no more. They have returned to the local authorities. The more enterprising of these have used the sites and buildings as museums and folk centres, cashing in on the tourist expansion of recent years. The former topping sheds have proved major attractions, together with wax replicas of cons and screws by the score. This has maintained the demand for uniforms, providing profitable work for the new prison service.

As part of the deal, some local authorities surrendered areas scheduled for re-development as 'prison compounds'. The attempt to call these 'correctional communities' foundered as the press insisted on using their own terminology and as local populations insisted on re-housing away from these areas. In practice, however, the outcome of this exodus was that the prison system found itself in the business of refurbishing inner city areas, reconditioning accommodation which then became available as housing stock.

The chief problem arose with satellite towns which had long enjoyed an artificial protection from their own criminals. There was great resistance from the likes of Richmond, Maidenhead, Harrogate and Cheltenham to making local provision, but the use of a punitive Government levy ultimately worked.

Staff found this massive disruption uncomfortable at first and resisted the dramatic change in the nature of their duties which turned them into community 'bobbies' at first, and later into community workers as the prison compounds changed their function from prisons to community works programmes. Not for the first time, however, financial inducements contributed to a change in attitude.

Initial anxieties about the long-term Cat. A prisoners have not been completely stilled. Critics object to the severe limits on the sentencing powers of the Courts and the scale of escapes. Evaluations which show that the public enjoys no greater protection than formerly and that rehabilitation is as elusive as ever, have however, not altered policy. The current stress lies firmly on a communal accountability for crime.

Yours faithfully,  
Mark Beeson



"RIOT SQUAD?...NO, IT'S TRADES OFFICER BROWN, HE LIKES TO CONFORM TO THE NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS."

## A WHEELBARROW FULL OF SURPRISES

*continued from page 4*

local community, there was an outcry from various interested individuals and groups at the loss of a longed-for remand centre, and I believe attempts were made to have the decision reversed; but the arrival of the Home Secretary's Warrant seemed final.

Members of the Prison Service generally are nothing if not resilient—I think it is one of our major qualities—and having accepted the fact that Cookham Wood would not

be housing teenage boys after all, the staff rolled up their sleeves and got down to the business of getting the place ready for women. It would be burdensome here to go into the details of how this has been achieved and how we have coped with the numerous problems of conversion, equipping cells, providing the facilities that are peculiar to women prisoners, staffing, adapting and furnishing quarters and the host of other things that have been necessary. It has taken seven months to achieve

and Cookham Wood Prison received its first women prisoners on Prison Service Centenary Commemoration Day. We still have very limited facilities, no hospital, workshop or gymnasium, and only fifty per cent of our total authorized staff, which includes the first two women hospital officers in the Service.

But at last we are now in business as a prison, unique in some respects, and providing a desperately-needed resource in the south of England for the hard-pressed women's system.

## PRISON VISITING

*continued from page 7*

passing on their experience. However, it should be understood that opinions are expressed unobtrusively, as our job is personal friendship, not propaganda, and nowadays the whole basis of the success of our work lies in our complete impartiality and absence of 'attitudes'. Of course, we can, and do, make suggestions to the authorities both locally and nationally about the various problems we come across in the course of our work, yet

this is very different from being a public pressure group. Several of our members belong to penal reform societies in order to have a further means of contributing to the improvement of penal affairs, but this they do in an individual capacity.

Finally, to the overriding question—the sort of question very rightly asked by prison inspectors—"how do you know that what you are doing is of any value at all?" We answer that we cannot prove our claims to achievement statistically. Perhaps

the Home Office would like to find some research, though we would refuse to let this push us into a stereotyped course of behaviour.

Notwithstanding this fact, the experience of over 200 years of prison visiting indicates that it does make a valuable contribution on humanitarian, rehabilitative, economic and administrative grounds. The countless remarks, and letters, and calls we have received over the years from the people we have come to know bear witness to this belief.

## CoRT AND CRIME

*continued from page 14*

from the boys themselves about the effect which the thinking lessons have had on them.

"Do you think there's a chance that if we could do this, fewer people might be coming back?" (Chorus of "Yes").

"Definitely, because the main reason is all these people committing crimes, they don't think, you know".

"They just go into something, because they don't think of suffering the consequences".

"They never think of after-results, but after having these lessons, it gets into everybody's mind without forcing it; I think it should stay in everybody's mind and this will help everybody".

"... a lot of people, you know, do things without thinking—they just go in and do it—and this kind of helps you to train your mind and before doing something stupid, you think. If I was to do that now, you know, I'd have to suffer the consequences, ending up, you know, in prison or whatever it may be; and so you think twice about doing it. So, you know, if, well, like everyone says, if I'd had these before coming in here, probably I wouldn't have been in here—I would have thought about

it, I would have said, I don't want to know".

"That's all very well, sir, but what do you do with a thick lorry driver of 45 who's been in and out of prison all his life?"

You tell us! Let's answer the borstal problem first!

## THE COGNITIVE RESEARCH TRUST

### Aims of the Trust

The Cognitive Research Trust was set up to carry out work in the field of thinking. Our main project at the moment is developing 'thinking, as a definite subject in the school curriculum. The idea is to teach thinking as a skill rather than to regard it as IQ in action. The work was started with a grant of £25,000 paid over five years from the Leverhulme Trust. After some preliminary experimental work in a small number of schools, the project was opened to all schools who wished to take part. There are now some 900 schools which have obtained the programme material. We cannot tell the exact use to which each school is putting it—no doubt in some cases the material is simply examined with an eye to future use—but we do know that in other cases the subject has been time-tabled right across the school as a foundation subject, or taught to certain classes as a special subject on its own. The results indicate that the idea of teaching thinking as a skill is feasible and various experiments show that it is possible to improve the skill in this way. The first CoRT unit was designed to broaden thinking so that pupils would not think solely in terms of judgement (do I like this or don't I like it), narrow self-interest and the immediate future. Experiments show that after the lessons, pupils are able to consider a wider range of aspects of a given subject. The programme is

now being tried in a wide range of schools at different levels of age (8-17) and ability (sixth form grammar schools to remedial groups). The bulk of the schools are secondary schools; though a number of primary schools have found that they can use the material when a teacher is interested enough to adapt it to his own pupils. Certain colleges of education are also using the material. The CoRT programme is divided into six sections, each of which covers one aspect of Thinking as follows:

- CoRT 1—Breadth
- CoRT 2—Organization
- CoRT 3—Interaction
- CoRT 4—Creativity
- CoRT 5—Information and Feeling
- CoRT 6—Action

Requests for details regarding the material should be addressed to the publishers: Direct Education Services Limited, 35, Albert Street, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

The Cognitive Research Trust is now setting up an examination in General Thinking Skills. This is the result of our experience in schools which suggests that academic achievement and thinking skills do not necessarily go hand in hand and that there are some pupils whose academic skills may not be very high, but who are nevertheless effective thinkers. It is emphasized that the Certificate of General Thinking Skills (GTS) does not require that a pupil or person should have taken the CoRT Thinking Course. The two are independent, although the range of subject areas covered is, of course, indicated by the subjects covered in the CoRT Thinking Lessons. It is envisaged that the GTS would be of use in the following circumstances:

1. Those who feel that their abilities are not sufficiently recognized by their academic attainments.
2. Those who wish to show that their academic achievements are matched by their skill in general thinking.

Prison  
TITLES  
JANUARY 1979  
L. Ward  
spite

# BOOK REVIEWS

## Reviews Committee:

RAY MITCHELL *Prison Service College, Wakefield*

RICK EVANS *HMP Bristol*

MARK BEESON *Leeds University*

DAI CURTIS, *Officers' Training School, Wakefield*

# BE YOURSELF

## Act Natural

BRUCE HUGMAN

*Bedford Square Press*  
1978, £3.95 (hardback)  
£1.95 (paperback)

Those of us now involved in "social work" of any kind (though we may not agree with our job coming under the heading of social work) would, I feel sure, acknowledge that we were much keener, much more enthusiastic and certainly all about what we were doing and what we wanted to do in the early days of our present career. Time, disappointments, lack of success or promotion and, no doubt, our own domestic concerns, somehow seem to blunt one's initial intentions and ideals. If we had been able to record our initial experiences, it is almost certain they would contain an account of our zeal and a desire to do everything possible to be successful in helping others to recover from their particular downfall.

Bruce Hugman's experiences in *Act Natural* tell of a detached probation project in Sheffield which makes interesting, provocative and stimulating reading. It is an attempt to articulate an experience which many would find entirely unimaginable for themselves, but equally an experience which many more would like to undergo but for "the ties that bind".

It is, however, a plea for helpers of all sorts to drop pretentious images of themselves and to get nearer to the reality of the client's present position and previous history before making judgments or assessments about them which are likely to stick (even though they are not always accurate) and to be plagiarised by other professional helpers who contact the same client.

The book describes how Bruce Hugman feels we should be going about our social work. The implication is that, where our so called professionalism dominates our thinking and decisions concerning those in need of help, we get distorted impressions and the "distance" between helper and those to be helped is often too great, with disappointing consequences. Bruce Hugman longs to shake off the shackles of the traditional roles with their accompanying ideas of

bureaucracy and authority, but wants to retain some of the more established concepts of social work, which recognise that deep-down, society would not have it any other way. It is the story of one who did his social work at the client's level and place of abode. While it is not possible for every would-be helper to emulate this approach, it is a plea for the return to the kind of caring, sharing, and working that every social worker starts out with, but gets divorced from after a little while.

The book could be considered an astonishing, optimistic and even audacious approach to social work thinking. Bruce Hugman says it is a "book about people and relationships and the struggle for happiness" and he also hopes "it speaks clearly beyond the stronghold of social work". I would like to confirm that it is what he describes and more, for it is extremely refreshing, most sincere and very readable. Indeed, it might be described as a book out of the Professional Helpers Bible though whether it is of the Gospels, Letters of the Apostles, or Revelation, I am not sure. In our days of doubts and disappointments it is a timely reminder of many of the qualities and characteristics we need to retain in our own lives if we are to have any impact or influence upon others.

RON BLAKEMAN *Senior Warden*  
Chief Officer 1, Preston Prison

## Treatment of Long-Term Prisoners

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS

*Council of Europe, 1978*

For those who are familiar with, and have experience of, the problems of the treatment of long-term prisoners, this handbook is important not for what it says but for what it underlines. There are no startling new theories or propositions revealed here: its value lies in the clear unequivocal manner in which a number of European penological experts support and confirm conclusions which must be common knowledge to those with experience of working in long-term prisons.

This handbook embodies the work of the sub-committee set up

to report "on the treatment of long term prisoners". It sets out not only the conclusions reached by the committee on the basis of information gathered specifically for this inquiry, but also includes reports by experts on such topics as the psychological effects of long term imprisonment, the separation of long-term from other categories of prisoner, and the conditional release of the long-term.

The committee, drawn from six European countries, studied the results of a questionnaire circulated in long-term prisons of member countries, participated in a seminar at Wakefield and also visited the prisons at Nyborg and Kaershovedgaard. "Long-term" was defined as sentences of five or more years. One familiar conclusion drawn by the committee is that, as far as the member states represented on it are concerned (Sweden excepted), the trend is for an increase in the number of long-term sentences even where there has been a reduction in short term sentences. "It is possible to conclude that long-term prison sentences will present for member states in the near future a sizable and difficult problem."

The sub-committee's own experts, Dr Sluga (psychiatrist) and Professor Smith (psychologist), conducted their own empirical examinations and presented reports. Dr Sluga's conclusions, based on work with 79 prisoners serving life or ten years or more at Stein Prison, were that after 4-6 years exposure to a strict and isolating form of deprivation of liberty a "functional psycho-syndrome" may be expected. The characteristics of this were emotional disturbance, chronic disturbance in comprehension and ability to think, infantile regressive changes in the mode of life, and difficulty in making social contacts.

Professor Smith's psychological investigations (cognitive, personality and attitude tests), carried out with a Home Office grant, involved 215 inmate volunteers in English prisons. The results, Professor Smith says, surprised even himself. He came to the conclusion that the overall picture was not one of general deterioration; on some of the intelligence tests there were statistically significant improvements, although hostility

directed towards the self increased appreciably. One problem highlighted by the complimentary work of Mr E. Darling, prison psychologist, was the great importance to the young prisoner of "lost-time"—the difficulty of catching up with his contemporaries at liberty. Although the results of the investigations indicate that it is difficult and dangerous to generalise about the effect of long-term imprisonment, the degree of effect rested on three factors: 1. the prisoner's personality structure and characteristics; 2. the measure of communication he retains within and outside the prison; 3. the severity of the prison regime. The hopeful conclusion reached was that "the negative effects of long prison terms are not inevitable and may be counteracted by purposeful action".

The committee's 15 recommendations are contained in "Resolution 76 (2) on the treatment of long-term prisoners", which was adopted by the Committee of Ministers in February 1976. Member states might find it expedient, or even necessary, to reject some of the recommendations in the context of their own particular situations, but each recommendation deserves close and earnest attention as a principle to be followed in the treatment of long-term prisoners. The committee, in its preamble to the recommendations, turns its own jaundiced eye on the difficulties of implementation when it states, "that on account of numerous other tasks, society is not always ready to devote the necessary attention and financial resources to the enforcement of long-term sentences". That is a very familiar and heart-warming cry.

J. WILLIAMS *Prison*  
Governor, Long Lartin Prison

## Harmless Weapons

COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

*Barry Rose, 1978, £4.50*

The Council for Science and Society is a watchdog organization which tries to prevent technology from running on unnoticed. I must admit that in the field of crowd control it has done just that, as far as I am concerned. I was totally unaware of the fact that the

standard UK water cannon has the capacity to fire the solution 'CR' which causes intense pain to the eyes and blocks vision; that an electrified baton, like a cattle prod, used by American police, is marketed in this country; that an electric arc discharger capable of inducing epileptic fits in some people and giddiness and nausea in others was recently researched by a British firm. For years I have lived blissfully unaware of 'instant banana skin', which makes the road too slippery for the crowd to stand upon, and 'karate numchakis cord' (two plastic sticks and a bit of string which can be used as a flail) but, more properly, is for seizing and immobilizing the malefactor's arm.

*Harmless Weapons* is intended to stir the complacency of people like me, to give us an awareness of what is going on, make us consider the issues involved and, in so doing, create pressure to prevent unfettered scientific development. The pamphlet begins by reviewing the traditional role of the English policeman in relation to the challenges and problems presented by modern mass demonstration. This leads on to statements about the research and development of weapons for use in riot control and an exploration of the paradox of 'harmlessness.' Following some philosophical discussion of the subject, the dangers of a drift into a military style in the maintenance of civil order and the creation of a 'third force' are outlined. Finally, there are two appendices: the first is a summary of an American report on 'Non-Lethal weapons for Law Enforcement', the second lists over 50 weapons for use in crowd control and their degree of harmlessness.

The Prison Service must keep under review the means by which it contains riotous groups of prisoners. At the present time, well disciplined and properly organized teams of officers, equipped with batons and shields, would be used to control any riot. This is a technique which relies on the irresistible pressure of a calm and controlled group rather than the strength of arm of an individual or the ruthlessness of some non-discriminating chemical. This pamphlet has driven home to me the fact that if any weapon is harmless it is the one under the close control of a human being. A long baton is far from harmless, but surely it is preferable to using a water cannon charged with some noxious substance. At the end of his report on the Red Lion Square disorders, Lord Justice Scarman said, referring to criticisms of the use of mounted police, it all depends on the sort of society you want. On the one hand, an officer with a baton could possibly do a prisoner permanent harm; on the other, water cannon, electric prods or rubber bullets certainly would. The Prison Service, along with the other social control agencies, would do well to take the warnings in this book.

PETER J. LEONARD  
Assistant Governor,  
Officers' Training School,  
Wakefield

## National Association of Probation Officers

(1) ANNUAL REPORT, 1977

(2) PROBATION JOURNAL;

June 1978

Besides the conventional accounts from the Association's committees and its financial reports for 1977, NAPO's *Annual Report* contains an interesting introduction which details some of the internal struggles that have taken place between a militant minority and what appears to be the moderate majority. "All in all", says the report, "1977 was a good year for NAPO; a year of constructive achievements and a year when the views of the majority have perhaps been better represented than for some years past."

There is a section in the pamphlet concerning prison welfare officers but two prison-related resolutions are stressed. First, the Association has called for reasons to be given for the refusal of Parole; and secondly, it has resolved that no social inquiry report should be prepared by probation officers in any case where the defendant indicates a plea of not guilty.

Whatever comes of this last resolution in practice, some light is thrown on social inquiry reports by a short study in *Probation Journal*, volume 25, number 2. Frank Holden, a probation officer at Kirkham prison, collected impressions of court procedures from 60 men (a quarter of whom had pleaded not guilty). Although nearly everyone said he was satisfied with his social inquiry report, more than half the men estimated that the interview for it had lasted only 30 minutes or less. In fact, two thirds of the reports contained no recommendation at all as to sentence, and Holden questions whether this was because the report writer knew so little about each case. Barristers came in for even greater criticism: three quarters of the men thought the interview with their defending counsel had been for half an hour or less, and half of them did not feel they had been properly defended. Whilst these are impressions—and impressions, moreover, of men found guilty—the author finds this a gloomy picture of court procedures with their "sausage machine", impersonal atmosphere. It is also a black mark against many of the social inquiry reports prepared by his colleagues.

R. E.

## Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison

MICHEL FOUCAULT

Allen Lane, 1977, £7.50

Michel Foucault has written previously on the mental institution (*Madness and Civilization*) and the hospital (*The Birth of the Clinic*) and, in this book, he turns his attention to the prison. The book is divided into four parts giving a clear indication of the developing theme: Torture—Punishment—Discipline—Prison. As could be expected from a professor of his-

tory and of systems of thought, the intellectualism of the book is pronounced and one has to search for its relevance to today's prisons. Indeed, it is his argument that the use of prison to control individuals has a history arising out of thinking on discipline and control in a much wider context. Put simply, his argument is that the use of prison for criminals originated in the 18th Century when social thought concentrated on control of individuals within society.

In its earlier chapters, the book is packed with information on punishment in times when torture was the commonplace solution to delinquency and was often carefully detailed so that the body was punished specifically for the crime in a public spectacle. The detail, mostly from French sources, is almost overwhelming and there is relief when Foucault examines the 18th Century developments, arguing that punishment became centred on the individual offender rather than the crime. Such developments led to an "economic" rationality in sentencing policy. At this stage in his historical analysis, Foucault allows himself an ironic comment: "Humanity" is the respectable name given to this economy and to its meticulous calculations. Despite concern to diversify punishments to fit types of offence, the one punishment that fitted the new rationality was imprisonment—"this grey uniform penalty".

At the same time that imprisonment was developing as a system of control for delinquents, a rigid discipline evolved for schools, factories, hospitals and military camps. However, the development of systems to regiment and control behaviour in institutions in the 18th Century, in Foucault's argument, has a focal point in imprisonment. It is difficult to accept that this case is proved, although Bentham's design for the Panopticon had great influence on theory if not on practice. Bentham saw the Panopticon as applicable to a host of institutional situations but, despite its magnificent observation of prisoners by comparison with modern prison design, it is interesting to note that the design had been used for a menagerie at the palace of Versailles! In its past and present use, the prison is criticized intellectually and also emotionally by Foucault as he voices some despair at the case he has proved by his own researches. Having examined justifications for imprisonment, he offers a more general criticism of present day society with its emphasis on control: "The judges of normality are everywhere. We are in the society of the teacher-judge, the doctor-judge, the educator-judge, the social worker-judge".

*Discipline and Punish* tends to be depressing but this is partly caused by Foucault's style and the wealth of detail he presents, sometimes in a haphazard fashion. The relevance of the book to modern living is enormous but its relevance to modern prisons and penology less so. Basically the concepts are there, but the reader has to work hard to link them to developments in criminology and

penology. Perhaps the last word belongs to the author: "So successful has the prison been that after a century and a half of failures, the prison still exists, producing the same results, and there is the greatest reluctance to dispense with it".

J. F. PERRISS  
Governor III, P6 Division

## The People Shapers

VANCE PACKARD

Macdonald and Jane's, 1978  
£5.50

The birth of the world's first 'test-tube baby' at Oldham General Hospital highlights the fundamental issue of Vance Packard's latest book, *The People Shapers*. In great detail and with many examples, he uncovers the world of controlling behaviour and reshaping Man through the application of various scientific techniques. Anybody working with people as 'raw material' will find the book both stimulating and frightening. Stimulating because it lists the numerous developments that have taken place as Man attempts to overcome the problems that nature poses. Frightening because it suggests the ease with which such developments can go out of control aggravated by the lack of knowledge about the current application of these techniques amongst the general populace.

Packard concentrates on two specific issues. The first concerns techniques for controlling behaviour, which are basically American activities. After a short but clear resumé of the historical development of controlling behaviour, he outlines current applications of such techniques. For example, he discusses the "training of unruly public school children" in America by the use of chemicals—namely amphetamines or Ritalin. He claims that teachers do the diagnostic work, the medical practitioners merely prescribe at the request of parents advised by teachers. Of major concern is that certain school officials believe that they have the right to authorize medication independently of the parents' permission.

Packard also has a section on the modification of non-conforming prisoners—"Making prisoners shape up, scientifically". He cites specific examples of operant conditioning, brainwashing, group therapy, and drug-abuse in various American prisons. The paragraphs concerning the Medical Centre for Federal Prisoners at Springfield Missouri, are especially relevant as they describe a system of segregation and progress by reward not dissimilar, in principle, to the ill-fated control units which were proposed for our Prison Service. Progress was achieved by the number of "good days" accumulated—a good day being defined as not using abusive language, keeping the cell clean, and observing all the other rules. Prisoners began the programme in very spartan conditions and, by the achievement of specific numbers of good days, moved up to different levels of reward.



The successful completion of the programme was rewarded by a return to the 'home' prison.

To bring the realities of the subject nearer home, Packard then turns to the techniques for reshaping Man. Artificial insemination in humans, test tube conception, cloning, and the replacement of major organs transplanted from a deep-frozen, cloned identical twin are all discussed. The subject is nearer home because, in reshaping Man, Britain is the world leader. As Packard says, "It was primarily Britons who broke the genetic code, and it is Britons who are far advanced in test-tube creation of humans, in pre-sexing babies, in transplanting embryos, in cell fusion, in greatly extending human life span. The first cloning to create worldwide attention was done at Oxford University".

The birth of the Brown baby in Oldham was a wonderful event and, as we have seen in the media many other couples who are childless may now be able to raise a family. What Packard does, however, is to take us beyond the socially acceptable application of such techniques and project the developments further to identify future, and possibly more sinister applications.

Readers may find Packard's continuous and unrepenting suspicion of behaviour modifiers and genetic engineers somewhat overdone, though I did not. He has undertaken a role that is clearly absent from such developments—questioning continuously the relevance of such activities to Man. A most readable and stimulating publication.

P. ATHERTON *Review*  
Assistant Governor,  
Prison Service College, Wakefield

## Delinquent Fantasies

PATRICIA MORGAN  
Maurice Temple Smith, 1978,  
£7.50

This is a good book, and well worth reading. First because it is readable (endearing to one who feels that most essays on delinquency are an exercise in obfuscation). Secondly, because it is unapologetic in attack, lucid in exposition, and honest in not pretending to offer a panacea.

The style and structure is that of the consumerist tract, redolent of the writings of Vance Packard. This is the stuff of ephemeral paperbacks—investigative and critical, but packing a sting which is quickly drawn, and speedily forgotten. This style may alienate those who suspect any writing that appeals to the heart rather than the head. I would direct those to consider the underlying message of this book: too many of us think so much we forget to feel and, in doing so, ignore the human implications of our actions.

Patricia Morgan is horrified by the 'New Barbarism' of increasing delinquency. She seeks to extirpate the myths that surround it, show where the fault lies, and offer some remedies. An ambitious undertaking in so slim a volume, and one that flags in

parts. One of her many criticisms of current thinking is that it ignores the simple explanation and degenerates into an academic industry of abstruse research.

The theme of the book is developed simply but clearly. She opens with a compelling description of what mushrooming delinquency truly means; individual loss of freedom and a real diminution in the quality of life. The greatest fantasy, she asserts, is the denial that this is even a problem. The 'New Establishment'—'liberal, technocratic, advanced'—is defined, held responsible, and assailed. The problem is denied, she claims, because facing up to it would mean embracing the sort of remedies 'enlightened' folk shrink from. All good stuff that sets the adrenalin flowing, but mechanistic and blind to the complexities of our social and political power structure.

Patricia Morgan adopts the Hobbesian view that Man is not naturally virtuous, and that society exists to give the individual protection from the nefarious caprice of his neighbours. The call is that of the harassed consumer; for less interest to be shown in the delinquent's deprived background and damaged self, and more in the victim. It echoes Governor George Wallace at his pithy electioneering best: "You get knocked down in the street, and the guy who knocked you down gets out of prison before you get out of hospital!". Do we really have an adequate answer to this charge of neglect?

To ensure security, she declares, we must shrug off our collective apologetic guilt about being coercive. This is both essential and justifiable.

Theories of emotional and social deprivation as the prime cause of delinquency are dismissed. Research supporting such views is reviewed and reviled. Selective research ripe for demolition, undoubtedly, but then who of us offer contrary evidence when arguing a case? The prime cause of delinquency is, she states, the search for fun and desire to impress and satisfy one's peers. Its increase is due to the withdrawal of parental involvement in the home and school. This is reinforced by teachers who no longer teach. Both are part of the misplaced apologetic denial that adults know best. Children, she claims, are being left to bring themselves up. Harmonious integration with adult society cannot, however, result from such chance development. She demands that socialisation be forthright and purposive. 'Traditional' Soviet practises are upheld as a model, and a call made for the restoration of adult primacy here. The general demand is for greater community control, backed up by law. She admits that naked deterrence will not be a cure-all, but argues that this is not attainable anyway.

As in most books, delineation of the problem and the failings of the current policies is sharper than the prescription of remedies. This does not detract unduly from the merit of this work. If, by its scathing denunciation of accepted

wisdom it sets us thinking seriously about our present responses, then it has worth. It is too easy to embrace current thinking without ever pausing to contemplate on the strength of its foundations. This work demands that current practice be justified. With so many resources committed, both financial and human, this is no bad thing.

Early in the book Patricia Morgan admits that she will "be called hysterical, repressive, punitive, emotional, even sick." Perhaps in the end she will have convinced you that this is the most reasonable of responses. She failed to convince me but left me with much to think about.

CHRISTOPHER T. POLLOCK  
Assistant Governor, *Review*  
Usk Borstal

## Conjugal Visits in Prison

JULES QUENTIN BURSTEIN  
Lexington, 1978, £8.75

The deprivations inherent in imprisonment have historically been justified as part of the rationale of punishment in Western penology. As penal treatment has, however, undergone an evolution that has at its core the increasingly humane treatment of those sentenced to imprisonment, the need for deprivations other than that of liberty are increasingly questioned. Furthermore, those who view conjugal visits as a strange quirk of permissive societies such as Sweden, may be surprised to learn that they are official policy in the Soviet Union and Chile—countries not usually associated with excessive liberalism—among many others.

*Conjugal Visits in Prison* is the result of a research project conducted at Soledad Correctional Training Facility, California, in 1975 and 1976. The general strategy of the study was to contrast the differential outcome of an experimental group of inmates who received conjugal visits with a comparative group whose wives were permitted only normal visits. The particular objectives were to evaluate the relationship of conjugal visiting to marital stability and to post-release behaviour. Each of the subjects completed a questionnaire, which served as a basic framework for a loosely structured interview at Soledad, and there was a follow-up one year later when the majority had been released on parole.

Conjugal visits at Soledad are a part of the "family visiting program", which permits visits of up to two days for legal wives, children, parents, and other immediate family members. The facilities consist of caravans and apartments, fully equipped for a small family and located within the prison perimeter.

The results of the research suggest that conjugal visits have a beneficial effect on marital stability and on post release success. These results, however, cannot be considered conclusive because of the small scale of the study (the experimental and

control groups each contained only 20 subjects), the short time lapse between the "treatment" (conjugal visits) and its inferred effects (family stability and post-release success), and doubts about some aspects of the methodology.

I found this book an interesting and honest attempt to look objectively at what is still an emotive subject. Whether or not one accepts the validity of the findings, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that there must be something hypocritical in prison staff employing marital stability as a significant indicator of likely successful rehabilitation whilst, at the same time, opposing the introduction of family visits.

RAY MITCHELL  
Prison Service College, Wakefield  
**Defining Crime**

S. MCCABE AND F. SUTCLIFFE  
Basil Blackwell, 1978, £3.00

In keeping with much modern research in the field of criminology, this short book by McCabe and Sutcliffe examines the process by which crimes and complaints are recorded and processed. It is a study of one particular aspect of the criminalization process, i.e. the way in which uniformed officers in two police stations in Oxford and Salford reacted to complaints made by members of the public, and the extent to which these complaints were defined as crimes. The research was based on a participant observation study by the two authors and as such provides a description of what was seen during time spent in police stations, on patrol, and in conversation with police officers, rather than simply a compilation and analysis of large amounts of quantifiable data.

After a brief justification of participant observation as a legitimate mode of research, and a review of some previous relevant work in the area, the authors go on to describe the great variety of calls and callers to the police stations, stressing the large amount of time spent on calls which are not strictly "crime" complaints. The book also stresses how the homogeneity and clanishness of the police officers affects the way that calls and callers are dealt with, and draws attention to the discretion which police officers may use in their day-to-day work. Of particular importance is the observation of police officers' reluctance to "put pen to paper", viz: "The avoidance of official action (and that means putting pen to paper) is known as 'cuffing' and it is a well-recognized stratagem for dealing with matters that may be troublesome or trivial. There can be no surveillance or control over individual police officers' response to such cases". Recent developments, however, have had quite an effect on the making and keeping of records; for example, the use of central control rooms and the tape recording of incoming 999 calls. While this may be a useful step in some respects, the

authors point out that these technological advances could threaten, or at least restrict, the discretionary power of the constable, and thus subject his everyday actions and decisions to bureaucratic control.

In chapter IV, the authors describe in some detail how incidents which were eventually recorded as crimes came to the attention of the police, and how the police reacted to the calls. The authors here confirm the results of many previous studies which have shown the reactive nature of police work. (For example, in Salford, 83 per cent of recorded crimes were brought to the attention of the police by a civilian's complaint). This chapter is particularly disappointing, however, for not only are the figures for the Oxford and Salford areas not directly comparable (some figures even referring to different years), but the authors have to admit: "From the observed and recorded cases it is difficult to construct a set of rules (which in the absence of written instructions would have to be traditional) by which officers were guided in their decisions." The chapter provides tables showing five categories of complaints, i.e. domestic, damage, assault, breaking and entering, and disturbance. However, the authors really fail to make sufficient use of their data, making the assumption (and that is all it can be) that if an incident was reported to the C.I.D. it was automatically recorded as a crime. The writers also failed to explore the point that a potential crime which had a suspect may have been more likely to be recorded as an offence. One useful observation from the chapter is the fact that a wide gap often exists between the complainant's definition of an incident and the definition given to it by the police officer. This gap was apparently widest in the case of 'domestics'.

In chapter V, the authors point out that not only are definitions difficult to make initially but, once made and recorded, can be subject to a number of changes. A brief examination is thus made of those incidents which are subsequently written off or re-defined. Once again, however, the researchers fail to pay sufficient attention to arrest decisions which will have a considerable effect on whether or not an incident is recorded as a crime.

The book kindly provides a "Summary and Conclusions" of the research as a final chapter, and this can provide a useful reference for the reader without the time to plough through the whole work.

The book thus provides a description of one link in the chain of actions between an offence being committed and a person possibly ending up in a prison. As such, it may be interesting reading for prison officers. It does, however, contain a number of methodological flaws, and apologies by the researchers as to why their information is nowhere near as complete as it might have been. Whilst appa-

rently aware at the start of the research of the problems associated with studying a homogenous group such as the police, the researchers nevertheless ended with a less than adequate record of the subject they were studying. The book is full of examples of the difficulties which were encountered, often caused by the police officers' incomplete records of their actions, but also sometimes caused by the researchers' inability to form any conclusions from their "observations". The book would undoubtedly be useful to researchers who may wish to study the inner workings of police departments, and should take heed of the problems which confronted the present authors in their study.

PETER B. AINSWORTH *P.B.A.*  
*Lecturer in Social Administration,*  
*University of Manchester*

### **The Delinquent's Challenge: Trust Me if You Dare**

MARTIN BURNETT  
*Barry Rose, 1978, £4.50*

This book contains the results of research, the subjects of which were former Morton Hall borstal trainees, and of an attempt by the author to implement the research findings in a three year experimental regime at Gaynes Hall borstal.

The original research consisted of a follow-up study of 130 former Morton Hall trainees who had been deemed successes. It produced what amounted to a series of solicited testimonials. The most "startling aspect of their replies," the publishers tell us, "is the constant repetition of the word trust". Convinced that this was evidence which could not be ignored, Martin Burnett and his staff at Gaynes Hall reassessed the training they offered and produced a regime which, according to the publishers, became known as "the silent revolution". As I worked at Gaynes Hall during this period and the term is unknown to me, I suspect that it has more of the publisher than the author about it.

Trust was an essential tenet of Martin's philosophy of borstal training and whether or not other staff may have felt uncomfortable with that personal piece of dogma really doesn't matter. The important point for the student of regimes is that Martin believed it and staff and trainees alike knew of his belief. It is, however, not unknown for our clients to latch onto what is required and milk it for all its worth, and for trainees of above-average intelligence not to be at least tempted to play to the gallery is inconceivable. To the same end, inmates in other establishments were 'achieving' psychological insights, religious experiences, and five minute miles.

This book provides an interesting record of what is obviously a highly personal piece of research. Martin Burnett acknowledges the short-falls of his methodology and possibly of his conclusions, and that seems fair enough. It would be very easy to dismiss it as con-

taining the sort of assumptions which middle-class gentlemen make about working-class delinquents, but that would devalue the energy, commitment and time that went into the work.

It is a disappointment to me because it seems to miss the optimism and good humour which characterized life at Gaynes Hall at that time. I am most disappointed, however, in the narrowness of the author's vision, which seems to be reduced to recommendations for allowing trainees to have alcoholic beverages, to wear civilian clothes, and not to be obliged to use the 'outdated' "Sir" when addressing staff.

I hope that Martin will find time to write a book with more of himself and the personalities he met in his career in it. It might not be of any great interest to academics but, I suspect, it might interest a television producer or two.

TOM ABBOT *T.A.*  
*Prison Service College, Wakefield*

### **(1) Planning for Juvenile Justice** **(2) Architecture of Facilities**

INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

*Ballinger/Wiley, 1978, £3.75 each*

*Planning for Juvenile Justice* "may be useful to all those public officials and citizens who are involved in the process of change". The research committee have carried out a preliminary survey of ten American states and, by a process of elimination reduced their survey to four which were dissimilar. "The decision to look upon planning as a pervasive activity of Juvenile Justice officials and others concerned with reform in the system based on the observation that change in services to juveniles has historically tended to arise from the efforts of others than those formally mandated as planners." Those of us who have bowed under the impact of the Mountbatten and Younger reports and various Acts of Parliament will appreciate the value of a basic premise for reform. Knowing the diversity of Man, however, how can one have a blanket plan to suit the needs of all people in all the counties in England, let alone a plan to cover the complexity encountered in four American states?

The book looks at the functions of planners in Juvenile Departments and, although couched in the jargon of the modern sociologist, it makes interesting reading. The elaborate lists of contingency plans contain little more than the stated job specifications of those employed in Prison Department 4 and contain such truisms as: "Federal policy concerning juvenile justice should be planned through a process which provides maximum opportunity for participation by the states and which reflects, insofar as possible, the needs of the state". It goes on to remark, "even if planners understood juvenile services as a planning

environment, it is clear that they would still face the problem of implementing their plans in the face of scant resources and no consistent political support". That for me sums up the value of the book. An excellent academic exercise, possibly of great value to those interested in delinquency and planning, but account must be taken of this quotation.

*Architecture of Facilities* sets out a range of minimum acceptable architectural standards for buildings containing group homes, secure settings, youth correction agencies, etc. The researchers have covered a wide area and include under building construction criteria: "Soundness of construction, condition of plumbing, heating and electrical systems, adequacy of lighting, ventilation system, building insulation and heating costs, rodent and termite infestation, acoustic privacy and durability of materials and finishes with regard to ability to resist wear". Those of us who are involved in building new establishments will appreciate the need for planning in those areas. One cannot but help wondering how buildings pass the planning stage with shower units that are easily vandalised, toilet systems with easily bendable flush levers and our own special, mushroom-shaped alarm bells set conveniently at shoulder level or, as I have seen, behind a very heavy iron gate (we had to remove the gate).

The book points out that different facilities will be required for different types of people. "For example, group homes relying on individual counselling require different living area arrangements from those emphasizing extensive group meetings". How obvious, one might say, yet we have recently seen buildings erected with cell walls of nothing more than breeze block and plaster, modern buildings with no telephone lines, and other "howlers" too delicate to mention. So perhaps it is not a bad thing to formally state the obvious.

The planners say, "A secure correction facility should be planned like a large private house", and "The facility should be zoned, into areas for food preparation, dining, passive recreation, leisure-time activities, study, sleeping and entrance and egress". It would appear that we have already put this style of planning into bricks and mortar for our modern establishments. However, the book comes out strongly against "Control Centres" and argues that central surveillance discourages normalisation.

There is a great deal of useful data in this book. It is well worth reading if one is setting out to design a new establishment. I am, however, loath to support any great master plan for the treatment of youth. I am reminded of the work of Dostoevsky: "Yes, we shall set them to work, but in their leisure hours we shall make their life a child's game... oh, we shall allow them even sin, they are weak and helpless, and they will love us like children

because we allow them to sin. We shall tell them that every sin will be expiated, it is done with our permission, that we allow them to sin because we love them... and they will have no secrets from us... The most powerful secrets of their conscience, all they will bring to us, and we shall have an answer for all. They will be glad to believe our answer, for it will save them from the great anxiety and terrible agony they endure at present in making a free decision for themselves".

JOHN HONE  
Deputy Governor,  
Deerbolt Borstal

## Between Two Cultures

Ed. by JAMES L. WATSON

Basil Blackwell, 1977

£10 (hardback)

£3.95 (paperback)

*Between Two Cultures* is a collection of anthropological essays about the problems of migration and ethnicity in Britain. Each chapter is an essay which focuses upon a specific minority; Jamaicans, Chinese, West Africans, Poles—in fact almost every significant Non-white and European group in contemporary British society. The essays are by anthropologists who have made observations at each end of the migration chain, in the native village and here in Britain. The aim is to lift their work from the sometimes obscure learned journals and bring it to a wider audience. Every essay is of the highest quality, not just listing the academic 'facts' but also conveying something of the culture and traditions of the people studied. I have chosen to précis three essays which I believe demonstrate the scope and appeal of the book. I could have chosen any three, these simply interested me the most.

The first essay in the collection is by Roger and Catherine Ballard who, using the Sikhs for example, describe the phases through which minority settlements may pass as they become established in, if not accepted by, British society. At first individual pioneers arrive, seamen and pedlars in the case of the South Asians, and gradually develop a nuclear community. Later, as economic pressures build up at home and the need for cheap, unskilled labour grows in the host country, mass migration develops, spurred on by the stories of wealth told by the pioneers. During this time the migrants live in densely packed, all-male households situated in the low cost inner-city areas. The object is to earn as much money as possible, live as cheaply as possible and send the surplus home. In the village, the cash is used to improve conditions for the extended family group or saved to enable others to migrate.

Family bonds and duty to kinsfolk are of paramount importance to South Asians. The needs of the individual are of secondary consideration to the needs of the group, and males who have migrated are still bound in honour

to their families. Many would wish to return home (and some do to take part in an arranged marriage or spend a holiday) but there are limits to the number of mouths which a small, peasant farm can support. The third phase identified is, therefore, one that implies a greater commitment to remain in the host society. Wives and families are sent for and there is a general consolidation of the migrant community.

Many such communities have now entered the fourth phase. This concerns the emergence of a British educated, if not British born, second generation with a desire for better conditions. Attempts are made to move away from inferior housing and to settle in the more desirable suburbs. Second generation immigrants of school leaving age are usually as well qualified for jobs as their indigenous contemporaries; they are less prepared to do the dirty, low-status work endured by their parents.

Verity Saifullah Khan's study applies the Ballards' model to another group, the Pakistanis. It describes village life in Mirpur and maps the changes which have led to population movement within Pakistan and migration to Britain and, more recently, the oil-rich countries. Traditional village life is outdoor and gregarious with everyone knowing everyone else. In the moral arena of the village, reputations are assessed and re-assessed and the all important *izzat* (the honour or prestige) of the family is decided. The migrant returning home for a visit is expected to be generous, to over-tip the horse-taxi driver, to build a substantial brick house or repaint the mosque; family status depends on it.

In Bradford, the migrants from Mirpur are consolidating their community. Wives and families are joining the original migrants and a significant second generation is developing. Most Mirpur children in Bradford have very little contact with local English children before they go to school. Few attend nursery or pre-school playgroups. Usually they move into mainstream schools via specialized language centres, created to enable these children to cope with the ordinary school syllabus. When they are about six years old these children move on to "normal" school where they form an easily identified minority and may suffer the hostility of their classmates.

Mirpur parents often misunderstand the educational system in Britain and set unrealistically high goals for their children. At school, the children learn a new concept of self and a value system which differs from that of their parents. Parents are often less concerned with the education of girls and may not understand the pressures which influence them to question parental authority and seek to develop individuality. All this may lead to considerable tension within the home.

The evidence seems to show, however, that this period of tension is a transient stage; a

natural maturation, exacerbated by life in an alien culture. The longer period of adolescence, relative to that of Mirpuri children brought up in the native village, eventually gives way to adulthood and the pressures ease and the frustrations subside. The young adult, like the infant, accepts the traditional values of the parents, acknowledges the authority of senior male kin, and adopts the tenets of Mirpuri society.

The history of Italian migration to Britain is long and interesting. Robin Palmer summarizes this two thousand year old phenomenon in a few paragraphs and shows the significant contribution made to our society by this relatively small migrant group. Agents of the Vatican monopolized the important British wool trade in the Middle Ages and the 'Lombard' banks controlled the Royal Exchequer during the reign of the Tudor monarchs. Later architects, sculptors, musicians and scholars came in search of patronage and by the mid-seventeenth century Italian artisans had established a colony of some importance in Clerkenwell. By 1900, there were 20,000 Italians working in the hotel and catering trades and in asphaltting and ice-hauling, jobs which the English found unacceptable.

Migration from Southern Italy is a fairly well known and widely studied phenomenon. Palmer's work is interesting because it concentrates on peasant farmers from a group of hamlets in the mountains of the North. These labour-intensive farms have always had difficulties, particularly in winter, and temporary migration has been a regular feature of the community. In 1973, Palmer traced 184 London households, which had originated from the hamlets. 93 of these households were associated with private business—the majority being involved in snack bars, cafés or restaurants.

The migrants retain strong ties of sentiment with the native parish. They have a vested interest in the village where the family owns property and they establish overseas committees to promote and preserve their rights within the village. Two or three times a year, the committee calls together expatriate parishioners for a dance or other social function and the chairman gives a progress report. The priest in the village keeps the migrants informed of the local news by means of a parish news-letter and, at least once a year, the committee brings the priest to London to celebrate mass and visit the families. This migrant group, whilst having successfully integrated into the English business world, remains essentially Italian.

The Prison Service has only recently woken up to race relations. Most of us still view it with the bleary-eyed disbelief of the drunk surveying his untidy bedroom the morning after the party. It is a fact that many of our establishments contain large numbers of people with ethnic origins other than English. This inevitability creates problems

for management and staff, and it is no longer good enough to say that these are problems of institutional life rather than ethnicity. To do so denies the nature of man and shows a lack of tolerance of the religious and cultural needs of those in our custody. Fortunately, many governors and members of staff are very well aware of the problems and are seeking to handle them in a sensitive and caring way without showing undue favour. For them and for others who want to gain some insight into the ways in which ethnicity governs behaviour, this is an essential textbook. No solutions are offered—that is not the task of academics. Instead, the book contains, in a most readable form, information about an important and significant proportion of our society. Training Officers may well like to consider putting this on their local bookshelves.

PETER J. LEONARD

Assistant Governor,  
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Wakefield

## The Penalty of Death

C. H. S. JAYEWARDENE

Lexington, 1978, £9.00

An intriguing title and one which might tempt one to pick up this book, either from morbid curiosity about executions or for serious study of the vexed question of capital punishment. In either case, one would be disappointed.

It is an old cliché that statistics can be made to prove anything and campaigners either for or against capital punishment are often accused of producing figures to support their own point of view. The author of this book has been so careful not to fall into this trap that he has filled the book with meaningless statistics. Dr. Jayewardene seems so concerned to avoid any accusation of bias that he is very reluctant to draw any conclusions from the banks of statistics that he has accumulated: he leaves the reader in a state of confusion at the end of each chapter. The vast majority of statistics relate to Canada and I feel that the author fails by only studying one society and by not comparing his figures with those obtained from other parts of the world.

The author has avoided any mention of the moral issues of capital punishment, probably because it would be hard for him to do so without expressing personal opinions. The morality of taking life is, of course, an abstract subject which cannot be expressed in statistics, tables and graphs, but I do not feel that any serious work on the subject of capital punishment can totally ignore it.

One chapter, "Public Opinion", did seem to stand out both in terms of interest and relevance to the debate on capital punishment in this country. In this, the author illustrates very well both the fickleness of the public in their views and also the unreliability of public opinion polls.

On the whole, however, I found this an extremely boring book with little to hold the reader's interest.

My own views on the subject of the death penalty are very confused and uncertain and I started this book with the hope that it might help me polarise my thoughts and come to some firmer conclusions. In this, I was sadly disappointed.

R. A. CHAPMAN *رسول حنفی*  
Prison Service College, Wakefield

## Criminal Justice: Selected Readings

Edited by JOHN BALDWIN AND  
A. KEITH BOTTOMLEY

Martin Robertson, 1978

£9.95 (hardback), £4.85 (paperback)

This is a fair old pot-boiler of a book bringing together an assortment of recent writing about criminal justice systems at work. The collection *does* have a theme: it is a parade of criticisms of the context in which the system operates from police practices, bail decisions, lawyers' bargaining, the jury, sentencing and the magistracy, to parole and the evaluation of what the system achieves. The frustrating thing about the book is that it is not very constructive or positive, settling for "stimulating . . . debate . . . on current practice . . ."

It is rather like a rack of kebabs: twenty-nine more or less juicy morsels served up on six skewers. All but two of the morsels have been around a while. Every one is worth savouring, but when you've done, there's no feeling of having been fed. The bread, the sauces, the salad on the side, the ale, the conviviality are missing.

Can we afford to know the kind of mess our criminal justice system is in? How much of a mess is it in? For prison staff, life is a good deal easier if, for example, one doesn't listen to the rumblings against the parole system, one ignores the possibility that prisoners have been sold short by their legal representatives, one scorns the evidence that if you don't get bail, whatever the reason, you are more likely to get a prison sentence. If the jury are swayed by opinions about the company a defendant keeps, if an eminent judge believes prison sentences should be a fraction of their present length, if magistrates in one town are evidently a tight bunch which also dominate the Masonry, the hospital management committee and so on, does it matter? If the police scarcely ever detect anything but have, in reality, to rely on the public pointing finger, why should we care?

Well, I guess there are three main reasons why these things matter. The first and most selfish is that any of us, simply in the usual way of things, may wind up on the receiving end of the system. Then suddenly, we'd be worried about how fair it is. Secondly, in a rather remote way, we—collectively—are responsible for the magistracy we have, for the competence and wisdom of the judges we appoint, for the job we ourselves do within the system. Thirdly, staff have to soak up the aggravation which the

system creates among prisoners and their families. This book provides food for thought for each of these reasons.

On the other hand, the morsels provided have little coherence and, though they have been shuffled into six sections, the editors' introductions to each of these accomplish practically nothing toward drawing the pieces together. Even the two articles specially written for the book fail to lock into the collection. Part of the problem lies in the unevenness of the selections which range from lightweight *New Society* reprints to abridged versions of thoroughly-prepared papers. But the main difficulty with the book is that it fails to provide any sensible framework by which to assess how criminal justice is administered in Britain and fails to show any appreciation of the broader context in which it is set. This context is, of course, supremely difficult to limit, since the way we process miscreants has a rich history, depends on almost mystical procedure of public endorsement continuously amended by legislation—itsself depending on shifting ideas of justice and the public interest. The issues are simply too wide to be represented by a sample of snippets. There is, too, a more subtle question buried in the book. Ely Devons writing on the experience of serving as a jurymen muses, "... if the jury is to remain part of the English legal system, it is just as well that its proceedings should remain secret . . .". His lecture was highly critical of the incompetence of the jury in setting about what was required of it. Surely the author's responsibility lay in helping to provide an answer to the direct question of what conditions should govern the retention of the jury rather than to argue limply for secrecy, which he patently breaches.

Widely read, this book should provoke a disastrous crisis of public confidence in our whole criminal justice apparatus and a vicious backlash from the professionals responsible for it. To ask for this without due reflection and without machinery for constructive alteration may provoke a situation in which, rather than getting something better, we get something far worse without even the means to know how much worse it is. Supplied in a plain wrapper to the discriminating and well intentioned who, in all probability, know the warts on the system full well already, we will all wake up as safe as ever tomorrow.

MARK BEESON  
University of Leeds

## (1) Violence and the Family

edited by J. P. MARTIN  
Wiley, 1978, £11.95

## (2) The Challenge of Child Abuse

Edited by A. W. FRANKLIN  
Academic Press, 1978, £10.80

"Widespread public pressure induced the government in 1875 to establish the first official inquiry into conjugal violence, followed in 1878 by a major attempt to protect wives against physical maltreatment by their husbands, the Matrimonial Causes Act. The 1870s were also marked by the growing public awareness of the extent of child abuse, culminating in the foundation of the NSPCC and the first salient legislation, the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, in 1889. In the late nineteenth century the problem of domestic violence became a public issue, discussed by press and Parliament and stimulating research into its nature and causes. Widespread public interest, however, soon waned and was only sporadically revived after particularly brutal cases . . ."

So says Margaret May at the start of her section in *Violence and the Family*. Her essay seems to confirm that there are fashions in social issues as in everything else and that, for particular reasons, it is again the turn of wife beating and baby battering. Certainly, there is a fair industry in turning out books and articles on family violence at present and these two worthy tomes — *Violence and the Family* and *The Challenge of Child Abuse* — have added to a growing literature. As far as the Prison Service goes, I don't believe that this type of book has much operational significance at this stage. It is true that we deal with the assailants and sometimes the victims of domestic violence, but it is not much use worrying over the minutiae of cause and background unless we are properly geared to dealing effectively with the offence behaviours rather than merely getting people through their sentences. In any case, these books reaffirm the complexity of the problem and present evidence which challenges simplistic notions about there being watertight categories of batterer or straightforward causes of violence.

Professor Martin commissioned the essays especially for his book, *Violence and the Family*, which succeeds admirably in one of its aims: to present what is known about battered wives and children and to put this knowledge into perspective. As well as the historical angle, which has already been quoted, there are contributions from a psychologist, a criminologist, a sociologist, social workers, those who run womens' refuges, and cross-cultural comparisons with American and Mediterranean communities. The book is well presented but cannot dispel the pessimism which hangs over the subject of domestic violence. The brightest hopes still centre on the neighbours reporting their suspicions and on the ability of the various agencies to co-operate fully enough to pick up the danger signals. This is not an awful lot of progress since 1875.

Dr. Franklin's book looks at child abuse in greater detail but suffers in its presentation from being the proceedings of a conference (June 1976) and never quite making it as a coherent sequence. Neither are the papers so good at

reviewing what is known about child abuse. One of the more interesting essays is by Andrew Mann, who also highlights the role of neighbours in detecting domestic evidence, but points out how the professional helpers can make the offender (who may have brutalized his family through feelings of powerlessness) feel even more helpless by their intervention. It is a strong argument for the community approach and the "neighbourhood concept" which, like the very subject of domestic violence, is currently fashionable.

It's all good stuff but one wonders if the same basic truths won't be being churned out in another hundred years

RICK EVANS  
Senior Psychologist,  
Bristol Prison

## (1) Voluntary Social Services

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

Bedford Square Press, 1978, £2.75

## (2) NAPO Probation Directory

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
PROBATION OFFICERS

Owen Wells, 1978, £2.00

A directory should be easy to use, providing readily and without fuss the information required; a comfortable companion, a trusted tool. It should stay open at the right page, and not snap shut whilst you are holding the 'phone in the other hand. It must be accurate and, by definition, it must contain all the required information which you want but not be cluttered up with facts which are irrelevant. Both these directories are easy to use, stay open when required, are good natured and predictable, but provide for quite different needs.

The NAPO Directory is a constant companion, a vital part of my desk equipment, as valuable to me as the dialling code book and the diary. It lists probation offices and probation officers by area and has a handy list of Prison Department addresses and other useful information at the back.

*Voluntary Social Services* would be just as indispensable to the CAB worker, but for me it is for the quieter moments when the pressure is off and I can read with pleasure about the Anti-Slavery League and the Over-Forty Association for Women Workers. The voluntary organizations in the penal field are listed and are described (as are all the organizations entered) in terms of address, aims and activities and publications, which might well be valuable for staff who may need to refer to what is available in the way of voluntary provision. For me, it is an interesting testament to a curiously British phenomenon—the voluntary body—and to the ability of organizations, once established, to survive. It is a book for my bookshelf rather than my desk.

BRIAN FELLOWES  
Probation Adviser,  
Prison Service College,  
Wakefield



## The Involvement of the Community in Criminal Justice and the Treatment of Offenders

E. C. and N. I. HODGKIN

Barry Rose, 1978, £1.70

This is a good catalogue of several promising attempts to solve problems within the field of criminal justice without excessive use of imprisonment, and with increased use of resources within the ordinary community. The examples are given from the areas of housing, employment, education, and administration of justice in general and are sufficiently detailed to give the reader a general idea of their content. To be able to use the ideas, however, one would probably have to visit the original experiments.

The booklet is based on a conference arranged by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders. Conferences of this sort have most of their impact on the participants—if they have any impact at all, but, as an excuse for the costs of the conference, some incoherent papers are often published. It is, therefore, to be warmly welcomed that the Hodgkins have gone to the trouble of editing the whole material from the conference and made the results easily accessible.

Being based on a conference there are, however, obvious limits to the editors' possibilities. Two of them are strongly felt during the reading of the report. First, the various examples are nearly all seen from above, from those having had the idea, or having some sort of responsibility for them. A critical approach is lacking. A second, and more problematic aspect, has to do with the concept of community, a concept extensively used throughout the report but never clearly defined. How does it reflect community involvement when the highly centralized and bureaucratized trade unions in Sweden give more attention and help in the integration of their criminals than the slightly more grass-root oriented Danish trade unions? Or is it meaningful to look at British magistrates as representing the community they live in? Do we actually want to mobilize the community? And with what power? What about situations where the "community" happened to have other views than the professionals or the jobs of the professionals were threatened? Several of the examples in the catalogue are only illustrations of new professional techniques. Others are examples of professionals using lay people as helpers. Very few, if any, represent cases where whole communities were mobilized—as communities. So, continuing involvement by NACRO is called for.

NILS CHRISTIE  
Institute of Criminology,  
University of Oslo

## The Field of Social Work

A. E. FINK

Holt-Saunders, 1978, £9.25

I initially found this a difficult book to review—not, I hasten to add, because of any great theoretical depths, but because of its lack of continuity and shifts between British and American history and practice. The light eventually dawned and, once I started to treat the chapters as separate entities, I found myself far more involved.

The book is in three sections. The first part is the most interesting. It deals with the historical development of the social services and voluntary agencies in this country and abroad, and includes a chapter on the development of research. It concentrates particularly on the background and development of the tradition of British social work and is written in simple terms which allow the relevant information to be easily digested. I normally find this type of reading boring but I found, to my surprise, that I was actually enjoying it.

I can't, unfortunately, say the same for the second part, which is devoted to various methods of social work practice. It is not badly written or uninteresting, but the authors of the various contributions were blind to the fact that their own specialisation was not necessarily the be-all and end-all. There just did not seem to be any link between chapters other than in the introduction which claims that all the methods "share a common value base". It may, of course, be that the American system of specialisation has proved effective, but I do have reservations and would have preferred to see rather more emphasis on a generic approach to casework, this being more relevant to British social workers.

The final section is concerned with case histories and the results of social work intervention, written in terms that all social workers can identify with. I sometimes wonder if authors or social work tutors do ever have failures—certainly, I rarely see them in print. In fairness, though, these are good descriptions of what the casework relationship means to the client and the workers.

All in all, this is a reasonable and useful book for social work students as long as it is read as a composite of different attitudes and influences. Certainly, the author does not pretend that it is written for anyone else and, let's face it, a book that's in its seventh edition must be doing very nicely, thank you.

BRIAN HAMPSON  
Probation Officer, Haverigg Prison

## Sociology: The Basic Concepts

Ed. EDWARD SAGARIN  
Holt-Saunders, 1978, £5.00

## The Process of Social Organization: Power in Social Systems (2nd Edition)

MARVIN E. OLSEN  
Holt-Saunders, 1978, £6.75

The first of these books is a 'primer' with original chapters by well-established American writers which introduce most of the key ideas on which sociology depends. The second is a reworking of one sociologist's analysis of power. Both are superbly produced and are pretty solid reading for anyone who wants to become more fluent in sociology.

Sagarin's book is a bit like an apprentices' introduction to the tools of a trade. Each tool has a peculiar use according to who is handling it, and no two craftsmen agree! The book does not deal directly with prisons or corrections but is about power, coercion, control and so on, listing as it goes the 'key terms' which it introduces. It avoids the turmoil which has been going on in sociology recently, by using the older and more 'established' work up to about 1974. Its disadvantage for the British reader is that, while it refers extensively to "the founding fathers", it is American to the core. A couple of chapters are particularly good: van den Berghe on race and Glaser on deviance and crime. A. H. Halsey's Reith Lectures, published as *Change in British Society* are probably a better proposition for the general reader in Britain.

Olsen's book is a different proposition again. He wrestles with the analysis of the way power operates in society and makes the reader sweat. Looking back on the book, it is like a dour Boycott innings, with the author determined to notch up a century of 'principles' in singles. The 48th is typical: "Normative power, expressed as both individual self-control and systematic authority, facilitates the stabilization and perpetuation of social organization". This is not a particularly stylish drive into the covers but, if it appeals to you, then the book will. Given the simple-minded way people are apt to talk about power, it is as well that there is a book which shows just how difficult the concept is to analyse and use.

M. B.

## Crime and Punishment in Gloucestershire 1700—1880

Compiled by P. A. HOWARD,  
B. S. SMITH AND N. A. WRATTEN  
Gloucestershire County Council  
1978, £1.25

Those interested in the history of prisons will be fascinated by this collection of copies of original documents which are held mainly in the Gloucester Record Office.

Covering items like rules for prisoners, extracts from Keepers' and Visiting Justices' journals, staff conditions of service, diet sheets, plans for the 'new' Gloucester goal, and prison accounts, they offer a valuable insight into penal policy and philosophy in the 18th and 19th centuries.

R. M.

## Prisoners' Self-Help Litigation Manual

JAMES L. POTTS AND  
ALVIN J. BRONSTEIN  
Lexington, 1978, £10.50

On his release from prison, Jimmy Potts, an ex-prisoner and 'one of the best jailhouse lawyers' in the country', installed himself in the offices of the National Prison Project of the Civil Liberties Union in Washington and produced, with the Director's editorial assistance, an authoritative document on the why's and wherefores of prison litigation. He presents state law and federal law in a prison context with the various judicial remedies, citing relevant cases and legal precedent, in refreshingly non-legalistic language. The book argues a rational, factual approach in stages detailing what the prisoner needs to do. It repeatedly stresses that facts and not emotional statements are what count: "You must discipline yourself to be objective because the courts seldom care about your emotional conclusions".

Undoubtedly, this is a significant and instructive book for organizations and individuals concerned with prisoners' rights in this country. To take but two instances: the right of the prisoner to appeal against a parole decision, and the right to gain access to his personal record in prison. There are no comparable rights under English law; *The Official Secrets Act* effectively prevents any form of redress. According to American law, there are two statutes governing a prisoner's rights of access to information kept by federal agencies—the *Freedom of Information Act* and the *Federal Privacy Act*. One concerns the right to any document or file; the second provides "an individual with the right to gain access to his own record or to any information pertaining to him". A definite procedure exists to obtain such information documented in "the Inmate Review of Central File". To appeal against a decision by the parole board, one must first obtain access to records the parole board consider in determining parole applications; next, obtain the progress report written by prison officials; and then, together with the written statement of the board, present one's case to court. Such measures appear incredible to a British audience.

The last part of the book sets out a detailed list of national, state and local organizations, whilst an appendix includes every conceivable type of petition a prisoner may file. Finally, a comprehensive index for quick and easy reference by the prisoner completes this essential guide. This manual should be digested thoroughly by all those working in the field of prison reform.

ELAINE SULMAN  
National Council for  
Civil Liberties

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Nonverbal Communication in Human Interaction (2nd Edition)

MARK L. KNAPP  
Holt-Saunders, 1978, £4.75

It is important to understand what is meant by nonverbal communication. The basic problem seems to be that the subject is so closely interwoven with verbal communication. As Ray Bird-whistell, an early authority on the subject said, "Studying non-verbal communication is like studying non-cardiac physiology". As Knapp pointed out in the preface to the first edition: "In a sense, it is unfortunate that an entire book should be devoted to only one aspect of the total aspect of social interaction, because it may be deceiving... Such dynamic interaction and dependence not only applies to the verbal and nonverbal systems, but also to the areas of nonverbal communication treated in each chapter of this book. To leave the impression that you respond to someone's voice, appearance, facial expression, or the distance one stands from you, independently of one another is to leave you with a distorted impression of the process".

Knapp's book is scientifically accurate, but also easily read. Indeed, it is difficult to find any part of the process of human interaction that he has not managed to deal with. It is a book to be dipped into rather than read from cover to cover. To pick out any particular part of the book would do the remainder an injustice. But the chapters that I feel are of particular interest to those who are committed to the 'people business' in institutions are "The Effects of Personal Space and Territory on Human Communication" and "The Effects of the Environment on Human Communication". The former contains a logical answer to the critics who complain about overcrowding in prisons.

When I joined the Prison Service, the Principal Officer at the Training School frequently insisted that one of the most important things that we can learn is to communicate with others and, indeed, he suggested that perhaps both our social and work life could be enriched by communicating more with others. If nothing else, this book emphasises the need for awareness in verbal/nonverbal communication in human interaction.

BARRIE COMMONS  
Release Course Officer, Haverley  
Ranby Prison

Abnormal Behaviour: Perspectives in Conflict (2nd Edition)

RICHARD H. PRICE  
Holt-Saunders, 1978, £4.25

Rosenham captures the spirit of this book's theme when he says, "Beauty, we know, exists in the eye of the beholder. But what of madness? Is it possible that a profitable conceptualisation of madness can emerge from the examination, not of the mad, as both psychoanalysts and learning theorists have done, but of those

who call them mad?" As we journey through abnormal behaviour in this fascinating book, we cannot but stop and rest awhile, contemplating the questions it raises. Is mental illness myth or disease? Is it just a problem? Are personality disorders a product of moral conflict and ethical choice? It is common to see disagreements arising over such basic questions as what evidence is relevant or even what assumptions, if any, can be held in common. This book, I think, may enable us to understand why advocates of different points of view are often unable to agree, even on basic assumptions, as we examine how they have come to view the problems they have.

In this second edition, Richard Price has included suggested readings as well as "Projects for the Reader", which are intended to help bring each perspective to life and to relate it to the reader's own experience. The glossary which has been added proves most useful if one bears in mind that this is an American book. The final chapter presents the case history of Amy J. We see what happens when Amy is viewed from each of five perspectives and several others' observations of her condition, including her husband and parents.

F. R. KNIGHT  
Hospital Chief Officer II,  
Parkhurst Prison

Basic Groupwork

TOM DOUGLAS  
Tavistock Publications, 1978  
£6.00 (hardback) £2.95 (paperback)

It is not until you get through to the 175th page of his book that Tom Douglas confirms what you have learned for yourself from the previous nine chapters: "No-one ever truly learned how to operate in a group situation from reading a book, no matter how good or how well written". Groupwork—the general term for group discussions, group counselling, recreational groups or group psychotherapy—is not a spectator sport: certainly, you have to be observant but, above all, you have to participate, take risks and try things out for yourself. After 25 years of working with groups and attempting to pass on his lessons, Tom Douglas strongly recommends that group workers "undergo some form of supervised experience", some kind of "apprenticeship situation". Given that what successful groupwork takes is the sensitive application of everyday social skills and the ability to think on two levels (what's going on and where it's leading to), this seems to amount to practice making perfect or experience generating confidence. These do not, of course, come from reading books.

As a consequence, *Basic Groupwork* does not offer simple rules to the potential group leader. True, chapters 6 and 7 mention the relevant abilities and some key areas about which the leader will have to decide; and chapter 9 contains a list of types of group, their purposes, and some of the main dimensions which distin-

guish group programmes from one another. But the bulk of the book is a search for basic and generalised truths, an attempt at creating a groupwork science, from which one is invited to believe that all groups behave in the same fundamental ways and that these are predictable if only one understood the multitude of factors which operate in, or between groups.

The real value of the book is in introducing problems which have to be thought about carefully and, if possible, resolved before any group session begins. It will be less appreciated by group workers who want straightforward practical guidance. They will find more of this in Tom Douglas's earlier book, *Groupwork Practice*, which was reviewed in *Prison Service Journal* number 24, in October 1976.

RICK EVANS  
Senior Psychologist,  
Bristol Prison

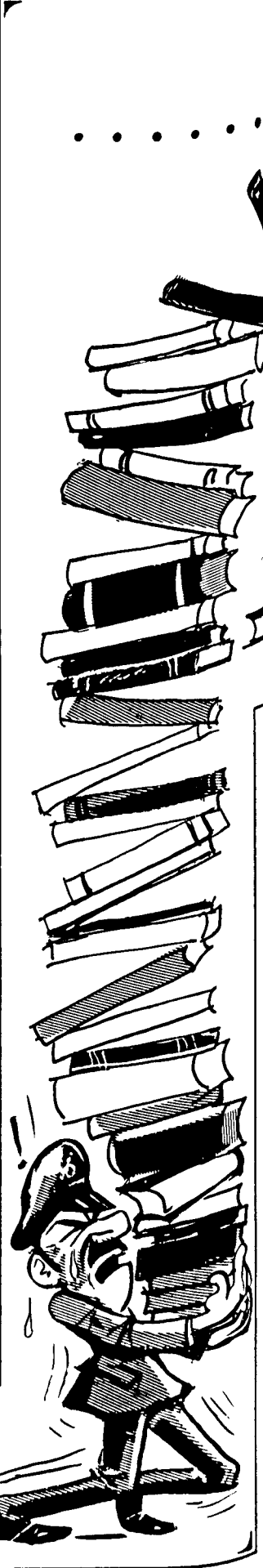
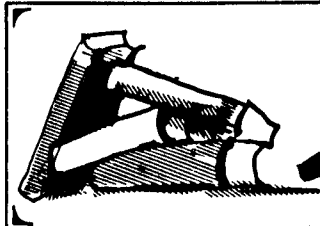
Prison Library Provision in Leicestershire

GORDON BELTON AND  
MADELEINE COOKE  
Leicestershire Libraries and  
Information Service,  
1978, 50p.

This paper is the result of an investigation into prison library provision in Leicestershire carried out in 1976 and 1977. The report is arranged in two parts: the first gives a factual account of existing prison library provision, and the second presents a series of recommendations for improving these services.

Library Officers, in particular, will be interested in comparing their library organization to that of Ashwell, Gartree, Glen Parva and Leicester. Some statistics, however, are of more general interest. Why, for example, do only 33% of the inmates of Gartree use the Library when the comparative figures for Glen Parva and Leicester are 85% and 70% respectively? This is the sort of question which stirs the blood of many a researcher.

The recommendations are supported by a fair amount of detail but may be summarised as:  
1) greater recognition of the importance of the role of the Library Officer.  
2) closer contact between county librarians and the prisons they serve (including librarians spending time in prison libraries to observe and to discuss the service with staff and inmates.);  
3) closer involvement of the Education Officer with the prison library;  
4) improved training facilities for Library Officers, Education Officers, inmates and librarians.  
R. M.



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