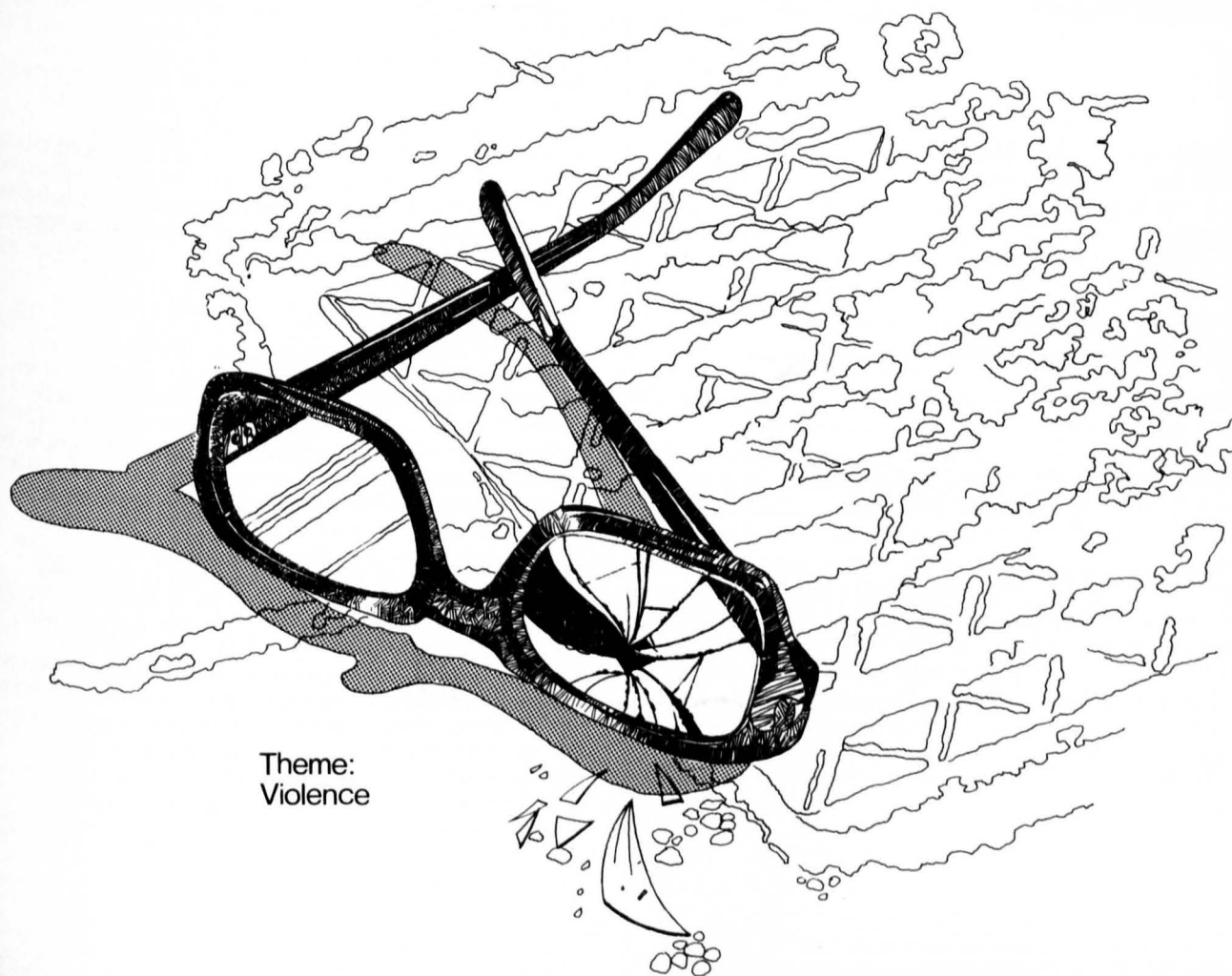
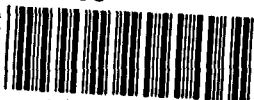


# PRISON SERVICE JOURNAL



Theme:  
Violence



# PRISON SERVICE JOURNAL

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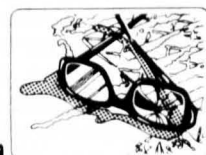
## Editorial

Several articles in this edition take violence as their theme. It is one of the most emotive issues that can be raised in discussion or in print but it is also one about which there is considerable lack of concrete knowledge. Most people believe we live in a time that is more violent than any other that has gone before. They are confirmed in this belief by the mass media which thrives on a diet of bad news. Television and the cinema contain images of violence which seem to become more explicit with the passage of time. Anyone who believes that these images confirm and widen the spread of violence in society finds plenty to feed that belief. A small army of academics now makes a respectable living producing books and articles which either confirm or refute the prevailing belief.

It is difficult to try and examine the problem objectively without seeming to condone or excuse behaviour which is obviously inexcusable. Yet an examination of our social history should convince any objective person that other times in our past showed an equal or greater capacity for violence than our own. Before the establishment of a regular police force city streets were not safe anywhere after darkness had fallen. Whole areas existed cheek by jowl with fashionable London in which no law abiding man would venture by day or night. The cry of "Who goes home?" in the House of Commons was not then an anachronistic way of ending the proceedings but a request for the Members to band together to face the murderous darkness outside.

Vast sections of society were violently exploited. Generations of women and girls were subjected to long, hard days of toil in service or sweatshops and many eked out their pitiful wages by turning to prostitution. Children were tortured, maimed and abandoned in mines, factories and workhouses. Men were brutalised by the conditions of their labour and many sought solace in cheap drink. The greatest physical violence was often perpetrated in the home by a drunken man upon his terrorised wife and children.

We do not wish to return to the 'good old days' but we cannot afford to be complacent about our social progress. The Prison Service has an honourable record and our penal establishments are no longer the horrific places immortalised by Charles Dickens or John Howard. However, if this progress is to be maintained we must not succumb to the modern vice of indifference to the fate of others. At this time of social uncertainty the temptation is to look for scapegoats and those already stigmatised by law are obvious targets. We must continue to aim at high standards of care and concern for to do otherwise would itself be a violent act.



# VIOLENCE

## and Professionalism: *an explosive mixture?*

Steve Twinn

*Assistant Governor/Tutor, OTS Leyhill*

It is often said that we live in increasingly violent times. It is also said that, compared to other stages in this country's history, this is a considerably less violent period. Statisticians and sociologists raise questions of whether or not classifications of violence are the same, whether the effectiveness of detection and reporting of violent incidents has changed, and debate has raged for some while as to whether or not, in truth, society is becoming more or less violent. People also engage in the debate about why there is an increase in violence, particularly violent crime, if indeed there is such an increase. The debate is as heated as it is inconclusive. The abolition of the death penalty, National Service and firm parental discipline, through to psychological disturbance, pressures of modern living and uncontrolled capitalism or communism are advanced by their various supporters as reasons for the growth in violent behaviour. I do not propose to address myself to any of these debates. I think that there is one fact which is fairly self evident. The majority of prison staff believe that criminals in particular are becoming more violent. They believe that in penal establishments they have to deal with increasing numbers of increasingly violent people, that the threat of violence to themselves and their colleagues is increasing, and that the amount of public and political concern that is shown is decreasing. Whether they are right or not seems to be a secondary issue. They believe it and, therefore, they act in accordance with their beliefs, be they ever so unfounded.

In dealing with the question of widespread belief in an increase in violence, the Prison Department, and prison

staff as a whole, have an opportunity to depart from their traditional practice of attempting to change the unchangeable. The tendency to tackle whichever problem is the most enormous and the most unlikely to be in any way affected by the relatively puny efforts of the Prison Department could be resisted. Instead, we could apply ourselves to a real and existing difficulty, even though it may be based on ignorance and misapprehension. Prison staff believe they are increasingly living under the shadow of violence. This fear influences their reactions to situations and to people, and influences their behaviour both at work and socially. Surely action needs to be taken merely in order to allow the prison system, as it is constituted today, to survive in a way which will enable both staff and inmates to go through the experience relatively undamaged. An admirable goal might be to make their lives, particularly at work, relatively tolerable. How to cure violent offenders and prevent more violent offenders being born or created are questions neither of which, in my opinion, have direct relevance to much of the work of the Prison Department.



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but even if they do, they are unlikely to be significantly tackled in any way by the penal system. The lives of its servants are, however, real existing problems which must be tackled and to which some attention must be paid. This then, the problem of surviving in a situation where people believe, rightly or wrongly, that violence is very much on the increase is a question on which I would like to give some views.

### The many faces of violence

Why is it that violence is something which most people fear or seek to avoid? The obvious answer to this is that violence leads to physical pain and discomfort, possible permanent disability and, in the extreme, death. It would not be sensible for me to dispute that all these factors are real. There are many cases of prison staff having received, to a greater or lesser extent, permanent disabilities as a result of inmate violence and, though fortunately death at the hands of violent inmates is rare in our service, it is a threat which is always at the back of people's minds. However, the majority of violent episodes do not result in permanent disability or death, they result in a shorter or longer period of pain or discomfort, at the end of which is total recovery. It would be simple to say that this is the be-all and end-all of violence, and particularly violence in penal establishments, but I do not think that this is the case. Physical pain and discomfort are not threats which people display such an enormous aversion to in other spheres. Violent sports such as rugby, hockey and ice hockey, are engaged in by a wide range of people who, during the course of their playing careers will sustain countless, and sometimes quite severe, injuries. This is accepted as part of the game and does not appear to deter people from engaging in these activities. Indeed, in some sports the injuries and the blood are worn as a badge of courage, showing the man has put his best into the game. Motoring, perhaps one of the most dangerous activities commonly indulged in, does not seem to be governed by the fear of physical disability or physical injury. Indeed, quite the reverse, as the campaigns to increase safe driving practices, the wearing of seat belts, the proper maintenance of cars and tyres, sober driving etc., have shown. While the dangers of the most appalling disability and death can be shown to be real, people's motoring behaviour does not seem to significantly changed. I think there is good reason to suppose that there are other features of violence, and particularly the threat of violence, which are as important to potential victims as physical pain.

Penal establishments place their staff in a peculiar symbolic position. Prison establishments are the front line between the 'good' and the 'bad'. Prisons have several purposes, one of the major ones being protection of the public and the prevention of wrong doing. One of the major reasons for the existence of prisons is based on the notion that if people cannot be persuaded to or deterred from committing anti-social acts outside prison, they can at least be physically prevented from committing them while they are inside the walls of a penal institution. At the more symbolic level, prison officers represent the front line troops in the fight of society, of good, of morality, against evil, anti-social behaviour, and immorality. Any criminal act committed while a man is in a penal establishment challenges this fundamental reason for the existence of prisons and symbolically indicates that the front line of the 'good' has been breached by the 'bad'. In this way, violence - particularly

violence by inmates to staff - strikes at one of the main bases on which the whole existence of penal custody is based. With the abolition of physical punishment, imprisonment represents society's sole physical resource for the control of anti-social behaviour and its failure as indicated by illegal violence committed by inmates questions whether society has the ability to control anti-social members. This, of course, is true of all anti-social acts, such as thefts committed by people whilst in prison custody. However, people appear to be less concerned about the rise in theft, for instance, than they are in the rise of violence. Because violence can affect the prison officer directly far more than theft or other anti-social acts which men in custody can commit, it is the violent offence that most raises such fears.

Secondly, prisons we are often told, get by because of the co-operation of the inmate. I do not think this statement is entirely true, and certainly I do not think the often assumed extension of this, that if inmates cease to co-operate we can no longer run the prisons, is true. However, it does contain, I think, an important element of truth. I think it is true to say that prisons can only operate effectively on the basis of a difference in status between the officer and the inmate. This does not necessarily have to be displayed by cold authoritarian behaviour on the part of the officer, but it is a critical dimension in the smooth running of an establishment. Within the training organisation it is drummed into newly entered prison officers that while there are many times when it is appropriate for an officer to react in a friendly, kindly, polite or interested manner towards an inmate, he must never lose sight of the fact that he is an officer and an inmate is an inmate, and there is a marked status difference between the two. Where officers or inmates allow or arrange for this relative status to be denied and diminished the very backbone of prison administration must crumble. Violent attacks by inmates on prison officers remove, at least during the time of the attack, the essential status difference. In a violent interchange an officer and an inmate become two men and the status between them is dependent upon their individual ability to deal with that violent encounter. Indeed, I suspect that this is the motivation for many assaults on staff. On the one hand we spend a lot of money and a lot of time on weightlifting, P.E. classes and the like for inmates and allow them facilities to develop their strength and fitness. At the same time we force prison officers, through shift arrangements and excessive overtime, to get insufficient exercise, subsist on an irregular diet, and preclude them from taking part in many social activities other than the drinking of beer. We, in fact, appear to have arranged a situation whereby once the officer/inmate status differential has been diminished in a violent encounter, the man to man status differential will usually be established in the favour of the inmate. In such a way a violent attack challenges one of the most fundamental basis on which the discipline of prisons, as we know it, is based.

Perhaps even more important than the violence which has occurred in penal establishments, is the violence that could occur. Prison staff are at least subconsciously, continually aware of how outnumbered they are and how long it will take for effective assistance from outside the institution to be arranged. In order to survive, most prison staff have to make an almost conscious effort not to dwell on the fact that they are usually outnumbered by 20, 30, 40 or 50 to 1 and that the potential for violent

attacks on themselves is frighteningly large. I think it is common experience in many areas of life that the anticipation, the waiting for something to begin, is often worse than the reality. Sportsmen and public performers usually find that immediately before the match, or the race, or the concert, when they have nothing to physically do, when they can only dwell on what may happen, that they become nervous and apprehensive. Once the activity begins they are then physically and mentally occupied by their particular skill and no longer have the time to worry about what may happen. Likewise, in difficult situations in penal establishments, in the tense period before anything overt occurs, the most difficult thing for staff is to wait and watch with no opportunity of taking any action. It is in this time that people can, and inevitably must, dwell in their minds on what can happen and on what may happen. This, I think, is often more frightening and, in some cases, more mentally crippling, than the knowledge of particular violent acts which have occurred.

Prison staff are, in many cases, in a different situation when attacked by an inmate than most other people subjected to such things, such as the police, or the general public. In most situations, violent attacks are committed by someone who is not known to the victim, with the exception of domestic disputes which have so many different emotional overtones that they can barely be covered under the same heading. Prison officers, on the other hand, will often be subjected to a violent attack from someone whom he knows slightly or, in many cases, someone he knows extremely well, with whom he has spent much of his recent working life. I feel this denial of a real, existing working relationship is, perhaps, one of the most alarming things for the staff concerned. It implies that a relationship which appeared to the member of staff to have at least some strength, some merit, was in fact, a complete sham. It throws into question whether or not the inmate and, by association, all inmates, are capable of making human relationships in the normal manner, or whether they, like animals, who will purr when stroked but scratch and bite immediately they are thwarted. This denial, or seeming denial of the existence and merit of any form of relationship places the prison staff in a situation where they may sometimes feel they are far from being the guardians and the supervisors of human beings, but that they are, in fact, in the position of someone guarding caged and dangerous animals. If a tiger turns on its keeper no one is very surprised. It is held that tigers are incapable of sustaining a relationship with a human being that will overcome their need for immediate gratification. In attacking a prison officer with whom he has been friendly, and with whom he has had an established relationship, the prisoner may be seen to be putting himself in the same emotional category as a tiger.

Prison staff are encouraged, indeed are required and trained, to act in a way which is described by a much misused term as 'professional'. The problems that I have mentioned are real and the solution offered is 'professionalism'. Basically, in this context I believe that 'professionalism' is intended to mean that attacks should not be taken personally. If one is attacked, one should appreciate the range of reasons for which this attack may have occurred, and whilst quite entitled and indeed, expected, to take the correct and approved action for suppressing and then dealing with such a violent outbreak, the staff member is intended to not take it personally,

but to regard it as part of the job and not to allow it to affect his attitude to the job or, particularly, to inmates. This is an ideal state to which all staff members are supposed to aspire. It is accepted that people find this difficult and that, in attempting to act in a professional manner, people will have to suppress anger, resentment and fear, which they naturally feel as a result of a situation. But is professionalism really such a desirable attribute? Certainly, it is clearly not acceptable, or even desirable that people should react to provocation or attack like animals. In the culture in which all British prison staff are brought up, there is considerable emphasis in maintaining one's status and position *viz à viz* one's peers. Pride, formerly labelled a deadly sin, is an integral part of social relationships and while perhaps we do not take it to the extremes of the Japanese, keeping face is an important motivator and regulator of social relationships. Thus, the oft quoted phrase "He got away with it", is, I think, an expression of a quite genuine emotion. It is the expression of a feeling of resentment that one's status has been lowered because somebody appears to have failed to treat it with the respect that the social structure, as a whole, attributes to it. It is natural, I think, for anyone brought up in present day British society to feel a sense of resentment of having been demeaned, of having had his legitimate status denied. To expect him to internalise this resentment and to personally dissipate it without any opportunity for it to be expressed or recognised is, to my mind, asking him to become embittered and to harbour strong negative feelings which could very likely explode into actions which he, on reflection, would regret. I feel that by expecting prison staff to express in their actions the highest degree of professionalism, we are asking them to turn themselves into smouldering bombs which, given an opportunity, will explode, to the detriment of all concerned. Professionalism obviously has its place and there are many, many occasions where the professional approach is the only acceptable one. What I am suggesting is that the pressures required by the professional approach are, at times, too much to expect people to take without reacting against them. It is in this extreme area, particularly concerning the question of violence and threats of violence, that the structure, the social system, be it the institution, the agencies of law and order, or the country as a whole must, on behalf of the individual, take over the job of repressing and dissipating these natural reactions of anger and providing some channel in the social structure whereby they may be dissipated. The alternative is expecting the individual to contain what is virtually uncontrollable feeling.

All that I have said about prison staff applies to all people placed in that particular position, because prison staff are only ordinary people who have elected to earn their living in a particular way. Therefore, I feel that if these issues were openly acknowledged that they would be quite comprehensible emotionally and probably intellectually to everyone. Therefore, inmates would have little difficulty in understanding any procedures which were openly and overtly geared towards recognising and dealing constructively with these feelings, as they are feelings which probably inmates themselves, being in a very similar situation, would often have felt. Indeed, it almost seems that some of our present procedures are designed to deny many of these basic feelings and this, in itself, is a denial of the honesty and the concern for the individual, which is often held up to in-



mates as being one of the major attributes of the law abiding society which they have declined to join. In the very society in which we require inmates to live for the purposes of rehabilitation we are reinforcing their observations and beliefs about the dishonesty and the superficiality of some social institutions. Such a lack of congruence between what we say and what we demonstrate by our actions can only lead to confusion and ambivalence, particularly on the part of the inmates we are trying to rehabilitate.

### The implications of the faces of violence

Having considered some aspects of violence other than the mere element of physical pain and injury, I would like to look at the implications for the running of establishments that these raise and some of the ways in which action could be taken to minimise these negative effects. Firstly, the symbolic defiance of 'good' by 'bad' which violence can represent. As I have said prison is in the front line of the conflict between good and evil, therefore, following such a direct challenge on the pro-social side of society, there must be an equally direct and dramatic restatement of the strength and the power of the pro-social side. Our present laws and code of social conduct can only be justified on the grounds that the great majority find them practical, constructive and necessary and this basic statement of society's legitimacy must be upheld. I would see that one of the important things that would need to happen following any violent attack would be some great ritual throwing up of hands in horror. The prison must somehow challenge and deny the value of the violent attack in a stronger way than the violent attack itself challenges the existence of social order. I would see the present move towards more informal adjudications to be retrograde in this area. I feel that the full panoply of justice with a lot of ritual, indicating the great age of this pro-social process, and the enormous power and character of it needs to be illustrated in strong symbolic terms. The restraint jacket is a potent symbol of society's ultimate weapon for the control of behaviour by force, and could, perhaps, have a place as a symbol rather than a piece of technical equipment. Without wishing to get into a debate on the effectiveness or morality of capital punishment, I would merely say that at the time when capital punishment existed for the murder of a policeman and a prison officer, but not in most cases, for the murder of a member of the general public, this is itself must have had some symbolic value, underlining the peculiar position of prison officers by pointing out their front line role in the conflict between pro and anti social forces. I feel that the removal of this symbol, irrespective of the practical merits of capital punishment, is a loss in this area.

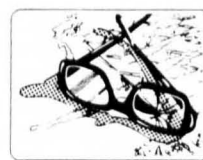
Secondly, I put forward the suggestion that violence from inmates to staff challenges the very basis of prison discipline, in that it denies the status difference between staff and inmates. Procedures following an attack need to be seen to redress this. Firstly, all attacks by inmates to staff need to be treated more seriously than an identical attack on another inmate. Also, the award needs to be seen to be more severe than that which might be awarded by a court for a similar attack on a member of the public. This would probably involve extensive use of outside courts for staff assaults, but the logical extension of my belief that acts of violence in prison are more of a threat to law and order than those outside is that courts

of law should become more like adjudications and adjudications more like courts of law. The trend at present seems to be in the opposite direction.

Thirdly, the threat of violence, as opposed to the actual expression of it, leaves all prison staff in a highly vulnerable situation. There are a number of things that could be done to reassure prison staff generally and to make them feel more protected and cared for by society as a whole. I think it is impracticable to suggest that prisons should be so staffed that the prison officers outnumber the inmates, but there are other ways in which this feeling of being exposed might be reduced. We are all taught when we join the service that one of the classical purposes of imprisonment is retribution. This has now become extremely unfashionable and is used as evidence of how bad were the bad old days. If one is looking at the way in which imprisonment serves the imprisoned this is understandable. However, all institutions, be they industrial or commercial, have to make concessions to the main task in order for the workforce to work, because without the workforce we can have no production. Maybe there is a case for publicly acknowledging and stating some element of retribution, particularly in adjudications in prisons for violent offences. I feel that prison staff might be reassured in some general, vague way, if a part of any award included, and was publicly stated to include, a hefty element of retribution, or to use an even more unpopular word - revenge - on the behalf of the officer who had been subject to the attack. This is a way in which society as a whole might take some of the burden of professional tolerance off the shoulders of the individual member of staff. I am not suggesting that punishment should necessarily become more savage in terms of the actual form of punishment, as it is well established that it is not so much what you do as how you do it. I feel we should no longer solely award punishments and say they are for the prisoner's benefit, that is, they are to deter him from doing the same thing again, or to train him so that if faced with the situation again he will find a different solution. Instead, we should acknowledge that part of the purpose of punishment is that it makes the victim and those around the victim feel considerably better, and after all, as they have had to suffer the attack, should they also be denied the feeling relief that a little bit of controlled statutory revenge might offer them?

The problem of the denial of human relationships involved in a violent attack by an inmate on a member of staff to whom he is fairly well known, is the hardest to make practical suggestions about. While there might be some case for minimising the amount of personal contact between staff and inmates, this would have so many detrimental effects in other areas of prison staff's jobs that it is not offered as a suggestion. I think that training, by way of preparation for this difficult situation, might be of assistance. There are, I think, other related matters which could be of assistance. The recent introduction of Demonstration Control, for use in some violent situations, turns prison staff from individuals into members of a well-oiled team and is of assistance here. I think the very protective clothing issued, which tends to obscure individuals and make them look more uniform and more identifiable has tremendous advantages. I notice in newspapers, photographs of some of the riot squads employed by other countries that a common feature is the scarf covering the mouth and lower face, even further

*continued on page 14*



# caring...

## the neglected virtue

by Hugh Searle

In the midst of the present crisis facing our prison system I find it hard to write dispassionately about "passive violence" or "the withdrawal of love" which is what my brief suggested, for it seems to me that hidden below all our problems - overcrowding, increasing numbers of mentally ill, dangerous or long-term men to look after, deepening staff unrest and increasing disruption of prison routine through staff industrial action, low staff recruitment, budgetary control, poor basic rates of pay, severe cutbacks on building, training and educational programmes - to name but a few of the more obvious problems which have recently confronted us - is a deep-seated feeling that nobody cares anymore. We fall over backwards not to be alarmist or embarrass Her Majesty's Ministers. We have so sought to appear urbane, calm and reasonable that in the process we have fallen a prey to negligence - our sins being those of omission rather than commission. We have become polarised in our loyalties and there is a lot of bitterness around. Feelings are running high - amongst inmates, prison officers, governors and many who are less articulate, and they all seem to be saying that our deepest failure is a failure to care, and as I sympathise to a great extent with them, what follows is a more gut-reaction than a thesis.

Caring is essential for the healthy growth and survival of all human beings and all human institutions. To take others' needs seriously, and to accept willingly the responsibility to do something about them, fully recognising that this will involve personal inconvenience and possibly a considerable degree of personal self-sacrifice is what caring means. Caring is loving one's fellow and promoting his well-being. It nourishes peoples' self-respect and motivates them, in their turn, to care for others. Many imperfections and diversities

can be tolerated in people so long as they care. Indeed, I would go further, and claim that caring enables people to go on being constructive and helpful in their attitudes towards and re-

lationships with others in full recognition of their mutual frailty and ineptitude. One can be caring and inadequate. One cannot be caring and indifferent. Caring is the energy flow of goodwill and understanding between people and the essential cement of all human groupings and organisations regardless of the complexity of their infra-structure. Caring holds people together in their roles, enabling them to fulfil their tasks within an organisation with a maximum sense of purpose and commitment and without the fear of being threatened by others. It nurtures loyalty and job satisfaction; fosters responsibility and releases people from the fear of having to be accountable for their decisions and actions. Caring restrains the abuse of power and authority, and humanises all management systems.



**Hugh Searle graduated from Cambridge in 1959 and was ordained in 1961 after completing his studies in London. He joined the Prison Service at Lewes in 1964 and served eight years in Borstal before transferring to Parkhurst in 1974. He left the service in July 1978 to look after two village parishes near Cambridge. Married with three daughters, he says he is enjoying being an anonymous priest, catching up on neglected reading and watching Pot Black.**

By contrast, failure to care breeds bitterness, and despair; inhibits productivity and a sense of achievement; destroys a sense of common purpose; fragments loyalty; magnifies self-interest as the only worthwhile virtue and polarises attitudes of both individuals and groups. Above all, failure to care erodes leadership, and makes authority protective. Although caring is such an essential ingredient of human social and institutional well-being, experience demonstrates it is not easily sustained as a motive force in human organisation and management. This is simply because caring always demands some degree of self-sacrifice, invariably involves some personal inconvenience and can rarely if ever be cultivated through financial incentives and appeals to self-interest. So prone are we, in our human frailty and insecurity, to live and work by the 'blow you Jack, I'm, alright' mentality, that we need some pretty powerful sources of motivation if we are to be caring. It seems to me that there are only two such sources; and both have not so much been rejected as progressively overlooked during my time in the Service, and perhaps over a much longer period. I call these two sources the biological and the ideological.

The prime example of the former I see to be the mother/child relationship - the basis of all human caring. This model is primitive and simple and possibly the most common inspiration in all works of art. From Christmas cards to the massive forms of Henry Moore it expresses the wonder and reality of human generation, feeding, and development. There are two characteristic features of this mother/child model. One is intimacy and the other is dependency.

Physical closeness is basic in the caring of a mother for her child who, it is assumed, that mother cares because she is constantly near. Even though mother finds at times her capacity to care is limited and the demands made upon her energies are almost too much for her, yet she is re-invigorated by those who in turn care for *her* - relatives, neighbours and nurse - and by the knowledge that the child is her own flesh.

Dependency is the other feature basic to this model simply because when first born the child is literally helpless and totally dependent on the mother's care for its very existence. All caring is generated to a greater or

lesser degree by the response to a need which can only be met by an external resource. I can never be the sole source from which all my needs can be met. I am always in some areas a dependent being, for the root of my being is that I was born in a state of dependency.

I think it is time we reinstated this mother/child model. Biologically, as it seems to me, it is the source from which all human caring must grow. Much current confusion in our thinking about the philosophy of the caring professions is due, in part, to an over-reaction against anything which smacks of paternalism. In our desire to encourage and persuade people to make their own decisions and rely on their own resources and develop a sense of adult independence, we have ignored the fact that all caring is rooted in a recognition of the need for dependency. As a result, too often the philosophy of self-help has become an excuse for negligence, for the avoidance of responsible intervention in some cases and for buck-passing. We have also been almost embarrassed by the discovery that invariably in the caring process those who care acquire job-satisfaction from doing so. In a desire to avoid appearing to be possessive we have tried to make a virtue out of non-involvement. This has further led to an exaggerated distancing between those who should do the caring and those who need it. This is all too evident in the cumbersome administrative procedures which have been developed in almost every department of our public services. The frustration involved in trying to get an appointment with a specialist in the Health Service is an all too obvious example. As for the Prison Department itself we know only too well the consequences of the erosion of the powers of governors and the growing tendency in recent years to refer more and more matters to regional and central headquarters. With the best will in the world it is extremely difficult to care at a distance, because it is so easy to pass the buck and because it becomes increasingly unlikely that you can appreciate and understand the problems of those who are crying out for care. Distancing makes us comfortable; and it is harder for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than it is for an uninvolved man to care.

So I think that if there is to be a renewal of caring in our service we have to recover a healthy sense of

paternal responsibility - which means a sense of personal responsibility - and we have to start breaking down our structures so that those most closely involved with those being cared for are given far greater authority to get on with that part of the job. There is one further point to make about the mother/child model, namely that in it the caring and disciplinary roles are not separated. Put another way, one may say that both treatment and control are part of the parental caring task. If mother finds it necessary to discipline her child during the day she cannot thereby avoid the responsibility of kissing her child goodnight. I am sure this appears excessively naive. However, whilst I fully recognise that there are some situations in prisons which may be so tense and difficult that the tasks of treatment and control may need to be separated as between individuals involved, I am certain that a great deal of tension can be avoided by holding them together. The governor who 'weighs a man off' in the morning and then goes and has a chat with him in the cells in the evening, is in my experience a governor who normally attracts a great deal of respect.

I turn now, more briefly, to the need for a philosophy of caring. Here I can do no more than point out that basic Christian faith is a very powerful caring ideology. Historically, the roots of the caring professions in this country are embedded in the origins of the soup kitchens, East End Mission Halls and Salvation Army hostels created by Elizabeth Fry, Thomas Barnardo and General Booth. For such outstanding people it was their faith which persuaded them to care. At the same time it would be foolish to claim that religion has been the sole philosophical motivation for caring. All I am saying is that in this country at least it has been historically one of the most powerful motivating forces. In any case, it seems to me that amongst those who would be hesitant to claim any such religious motivation, there are invariably those who care because they have experienced need at first hand - which takes us back to the mother/child model. If people do not care as a result of a religious or moral motivation, they do so because through circumstances they have been confronted with acute need - e.g. homelessness, mental illness, incurable disease - in their personal or family experience. The great value of an



# the psychology of RULE 43

by Paul Davies and Rosemary Steadman-Allen



Erving Goffman, in his celebrated book *Asylums*, stressed the total nature of institutions like the prison and mental hospital. For the person who is committed to prison, life inside becomes his whole life. Nothing he can do, except sleep, can move him even temporarily into another world. Thus it is that the culture which grows up within the prison is in so many ways a mirror of society itself - men must learn to cope with life in their new environment, and must adopt a series of rules, roles, and communication patterns which allow the prison machine to grind on.

A source of great dispute in the past has been whether the particular set of rules and behaviour patterns popularly referred to as the "inmate culture" (or, inside, the "nick culture") is the product of inmates' adaptations to the rigours and deprivations of prison life, or whether they are patterns imported and adapted from social conditioning outside the walls. Gresham Sykes, and Donald Clemmer, in the 1950's, suggested former interpretation and outlined whole systems of "argot roles", including such characters as the "right guy", the cool rejector of staff, authority and discipline, and the "ball-buster" - the man who was admired for his Promethean qualities - in olden times he was the one strong enough to break away the balls and chains worn by convicts, hence the picturesque title.

Later studies suggested that the opposite may be the case: Irwin in *The Felon* argued that a gross mistake had been made in failing to see the effects of prior socialisation. His idea was supported by the findings of studies in women's prisons that adaptation followed the form rather of a homosexual dyad, to replace the outside pattern which stresses the importance of the home and the family. If Sykes' analysis had been right, then surely women's prisons would have had a convict subculture similar to that in men's institutions.

Writers nowadays tend to suggest

that, by and large, a mixture of inside and outside qualities contribute to the formation of the informal social structure. Our own research into a particular aspect of the inmate culture would appear to support this contention.

## RULE 43

This rule states that:

- (1) Where it appears desirable, for the maintenance of good order or discipline or in his own interests, that a prisoner should not associate with other prisoners, either generally or for particular purposes, the governor may arrange for the prisoner's removal from association accordingly.
- (2) A prisoner shall not be removed under this rule for a period of more than 24 hours without the authority of a member of the ... board of visitors, or of the Secretary of State. An authority given under this paragraph shall be for a period not exceeding one month, but may be renewed from month to month.
- (3) The governor may arrange at his discretion for such a prisoner as aforesaid to resume association with other prisoners, and shall do so if in any case the medical officer so advises on medical grounds.

In conducting conversations with a number of prisoners in English prisons, we have been concerned to



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try to discover the social structuring which leads to this rule being deemed necessary, and the motivation behind those prisoners who persistently claim (and sometimes prove) that they would "damage" the Rule 43 prisoners, given chance.

The prisoners referred to in such threats fall largely into three groups, the most conspicuous of whom are child molesters, known in prison slang as "nonces". Police informers, known as "grasses", and those convicted of violence towards elderly persons, or "grannybashers", also feature regularly among the recipients of Rule 43 protection. Other types occasionally elect to be protected, including convicted policemen, those whose crimes were against other inmates or members of an outside criminal fraternity, and ex-prison bookmakers who are unable to meet their liabilities.

In the case of the "grass", only a short explanation is needed - these are offenders against the common morality as well as against individ-

## THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RULE 43

uals in the prison, can have no trust placed in them, and, in the words of one of our correspondents, "in a situation where such normal sanctions as 'sending to Coventry' are not practicable, violence is a normal response to exact retribution".

The "nonces" and "granny-bashers", however, have more often than not done nothing inside the prison to merit violent censure. Nevertheless they are the objects of a much more general expression of aggression.

It is not possible to provide a complete and generalisable explanation of why this should be, which would apply to all cases. However, we would like to postulate two reasons why it is almost inevitable that such a situation should arise with respect to some types of prisoners - and secondly, to demonstrate how it is that the child-molesters and granny-bashers are the chosen objects of degradation.

Not only is admission to prison, and the accompanying ritual, a grossly demoralising process, but the whole experience of imprisonment and the prisoner's thoughts of how he will be accepted when he returns to the outside world are almost certain to force the convicted man into a lower conception of himself, into a view of how others see him as being a second (if not third) rate citizen. The psychological strains this produces can be dealt with in one of two ways: either the conception can be rejected, and pains taken to assert that one is not so bad as one sees oneself; or the malice can be transferred to another segment of society, in order to bolster up self-conception relative to that group. If feelings of sufficient shame are felt about the crime, such as we have encountered in some prisoners actually subject to Rule 43, a third possibility is opened up - acceptance of the label.

Bearing in mind the difficulty of denying the secondary status ascribed by society to its prisoners, when every aspect of institutional life, from the clothing and the locked doors to required subservience to authority in the shape of the guards, is calculated to emphasise it, the second adaptation, of malice-transference, becomes the most likely. This, then, is an adaptation *a la* Sykes to the rigours and deprivations of prison life itself. But the choice of a lower status group is clearly a reflection of values outside the prison walls - as one offender told us, "If you are in

the East End of London, anyone convicted of a sex offence will be treated the same there". This too many go some way towards explaining why no equivalent of Rule 43 exists in many Scandinavian prisons, where society in general shows a much greater tolerance of such prisoners.

The general public when reading of crimes involving maltreatment of young children feel a greater disgust, in Britain, than in the more mundane cases of theft and even petty violence, and the prisoners being no exception to this make the Rule 43 type of prisoner the obvious choice for the inferior status-group.

A number of factors act as irritants to the tension. Newspaper and television accounts of offences are available to prisoners, and, particularly in local prisons, there is a wide knowledge of offences committed locally. It has been suggested to us in conversations with prisoners that staff may occasionally impart information about other prisoners. There are even reports of prisoners gaining access to prison records - it is clear, for example, that this happened during the riot at Hull in 1976. On a more mundane level, it is also claimed frequently that red-bands occasionally find themselves in a position to read the contents of confidential files.

We have still not faced the question of why physical violence figures so prominently in the stated intentions of our inmates. Some suggestion is found in the statement that normal sanctions like "sending to Coventry" are not valid in a prison context, and of course we are dealing with a more than usually violent sample of the population. One letter we received from an ex-prisoner reads:

"Probably owing to the stress, strains and petty restrictions of everyday life in prison, these feelings are often intensified a hundred times. This disgust when an opportunity arises is ventilated by actual acts of physical violence ... it would be wrong to assume that prisoners spend their time doing nothing else than conducting a brutal vendetta against those on Rule 43, and the rare beatings inflicted are always the culmination of the petty restrictions experienced daily, or bad news from home."

Again here, we can see the scapegoat position of the Rule 43 man. He is apparently the nearest available object on which a more generalised

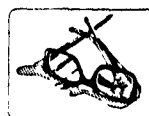
aggression can be taken out, with some apparent justification.

At the personal level, two more mechanisms may operate to swell the hostility. Prisoners are of course deprived of heterosexual relations in prison, and this may, quite apart from producing sexual frustration, also serve to make the prisoner need other avenues to assert his masculinity, or, in some cases, cause him from time to time doubt his own sexual orientation. Expressing aggression towards child-molesters serves to mitigate both of these embarrassments. As the Rule 43's are for the most part carefully guarded, to express aggression towards them is a convenient way of showing masculinity without a very great risk of being called upon to act further - which of course would be very detrimental to the prisoner's position with regard to parole and remission. Moreover, a constant reaffirmation of negative feelings towards persons whose sexual aberrations are known can serve to reassure both self and others that one's own sexual motivations are "all in order" or to draw attention away from doubts on the issue.

One factor more than all others, however, seemed to have the effect of strengthening the hatred of the Rule 43's - this was the comparative length of their sentences. Time and time again we would hear men complain of how thieves were sentenced to five years for a 'lousy few thousand pounds' whilst men who committed indecencies against children could get as little as 18 months. The resentment felt towards society by these men for the injustice they saw in comparing sentences was in many cases intense, and mirrored much of the popular comment there has been of late to the effect that Society values its pocket higher than its members.

In the psychiatric prison at Grendon Underwood, there is a far higher percentage of serious sex offenders and violent offenders than usual. Despite these being the archetypes of victim and aggressor, there is no use of Rule 43. The answer which we were repeatedly given, to the question as to why this should be, was simple: no violence. Not only are the stresses and strains of imprisonment of a totally different order and nature at Grendon (it is run on therapeutic community principles) but it is generally felt by inmates that they are better off there than in a normal prison. The immediate sanction for

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# NOT CRICKET

Aidan Healey

"When football teams canter out of the natal tunnel beneath a stand the crowds applaud and surrender to them the field of play. Each team defends the goal at their back; in front is the new land, the new woman, whom they strive to possess in the interest of preserving the mother inviolate, in order, as it were, to progress from infancy to adulthood. At the same time the defensive role is the father's; he opposes the forward youth of the opposition. In attack it is beyond question that a genital aggressiveness characterises ball games whose players possess feet, hands, stick, bat or racquet with which to manoeuvre the ball, the semen." Quite.

"I need not dwell" continues the same author "upon squash where the two players are twin surveyors, engaged not only in a contest but in an interlocking tactual exploration of surfaces and angles in a symbolic chasing, seizing and ingestion of the nipple". Be that as it may, aggression in whatever guise has always been endemic to most competitive sport and generally regarded as an essential ingredient of success. "Get your retaliation in first" counselled the redoubtable Willie John McBride - who would make no claim to be amongst leading Freudian psychologists - and the 1974 Lions duly completed their South African tour unbeaten in 22 matches. Violence, which may be viewed as the outward and visible form of aggression, is generally respectable where it can be shown to be within the laws of the game, as for example in Judo, Karate, most of the martial arts and of course in Boxing, where in faithful recognition of current priorities the genitals are protected at the expense of the head. But violence comes in infinite variety. Consider the ritual violence of all-in wrestling, where despite the robust behaviour of the principals the only man in any real danger is the referee who forgets his lines. The interesting case of Rugby League, surely the recidivist of contact sport, where violence efficiently bestowed has about it an odd integrity and subsequent penitence before the wagging finger of a diminutive referee, an almost endearing quality. Where, as in the case of a number of solitary sports, Rock Climbing, Parachuting, Hang Gliding, Slalom Canoeing, risk provides the stimulus, elemental violence is always present. There is too a sense which all sports involving chase, capture or death may be conceived as violent whether snaring, fox hunting or fishing.

Yet increasing public concern centres not on any of these activities but upon the deteriorating behaviour of players - and spectators - of those team games traditionally regarded as producing desirable qualities of character. To examine the rationale of this odd situation is to probe depths so murky that DIF memoranda on prisoner's earnings are by comparison models of light and clarity. Yet this is essential to any consideration of present or possible future constraints.

"Games are good, they must be played" urged Sir Alexander Patterson "they will cost money, time and

patience but great as is the cost they are worth it all for they add to the building of that stubborn and unselfish character which is the very oak of England". In so far as organised team games are concerned the oak of which he speaks was until the nineteenth century a very small acorn indeed. The English aristocracy enjoyed horse-racing, fencing, hunting and cricket, with occasional fist fighting, yachting and real tennis. The remainder made do with various types of fish catching, leap frog, battledore, shuttlecock, hop step and jump, skittles and a type of football in which violence and brute force were pre-eminent. During the nineteenth century a new middle class rose to privilege and power. In sport as in industry invention, refinement and organisation followed. Team games like Hockey, Football, Cricket and Rugby did not, like Hunting, require wide expanses of countryside but could accompany urbanisation. Through the expanding public schools, to which the newly successful middle class sent their children, a code of ethics became an integral part of sport in England, and since this was of inestimable social - and commercial - value to those aspiring to upper class membership it was prolonged well beyond school days to dotage. Thus team games were lovingly nurtured and became the repository of all those qualities of character thought to accompany nobility. Violence was accordingly sanctified provided it could be accommodated within this ethical framework.

"To love the game beyond the prize;

To honour while you strike him down.

The foe that comes with fearless eyes."

wrote Newbolt in one of his more restrained passages.

Upon this scene appeared the Reverend John Cotten, who by judicious use of organised team games, subdued mutiny at Marlborough - an achievement for which he was subsequently rewarded by translation to the see of Calcutta - thus adding to an already complicated pot pourri the ingredient of muscular Christianity. A happy addition since the church has been an important agent in promoting sport, particularly in urban areas. Aston Villa (Wesleyan) and Bolton Wanderers (C of E) were but two of a number of prominent football clubs founded by burly curates in the last century. Closely interwoven with competitive sport was the notion of "fair play"; words imbued with strong concern not only for the rules of the game but for justice, equity, consideration of the weak and general moral gracefulness. Thus in spite of the level of violence contemporary reports suggest, no referee was

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## NOT CRICKET

felt to be necessary until the institution of the FA Cup and even then no whistle was provided for him. Not until twenty years later was the penalty kick introduced and awarded for technical breaches of the rules of the game rather than for ungentlemanly conduct. "Playing to win" was condemned as indicative of self aggrandisement, exhibitionism, greed and of a generally unwholesome attitude to life - except of course in Test Matches. On 17 July 1956 at the Guildhall in London in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, the Lord Mayor interrupted the city's reception to King Feisal of Iraq to announce the score in the Test Match with Australia.

As recently as 1960 the author of a rather thin article ("Mens Sana") in the first issue of this Journal was able to state with every justification that were the standards expected and enforced on the field of play to be applied to everyday life most would face heavy fines and some a lengthy term of imprisonment.

The deterioration has been rapid. It has however been accompanied by a truly remarkable increase in skill, coaching techniques and levels of performance. Regrettably skill, so far from reducing violence has merely refined it. The urgency of winning imposed on top level sport by sponsorship and the need of club success dictated by financial considerations have tended to put a premium on prevention of a score and denial of a scoring position to opponents. The professional foul in football and the intentional collapse of the front row in rugby, with its attendant likelihood of paraplegia, have thus inevitably become commonplace. Increase in skilled performance has also led to preoccupation with stars rather than teams and with techniques at the expense of values; a trend given daily impetus on radio and television. Gymnastics in particular has provided a rich vein of technical gobbledegook. "Strovensky has lost all kinaesthetic awareness of his body in space" accompanies a heavy fall from the horizontal bar, whilst the breathless commentaries on athletics suggest a latter day Boys Own Paper wired for sound: "Look ... there he goes now ... Overt is opening his legs and showing his class" does little to enhance the occasion. Interesting too are interviews with sporting personalities, managers, panellists and other straphangers whose contributions, as tediously predictable as a Samoan fertility dance, are increasingly sprinkled with "fantastic", "fabulous", "magic". Confirmation, if that were needed, that they now retain the merest link with reality and - more ominous - with the mass of their supporters on the terraces. In only one or two major sports is the coverage informative, fair minded and openly critical of malpractice.

In sport as elsewhere when all else fails the Law, that final long stop, is invoked. In a recent case, the first of its kind, at Newport Crown Court, a rugby player was found guilty on a majority verdict of inflicting grievous bodily harm. He broke the jaw of an opponent in an off the ball incident and was given a nine months suspended sentence. "Hereafter", said the judge, "no one will be able to plead ignorance of the fact that violence of this sort on the rugby field is as much a criminal offence as off it". Mervyn Davies in evidence said that though he abominated any form of violence on the field of play not allowed by the laws of the game, punching on the field had become the rule rather than the exception.

The Laws of England (Halsbury) states that "where a person accidentally kills another while playing a lawful game the killing is not manslaughter" whereas Criminal Pleading (Archbold) has it "if in a friendly game such as

football one of the players commits an unlawful act whereby death is caused to another he may be guilty of manslaughter" - unlawful in this context is the intent to produce serious injury or if "committing an act which he knows may produce serious injury he is indifferent and reckless as to the consequences".

Few players of competitive sport could at present claim to be unaware of how serious injury may be sustained - and of course inflicted - still less so if the referee had at some stage during the game issued a specific caution or give a general warning. This has particular relevance to the bowling of bouncers in cricket.

Death in sport is, mercifully, rare even yet, but serious injury is not. The way now appears open for increasing use of the courts in sports litigation. Likely appellants would do well to note a recent exchange recorded in the Industrial Relations Law Reports of June 1978.

MR PHILLIPS: My Lord, I am instructed to ask this Court for leave to Appeal to the House of Lords.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHENSON: I am afraid we cannot give it to you, Mr Phillips, because we have refused leave to appeal and therefore no application can be made for refusal of leave to appeal, can it?

MR PHILLIPS: My Lord, I had it in mind that that was probably right, but I had anticipated that your Lordships would allow the application and then allow or dismiss the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHENSON: We had considered that, but I think we will re-consider it now, Mr Phillips, and we will alter the form of our judgement in accordance with something Lord Justice Waller said in his judgement, and grant your application for leave to appeal, and treat the application in effect as the hearing of the appeal. We will split it up that way - grant the application for leave and dismiss the appeal. That enables you to apply to this Court for leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

MR PHILLIPS: My Lord, I do so apply.

LORD JUSTICE STEPHENSON: No, we do not think there is a case for us giving you leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

MR PHILLIPS: As your Lordship pleases.

It is difficult to justify use of Crown Court time and resources in attempts to resolve problems which should have been the subject of resolute consideration at club level and by the national bodies of sport. "Action has got to be seen to be taken" said Stanley Couchman, president of the Rugby Football Union in announcing that from 1st December players sent off will receive an automatic and immediate suspension for 30 days. Present England players have been told that if they are sent off in any game they will forfeit future selection for their country. A decision which is likely to put more duress on referees than on players themselves. The affair between Richmond and Llanelli, in which Ralston required 32 stitches to replace his scalp, remains a matter between the two clubs.

So far as football is concerned FA Rule 35b Section VIII gives the power to the Association to act against anyone who by making damaging statements or committing undesirable acts brings the game into disrepute - an achievement which at present would require some ingenuity. The Rule may be applied, as recently, in the case of the Chairman of the Football Association, to managers who swear at the referee or disappear to the Middle East before the expiration of their contract and to players who remove their shorts in public.

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# THE ROLES OF PRISON AND PROBATION OFFICERS IN THE WELFARE OF CLIENTS IN PRISON

Julian Dawes

*Probation Officer*

*After a career as a musician entered the Probation Service in 1972. Worked in the Differential Treatment Unit and was subsequently involved in the use of short term Task - Centred casework. Joined the Probation team at Pentonville in 1977.*

For some time it has been the expressed wish of many prison officers that they should play a larger part in the 'welfare' of clients in prison. It seems clear that a security role alone does not provide sufficient job satisfaction for people who have a sensitivity to some of the needs of inmates which they feel they could meet. This is perhaps reflected in the various schemes of shared working between prison and probation officers currently under way. As well as enabling prison officers to be more involved in welfare work, it is the aim of these schemes to improve generally the services available to clients, and to allow probation officers more opportunity to concentrate on providing a social and casework service for which they have particular training and skills. This last statement is not intended to undervalue the importance of clients' more practical needs, nor to suggest that meeting such needs requires little or no skill. Rather, I maintain that an increased involvement of prison officers in a helping role would be a more appropriate and efficient deployment of differing abilities and skills. It is not only my belief that prison staff should be more involved in helping clients, but also that probation officers in prison are often involved in work which does not require their casework skills, and to this extent they are inappropriately employed.

If these developments are to proceed further, there is a need for greater clarity of thinking about the changing definitions of function, and particularly where the tasks of prison and probation officers differ and where they overlap. It is the main purpose of this paper to present my own thoughts on this subject in a relatively precise way.

At this point I want to comment on the selection, training, and supervision of prison officers for welfare tasks. Due to personality, aptitude, and attitude, there are some prison staff who would be neither interested, nor able to become involved in the kind of work we are discussing. Attempts to be specific about the

qualities necessary for someone in a helping capacity are problematic, and are not likely to take account of the unique characteristics brought by each individual. Nevertheless, I think it is possible to say there are certain qualities of perception and empathy, a capacity to relate to people and cope with degrees of stress, and a capacity to be creative and flexible, which are all fundamental in importance and argue the need for careful selection. Equally, adequate training is important, commensurate with the further development of some of the above qualities, and the skills involved in the provision of the various goods and services required. A further extension of this is the need

for on-going supervision of work, and I would argue that prison officers involved in welfare tasks should be supervised at the sort of intensity normally expected of probation officers. Among other things, the purposes of supervision would be to help officers look critically at the work they are doing, to ensure they are dealing with appropriate cases and problems, and to give support in dealing with the stresses and strains which arise in helping clients with their problems. In my view this supervision could be undertaken by the probation service itself, or by some other person with appropriate training appointed by the Home Office.

In trying to think about the tasks appropriate for prison and probation officers, I have found it useful to think in terms of five categories of work. These are as follows:-

- 1) the provision of information
- 2) the provision of goods and services,
- 3) social and life skills training,
- 4) casework,
- 5) the linking of clients with the probation service in the community.

I want to suggest that all the tasks in the first two of these categories could be appropriately undertaken by prison officers, where the provision of information, goods and services is



## THE ROLES OF PRISON &amp; PROBATION OFFICERS

the primary focus of attention. Of course, this does not preclude probation officers being involved in similar tasks as part of a wider casework context, although even here I would hope to see prison officers being used more widely as a resource, in much the same way as are ancillary workers. No definition of tasks can be absolutely rigid and there will be some legitimate overlapping. This is especially the case in the area of social and life skills training, and I shall have more to say about this later. It is in the area of casework that probation officers by training and experience have particular skills, and I want to underline my belief that prison staff could not be involved in this kind of work without commensurate training. The fifth area refers primarily to those clients who are referred to the probation service outside the prison for the purpose of aftercare.

I would now like to look at these categories in more detail, and to specify some of the main tasks involved in each. This is not intended to be exhaustive in content, but I hope it may provide some clearer guidelines.

**1) The Provision of Information**

As I have already suggested, it is my view that the provision of information is an appropriate task for prison officers in all cases where this would be the primary focus of attention. Such a task requires expertise in knowing how to locate and transmit the information required. The range of information needed is varied and may include some of the following:-

- information about prison procedures and routines,
- information about impending court appearances and other judicial matters,
- information about welfare rights,
- supplying addresses of people or agencies to whom the client wishes to write,
- dealing with legitimate requests from solicitors or others to relay information to a client,
- where appropriate, referring clients to solicitors or other agencies who are better able to give accurate information.

**2) The Provision of Goods and Services**

Again, where the provision of goods and services is the main focus, I would suggest it is appropriate for prison officers to undertake these tasks. As with the provision of in-

formation, there are a wide variety of goods and services needed by clients, and the following is an attempt to enumerate some of the main categories:-

- dealing with practical problems associated with clients coming into prison. This includes help with property left outside, either by dealing with it directly, or by linking the client with people or agencies who can provide help. Where necessary it also entails such tasks as informing relatives of a client's whereabouts,
- where appropriate, dealing with financial difficulties of clients' dependents. This may involve making sure they are in touch with D H S S, and in some cases negotiating help with such things as rent and fuel bill arrears etc.,
- putting clients in touch with solicitors, dealing with appeals and applications for bail, and contacting potential sureties,
- dealing with requests for help in obtaining wages, tax rebates, P.45 forms etc., owing to the client from before he came into prison,
- negotiation with outside agencies for any goods or services to which the client is entitled, but which he is unable to obtain by himself,
- dealing with any situation where the client legitimately requires a telephone call made, and where he would not have sought assistance if he had access to a telephone,
- helping illiterate clients with the reading and writing of letters,
- organising an accommodation and employment scheme,
- investigating applications for discharge grants,
- dealing with clients who have inadequate clothing to leave prison,
- linking clients with outside agencies who can provide services required by a client on release.

**3) Social and Life Skills Training**

Social and life skills training presents an area of considerable overlap, where it is clear that prison officers have a big part to play. In this context I want to refer to experimental release courses which operated at Ranby and Ashwell prisons from January 1976. The twin aims were to find out what kinds of courses are helpful to men about to be released from prison, and to assess the ability of main grade prison officers to run them. Social and life skills are those

kinds of skills we all use in dealing with other people, which are generally important for our ability to function successfully in society. An essential feature of them for present purposes is that they are trainable - they can be acquired and improved upon - and social and life skills training is an organised attempt to do this. The courses were designed to equip men with 'take-away' skills in order to help them cope better with finding jobs, getting accommodation, negotiating with D H S S, resuming broken relationships, and some of the other problems which confront ex-prisoners. The response of inmates who took part in these courses was almost unanimously favourable, and it was concluded that prison officers, given some training, are well capable of planning and running courses which are of practical value to prisoners who are about to be released. It is clear that elements of social and life skills training may be involved in many of the tasks already mentioned under the provision of information, goods and services, as appropriate to be carried out by prison officers, and to some extent the same thing applies in the casework of probation officers.

**4) Casework**

We now come to the area of work where in my view probation officers should be primarily involved. For most inmates, entry into prison severely interferes with their sense of identity, and probation officers have a vital role in helping clients keep in touch with their own thoughts and feelings, as well as in countering apathy and depression. When clients first come into prison, there is a need for a period of thorough problem exploration, to help them look at their situation realistically, to clarify needs, and where appropriate to develop objectives and strategies for change.

Social casework has been described as 'a way of helping people with personal and social problems in a face-to-face relationship, and in a systematic professional manner based on knowledge of personality development and behaviour, and skill in human relations'. It can be approached from different theoretical standpoints, and requires a range of skills in a number of interrelated areas. Principal among these skills is the ability to develop, sustain and terminate relationships designed to help clients with their internal and external problems, and this additionally involves the ability to create an

atmosphere in which painful feelings can be expressed, and where negative and hostile feelings can be turned to constructive use. Skills are required in assessing, defining and analysing problems, developing and implementing realistic plans to alleviate them, and in evaluating progress. Accurate observation of behaviour and sensitivity to verbal and non-verbal communication are also important, as is the discrimination and appropriate use of a variety of social work methods. In addition, mention must be made of the need to understand and use constructively the dynamics of the casework relationship itself in giving accurate feedback to clients about the ways in which they behave and relate. As well as working individually, clients can also be helped collectively, where skills in group and family work can be used. Following on from this, and in keeping with earlier sections of this paper where I specified in general terms the kind of tasks which I think are appropriate to be undertaken by prison officers, I now want to give some indication of the areas where I think prison probation officers should be engaged in their work with clients:

- helping clients with problems of conflict in their relationships with other people. In prison this includes the use of welfare visits to work on marital and family difficulties, but also encompasses difficulties in other relationships such as other inmates, prison staff, or in the relationship between the client and the probation office itself,
- working on difficulties which centre on the client himself, rather than on his interactions with other people. For example, a client may feel he is not sufficiently assertive, or excessively shy or dependent. Alternatively, he may be isolated and lonely, or may have problems in relating to a specific group of people such as the opposite sex, or people in authority,
- helping clients deal more successfully with frustrations they experience in the face of officialdom and bureaucracy. These kinds of difficulties most frequently arise in relation to such organisations as D H S S, schools, hospitals, courts, police, or the prison itself,
- working with problems clients have in carrying out particular social roles such as husband, father, breadwinner etc. In the

case of a client coming into prison, this may concern a role he is no longer able to perform simply because of his removal from the community, and with which he would otherwise have no difficulty,

- dealing with problems which arise with a client moving from one social position or situation, to another. Examples of this include such things as moving to a different area, becoming a parent, or getting divorced etc. It can involve difficulties about potential changes which face clients with difficult choices, but it also includes problems encountered after a change has been decided upon, with consequent needs for information, resources, help in planning and co-ordination, and dealing with feelings about change. In the prison setting there are particular problems for clients in dealing with their separation from the community, and in the development of realistic and meaningful plans for release,
  - helping clients where states of emotional distress are the primary concern. Such situations are manifold, but amongst those worth emphasising are the distress caused by a client finding himself in prison, dealing with anxiety caused by separation from family and friends, coping with anxiety about the welfare or whereabouts of wives and family etc., at times helping clients cope with the breakup of marital and family relationships, and offering help to clients who have either attempted, or whom it is thought may attempt suicide,
  - dealing with situations where a client lacks tangible and specific resources, such as money, housing, etc. It will be immediately apparent that the majority of the tasks mentioned earlier under the provision of information, goods and services, would correctly be categorised in this area. In my view, it would be appropriate for a probation officer to work with a client on these difficulties where an essential feature is an attempt to help the client secure the resources for himself through systematic effort.
- It goes without saying of course, that any work undertaken with a client should result from a mutual agreement about the problems to be tackled and about the means to be

adopted to deal with them. In addition, the particular nature of the problems presented by clients in a given situation will be affected by a number of factors such as the age range of the client population, the length of sentences being served, the type of prison etc., and to this extent the work of all those involved in welfare tasks will vary in different prisons.

### 5) Linking Clients with the Probation Service in the Community

This primarily refers to the linking of clients with probation officers in the field for the purpose of after-care, whether statutory or voluntary. This function must be undertaken by prison probation officers, partly because they represent the probation service within the prison, but also in the case of voluntary after-care, because such referrals often arise as a result of initial interviews in which the clients problems are explored.

### Conclusion

In this paper I have attempted to give some definition to the tasks which I think are appropriate to be undertaken by prison and probation officers within the overall task of providing a welfare and social work service for clients in prison. My argument is that prison officers should be much more involved in this kind of work, and it is my experience that a number of prison staff have an interest and capacity for a helping role which is not being utilised. It is also my contention that the casework skills of probation officers in prison could be more extensively and appropriately used if prison officers were able to meet some of the clients more practical needs.

Although I have attempted to be fairly specific, I do not want to advocate an over-rigid demarcation of function. The fact is that no-one yet knows exactly where the boundaries lie in relation to what prison officers can achieve, and I regard the ideas presented in this paper as a starting point. There will certainly be some areas of overlap, and I am in favour of prison and probation officers working closely together so that a maximum degree of flexibility can be achieved in systems of referral. The concept of shared working is already in progress in different ways in a number of different prisons, and I hope this paper will contribute to the emerging discussion about the appropriate definition of functions. ■

VIOLENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM *continued from page 4*

reducing the individuality of the staff members concerned. Although this might be repulsive to many members of society, it might have a contribution to make in this particular area. It is interesting that one of the first things that prisoners try to do when they are rioting or demonstrating is to don balaclava helmets and similar items which make them anonymous. Obviously, this has a partial explanation in their desire to remain unidentified and, therefore, hard to take action against at the end of the demonstration, but perhaps as well as this there is an element that can be accounted as the desire to deny existing relationships, so as to make violent action more easy to engage in. Combined with this, of course, there is a need to reduce the feelings of repressed anger and resentment on the part of staff for previous unrighted wrongs, as giving anonymity where resentment on the harboured could lead to staff personally, and without control, redressing past wrongs. This, of course, can be neither to the benefit of the staff or the system as a whole. On the subject of the dangers of professionalism I have already expressed views on action that might be taken in this area.

## CARING... THE NEGLECTED VIRTUE

*continued from page 6*

ideology, and of the Christian one in particular, is that it can motivate the uninvolved to care. It does this I think in two ways; and I put these two points forward not as statements of doctrine, but as insights which seem to me particularly relevant. It is in the last resort very difficult to describe how the adrenalin of religion works.

The first point is the rather elementary one that, in Christian revelation God is to be known as a God who cares. For the divine being not to care is to deprive him of divinity. The measure of caring demonstrated in the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth is the yardstick of divinity, of love itself. In the poverty of Jesus, in his direct participation in the sufferings of humanity, in his vulnerability to need and his readiness to confront evil and accept victimisation without violent retaliation, a quality of caring

is displayed which is inexplicable if it is not divine. Stamped then with the marks of divinity it then becomes the yardstick for human caring. If men once recognise they are objects of divine caring they cannot easily justify lack of the virtue in themselves and this is why serious reflection on the New Testament and the Gospels in particular is such a disturbing experience, and perhaps one reason why, in these affluent days, it is commonly avoided.

The second point is that in the Gospels a great deal of attention is given to Christ's preoccupation with the poor and the weak and indeed, in his own life-style, teaching and work he seems to declare that in them the divine is mirrored. Christ, it seems, refused to be drawn into a power struggle. He rather demonstrated, even though it cost him his life, that it is the cardinal principle of the Kingdom of God that power is subordin-

I have looked very personally at the question of violence, the implications of violence, and action that perhaps might be taken in establishments to minimise the effects of some of these aspects of violence. I have not attempted to look at how the numbers of such incidents may be reduced. In some ways I suppose I may be seen as advocating a return to very old methods, if I am doing this, I hope I am advocating them for up-to-date, though by no means new, reasons. My experience of the prison service is that when it does change it has the terrible tendency to throw out the baby with the bath water and in abolishing many of our old, formal traditions, we have rejected many that have been enforced for no reason other than "We have always done it this way". However, others have gone with them which, in the light of present circumstances, could be seen to serve an important and useful purpose, even if it was not their original purpose. Perhaps, if we could look at all our traditions and procedures, not in the light of how old they are, or in the light of why they were originally implemented, but simply in the light of what function they serve now, we might be able to be a little more discriminating in those we retain and those we reject.

ated to love. When men get locked into intense struggles for power they cease to care, because in those struggles inevitably there is no place for the weak.

There is no question then, as I see it, but that even the most superficial acknowledgement of basic Christian faith inevitably incorporates a deep commitment to caring. We may well consider other ideologies deserve our attention, but I do not know any which places a higher premium on caring than does this one. As in the case of the mother/child model its implications need to be carefully thought through in the face of the acute difficulties and perplexities facing us is the everyday management of our prisons, but at least they may give us some fresh points of departure. Our temptation, of course, is that their deceptive simplicity may be the reason for our overlooking them and, in consequence, doing nothing.

## THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RULE 43

*continued from page 8*

any act of violence in Grendon is, however, removal elsewhere - and accordingly most inmates make a concerted effort to restrain themselves. Besides, it would not be so easy to get away with it simply asserting violent attitudes to assert masculinity at Grendon, for the prisoners have ample access to sex offenders at most time.

"The final aspect of this conflict which we wish to deal, and which impressed us time and again, was the sincerity with which the matter was regarded as "justice" (perhaps a

reference to the increased severity felt to be given to the short sentence of many a "nonce"), and the genuine sense of ethics and values attached to the victimisation. We leave the last word to one of those who must remain anonymous, but to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. They, at least, will know to whom we refer.

"Of course I will admit that sometimes the treatment shown to Rule 43 prisoners can be very unfair. During one of my sentences an inmate who had confessed to ill-treating and finally killing one of his children was subjected to some real bad beatings. Some time later

when it was found out that his wife had confessed, we all became aware of how unfairly he had been treated. He had confessed purely to protect his wife, which showed him to be as good if not better than the rest of us. Rab."

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# Letter

THE EDITOR,  
*Prison Service Journal*,

Dear Sir

Whenever we read an article by Philip Bean (Alternatives to Rehabilitation), we observe two main features.

The first is the lofty perch from which he surveys his subject, the second his acute disenchantment with the Probation Service.

There are, and should be, opportunities to point out to Mr Bean that he works in the rarified atmosphere of a university social science department as a lecturer and author. Bully for him! He is thus divorced from the unremitting toil of "rehabilitating" law breakers young, middle aged or old, and can consequently discourse on "models" instead of human beings.

Whatever research may or may not reveal about custodial or non-custodial "treatments", people of all ages have been, and still are, "rehabilitated" by probation officers at a lower capital charge per day/per annum than is the case with imprisonment.

Whither probation has indeed both a serious and malevolent side. The service is not only the most "obvious casualty in any retreat from rehabilitation", it is the only casualty in an environment where rehabilitation has become a dirty word. Whatever definition is given to this dirty word, and pure is hardly consonant with dirty, it has something to do with helping offenders to live within the framework of criminal law. The present range of imprisonment and non-custodial alternatives may have failed in any or every sense to have halted the upward surge of

crime, but the fault cannot be said to reside with themes reform, rehabilitation, punishment etc.

A possible cause of the failure might be attributed to two small, yet inordinately powerful groups of individuals who exercise influence on the framing of legislation which, when enacted, is expected to be operable without facilities. The 1969 Children and Young Persons Act being a classic case. The other power group resides within the universities where, under the guise of Applied Social Science, students are encouraged to react to political stimuli rather than seek an adoptive role within society. Hence, we have in Social Services and Probation an increasing number of young people motivated against a framework of laws without which this society cannot survive. These same people are not so much involved in rehabilitation as identification with the offender.

If rehabilitation and reform are out, what is the alternative? Mr Bean does not advance any arguments of substance. He does say, however, that "the time is right for change, and hopefully this will be used wisely". He knows, or appears to recognise that the current "model" is a punitive one. The Probation and After-Care Service is being squeezed by demands for more policemen and more prisons/prison officers. If more offenders are caught and locked up (regardless of cost), there is still cause for scepticism about halting the crime wave.

Could it not be that our present position is one where the rule of law is arguably dead or dying and that a retrograde step will have to be considered. Models are not an answer. We lack an "effective" sentence. Perhaps we need to revert to capital punishment for specific capital offences. Whatever Mr Bean's views, it might prove to be a

"justice model" in tune with the prevalent nation-wide gut reaction to the ineffective life sentence.

Would such an "innovation" achieve anything in terms of resuscitating the rule of law? Who knows? There cannot be any evidence for or against a measure not yet introduced. It is possible, however, to advance a personal opinion about the effect of such a punitive course. Not only would offenders using assorted weapons to kill or maim for any purpose, financial or political gain and simple pleasure, have to premeditate the penalty, they would also, perhaps, doubt the course of action which they were about to undertake. The "doubt model" could prove to be the decisive one in reversing the progress towards total breakdown, not only of the rule of law but also the system of justice, police, courts, prisons and the present alternatives.

Along with Mr Bean, we hope the time for change will be used wisely. Instead of pragmatism, why not definitive action beginning at the apex of the criminal spectrum? Cast "doubt" there and it may well filter downwards to soccer grounds and now, also, rugby venues.

We apologise for such a lengthy letter.

It commenced with a defence of the Probation Service. Let it end there too. Rehabilitation is not a model to be separated from the others, especially the "justice" one. Probation officers do not attempt to rehabilitate offenders in a vacuum. They are compelled to perform their task within a system stretched to breaking point. They did not make that system.

Yours faithfully,

FW SWAN

Probation Officer

D S GILLANDERS

Probation Officer

HM Prison, Gloucester

NOT CRICKET *continued from page 10*

At club level, action against club members is usually flabby because of the generally protective attitude of clubs to their players in amateur games and at the top level of professional sport the possibility of firm action on a matter of principle has to be weighed against the possible reduction of 5000 gate receipts.

The laws of play in competitive team games have changed imperceptibly in the last seventy-five years. They were shaped against a social background in total contrast with our own in every respect. It is at this basic and vital level that any attempt to rehabilitate sport should be made. After all there is nothing finite about games. When Detention Centres were in their infancy any object which was round, bounced or rolled was considered to have sinister recreational undertones. Football at weekends was accordingly introduced only as a result of the most mature and lengthy consideration. It was agreed that when the ball was in the opponents half of the field all defenders, including the goalkeeper, should double on the spot until the ball again crossed the half-way line, thus avoiding any possibility of idleness at play. This admirable example of flexibility in adopting the laws of the game to the needs of the situation might profitably be applied on a national basis.

In America, where sports legislation is constantly under review, there has been discussion on the possibility of increasing the officials in Ice Hockey - there are no less than five referees in American football - but it was decided that were "high sticking" and body checking to be more firmly controlled more subtle forms of viciousness would develop. It was the view of Clarence Campbell, president of the National Hockey League that a certain amount of violence on the ice was cathartic - and of course violence is an eminently marketable commodity.

It seems likely that in this country if no definitive action is taken to contain the use of violence certain team games may be proscribed by law as a result of increasing serious injury or fatality, or else through continuing drop in attendance they will drift into obsolescence, becoming in the fullness of time an interesting relic of the past performed in the summer for visiting tourists.

Meanwhile we may take heart from the knowledge that in our own establishments each Saturday someone is putting one, or if necessary two goals through his own net in the dying moments of the game so that his wing/house/unit has plenty to smoke over the weekend. Surely an exemplary display of team spirit.

# LIBRARIAN TO THE PRISON SERVICE:



Richard Turbet, Assistant Librarian at Aberdeen University, graduated in English at University College, London and undertook his professional training at Dundee University. After work in Canada and in the British Library he served as Librarian at the Prison Service College, Wakefield, from 1974-77. He writes from experience and from the heart.

by Richard Turbet

*Assistant Librarian, Aberdeen University.  
Librarian, Prison Service College,  
Wakefield, 1974-77.*

## *The Prison Service College Library*

**In this article I would like to describe how I think the Library at the Prison Service College could be, if not the tail, at least a strand in the tail that wags the Prison Service. I shall begin by outlining the two problems that I think are holding back a widening of the library's influence. The former problem is imponderable but I offer some opinions on the latter, leading to an idealized view of the potential operation of the library.**

First, the Prison Service is not an organisation with an instinctive response to books. It aspires to neither the intellectual aura of the Police Service, nor the technical acumen of the Fire Service, nor the casework aspect of the Probation Service. Its members rely on hard experience at the coal face, imitating or modifying the work of successful and wise superiors, not learning by rote from a load of books. Nor do books figure in its members' relaxations, which tend to encompass physical pursuits, overtime and, when something is read, tabloid newspapers.

Of course, all generalisations are untrue, including this one. Among the prison staff I am ignoring the psychologists, clergy, education and welfare officers, high-powered governors and aspiring officers. Numerically they account for little, though their influence is great. However, according to my 3½ years' experience, I have summed up the rest of the Prison Service to my own satisfaction at least, and would defend to the death their right to this way of life, books or no books.

How does a dispenser of books permeate a stratum of people who, because of personal choice, dictates of employment or social background

simply do not read? The motto of the Scottish Central Library, "Rax me that buik", badly translated means "Reach me that book". There are twenty things the average member of the Prison Service would sooner be handed than a book - which makes him like most people outside the service. If the library must give the best possible service to those who are likely to use it, to what sort of service must it aspire in order to make contact with those who are unlikely to use it?

Secondly, I do not believe the Prison Service is aware of, and takes seriously, the potential of the library. It is, after all, the service's own and only library. While I was at the Prison Service College I experienced nothing but goodwill and cooperation, but always I felt, in the words of a necessarily anonymous colleague, that the sheer political will to exploit the library was lacking.

The question of how to persuade whoever is ultimately responsible to take the library more seriously defeated me as it defeated all my predecessors. It has surely been noticed that no librarian stays in post longer than a few years. My stint of above 3½ years was above par. The reasons for this rapid turnover are simple.

The post is graded Assistant Librarian, a misnomer when the holder is the only librarian in the entire service. This is also the lowest of the four grades of professional librarians in the Civil Service. Pay for Civil Service librarians is not good, though it could be worse. What is important is that the incremental scale stops at a crucial point. Being the only librarian in the service, there is no scope for advancement, since the establishment only allows for a grade 4 librarian. Modestly ambitious librarians reach a certain stage in their careers, do not want to leave Wakefield but will not be accommodated on the next grade upwards, and leave.

Vacancies at grade 3 within the other Home Office libraries are few and far between. Also, it is an unprovable but established fact that, in promoting staff from grade 4 to 3, the larger government departments who are likely to have such vacancies prefer to promote within their own organisations. What is provable is that all four professional librarians who have held the post of College Librarian have not only left the college and the Prison Service, but also the Civil Service. This can only have a disruptive effect on the continuity and efficiency of the library service, as it takes one year for newcomers totally to imprint their personalities on the running of the place.

To conclude, I would like to offer a view of the library in which "All's perfect, evermore!" There should be

*continued on page 18*



# THE PRISON SERVICE COLLEGE LIBRARY

## *Services for Prison Service Staff*

by Steve Kirby

*Librarian, H.M. Prison Service College, Wakefield.*



Steve Kirby, BA, ALA, was appointed Librarian, HM Prison Service College, in January 1978, to succeed Richard Turbet. He read French and Sociology at Reading University, which included spending a year attached to the Ecole des Sciences Politiques, University of Paris. He gained his professional library qualification after leaving University and in 1973 he joined the staff of the Home Office Library, London, where he gained experience of a wide range of library duties, including that of running a small technical library for Home Office architects, engineers and quantity surveyors.

Mrs Pamela Brunt has been Library Assistant, HM Prison Service College, for over 3 years.

Anyone reading the "Prison Service Journal" probably knows of the existence of the College Library. There may be 'something to your advantage' on our shelves; you never know. I wholeheartedly agree with 90% of Richard Turbet's article, "Librarian to the Prison Service", and sincerely hope that those who control the library's future (its purse-strings) will read and inwardly digest it. Just two short points.

- (1) One problem Richard has left out is a very straightforward one: SPACE, or, more precisely, space for two types of space-fillers. Firstly, books and periodicals, and, secondly, space for readers. This is definitely at a premium in the two rooms which are our present accommodation.
- (2) I do not wholly agree with Richard's views on the literacy of prison officers (in his second and third paragraphs). If one is encouraged to read by one's seniors, this is one thing; but most staff do not seem to be.

There are about 15,000 books, periodicals and official reports in the library. Penology, criminology and management are the main subjects in terms of shelf space but there are also substantial collections on sociology and psychology. A random list of some of the other topics on which we have smaller collections of books includes such diverse subjects as:-

Sexual ethics, including homosexuality etc.  
Groupwork  
Terrorism  
Famous trials  
Adolescents  
Race relations  
Industrial relations  
Education

Social work and social welfare

Biographies and Autobiographies, especially of officers, Governors, ex-convicts etc.

A number of older books (18th, 19th and early 20th centuries) are also held on all aspects of "law and order". For example, the 4th edition of John Howard's 'State of the Prisons', 1792, and a complete collection of 19th century official reports by the Directors of Convict Prisons, and by H.M. Inspectors of Prisons. All of the pre-19th century material is for reference only.

The main influence on book selection and book withdrawal is the demand created by students at the Prison Service College and on other official courses together with recommendations by the tutorial staff of the college. However, it should be noted that the library does not hold any films, filmstrips, or any course handouts.

Loans are made only to staff employed in prison service establishments and offices, or people closely connected with establishments, eg, prison visitors. To borrow a book or periodical, contact us, preferably in writing, stating what you require as fully as possible (full name of author(s), title, publisher, date of publication, etc.) All of these facts about a book or article are essential for we sometimes need to ask borrowers for additional information. Even if the item(s) you want is not available we can recall it from other readers; if it is not in stock it can be purchased

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or borrowed on your behalf from another library, such as the British Library. (Readers are requested to return items borrowed for them from other libraries to the college library and not directly to the original library). All books borrowed from the college library stock can have their loan periods renewed beyond the date indicated on the label inside the book if no-one else has asked for them. Reminders are sent out regularly and if you wish to renew a book all you must do is to reply on the reminder card. The loan period is normally three weeks from the date of issue but this can be varied at my discretion.

Books are despatched and can be returned in the envopaks (sometimes called bags or pouches) sent by Administration Offices via Head Office. As in all lending libraries, we regard the person in whose name the original request was made as being responsible for the book until it is returned.

A library bulletin, giving details of newly acquired books, is distributed six times a year. Nearly all the copies sent to establishments are in envelopes addressed to 'The Governor' or 'The Warden', and all are prominently marked 'Please Ensure Your Training Officers See This'. Booklists on special topics are compiled from time to time, and are based on our holdings. Those compiled by Mrs Brunt and myself last year, were:-

'Borstals and Approved Schools' compiled January 1978

'Life imprisonment' compiled May 1978

## THE PRISON SERVICE COLLEGE LIBRARY

'Famous trials: a booklist with a subject index' compiled September 1978

'Eleven basic books about prisons which are in print' compiled September 1978

People visiting the library often ask us about the way the library is arranged. The books are classified by the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) which is akin to the Dewey Decimal Classification used in public libraries. Our card catalogue (like Caesar's Gaul) can be divided into three parts:-

- (a) The author catalogue arranged alphabetically by authors(s) (including such corporate bodies as NACRO and the Dept of Health & Social Security etc.).
- (b) the classified catalogue arranged strictly by U.D.C. The information given in this part of the

catalogue is akin to the entries in the Library Bulletin.

- (c) The title catalogue arranged alphabetically by the book's title

The library staff consists of one full-time librarian in the Assistant Librarian grade (myself), and a part-time Clerical Assistant Mrs Pamela Brunt. In fact, many of you will already know her if not by face at least by her voice on the 'phone. It would help us considerably if readers would communicate in writing although we will always deal with urgent requests by telephone. We aim to take action on most loan requests on the day when they are received and I would remind you that opening hours are 0830 to 1700 hours Monday to Thursday, 0830 to 1630 on Fridays. Also I would remind all those Prison Service staff entitled to borrow books and visit the library,

that there is no charge. However, it is only after they have contacted me and obtained permission from the Principal of the College that members of the general public may visit us. I also plead with members of the Prison Service not to suggest to members of the general public that they should write to me for current information on the Prison Service or for school projects, etc. I simply cannot cope with these requests.

Finally, I would like to emphasise that this article only gives a general guide to our services. If you wonder whether we can help you by providing a specific book or books, books by a particular author or organisation, or books on a certain subject, do not hesitate to drop us a line. And next time you come to the college drop in and see us if you have not done so already.

LIBRARIAN TO THE PRISON SERVICE *continued from page 16*

a professional staff of two. The College Librarian should be at grade 3. This would ensure recruiting someone with experience behind them and a tolerable incremental scale before them, and would in turn allow for some continuity to be introduced into the running and planning of the library. The librarian would liaise with regional training officers, and make frequent visits to penal establishments to acquaint the staff with the workings of the library service that is available to them. This person would perform all professional duties that involve decisions, policy and staff contact: book and periodical ordering, cataloguing and classification, lectures and current awareness.

An Assistant Librarian, grade 4, probably someone in their first post, would do the less advanced professional work: inter-library loans, charging system, filing and accessioning. Such a person could temporarily take over any of the librarian's duties and act as his or her deputy during any of the librarian's absences. Ideally the college librarian should handle all telephone enquiries.

I would retain the post of part-time clerical assistant. In the present structure this is criminally undergraded, more so than the existing professional post. It should at least be a clerical officer, as things are at present, since the person has to act as librarian for the titular librarian's 20 days holiday a year and hour's lunch break daily, not to mention other absences in the line of duty.

However, with the revision of the professional staff which I am suggesting, the part-time clerical assistant would be able to concentrate on strictly clerical duties: typing, tidying shelves, keeping statistics, making up parcels, sending reminders and watering the plants.

The functions of the library that I shall suggest are additional to those being performed already. They are outlined in my previous article in April 1976's PSJ or, in greater detail, in *New Library World*, February 1976, offprints of which are in the college library and the officers' training school libraries.

The doubling of professional staff would allow the inaugurating of a sophisticated current awareness service to be accomplished. The monitoring and abstracting would be done by the college librarian. This would involve going through all periodicals received, plus the three serious daily and Sunday newspapers, noting titles, authors and sources, and presenting a classified list under headings of greater or lesser breadth. For instance, subjects such as prisons, management and psychology need subdividing for the Prison Service, where as statistics does not, and education requires only broad divisions. The finished product would be circulated, along with the present bi-monthly bulletin that lists all new books entering the library.

I have already suggested that the college librarian should visit as many penal establishments as possible, as often as possible. I also think greater

supervision of both the Officers' Training Schools' libraries is necessary. This would necessitate a greater, more positive response from the schools themselves than exists at present.

Certainly the library should not change its loan policy and begin lending to people outside the Prison Service. It would always happen that the unique copy of a certain book would be on loan to a member of the public at the very moment when someone in the service wanted to borrow it. However, the library should have its own photocopier. As well as providing prison staff with a swift and useful service, this would enable copies of articles to be made for the public, at the usual going rate.

Finally, I wonder whether it might be worthwhile to investigate a role for the Prison Service College librarian to help with the organising of the book stock at the Scottish Prison Officers' Training School, Polmont. This would require the agreement of the Scottish authorities. The assistance could be advisory or administrative, short term or permanent.

I have delighted you long enough. I enjoyed working for the Prison Service, and have come away with a predominantly high and affectionate regard for those in it. The members of the service deserve a library which can do more than merely respond to what are, or what ought to be, their needs. They are entitled to a library that is staffed and equipped to take initiatives as well as respond to other peoples': to lead as well as follow.

# BOOK REVIEWS

## Reviews Committee:

RAY MITCHELL *Prison Service College, Wakefield*

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## NO SMALL CHANGE

### A Theory of Social Reform: Correctional Change Processes in two States

ALDEN D. MILLER, LLOYD E. OHLIN  
and ROBERT B. COATES  
*Ballinger 1978, £10*

From 1970 to 1973 those institutions in Massachusetts which held juveniles were closed and all but 50 of the 1200 inmates were placed in the community. Whatever difficulties this dramatic change in policy brought, it does not appear to have led to an increase in recorded crime for this age group.

This challenging and, for those of us who work in institutions, threatening venture is the subject of a series of five books of which this one looks at the way in which such radical change can be either hindered or promoted. By using data from the Massachusetts' reforms and from another radical change in Wisconsin in the 1950's,

a model is formulated which describes the different pressures a reformer meets in innovating change.

The direction of change in Wisconsin was from a punitive and custodial system to one orientated towards the individual treatment and training of the offender but within the institution. In Massachusetts, however, the move was from treatment in the institution to community care. Although the difference in objectives is striking, reflecting the theory of treatment dominant at the time, the authors found adequate data and sufficient in common in the process of change to develop a model which they argue should hold good for all change.

The Massachusetts' reforms, described by Malcolm Dean in the *Guardian* (November 8), generated a great deal of opposition. The authors of this study argue that if change is to be more than a superficial gloss and is to achieve a lasting effect, then it cannot be

done without conflict. Confrontation, they go on to say, can be avoided only by compromising the aims. For that reason, perhaps, we shall never see such drastic reform in this country with a centralised bureaucracy committed to finding the common ground in any dispute. Significant in initiating such reforms is the 'director' committed to a philosophy of change and having the sense of purpose to face conflict and to sustain others in their faith in such change. The need for such a dynamic in the prison service has never been greater than now when to outsiders it appears at best apathetic and at worst brutal and to those inside confused and over-cautious.

The prison service has produced such leadership in the past but figures such as Patterson were able to achieve so much because their authority extended beyond the Commission and the Home Office. Those days have gone, never to return, but it is hard to

imagine the present structure of the service producing a 'Massachusetts'. Perhaps the time has come when power needs to be devolved from the centre by making local authorities play a larger part in the running of institutions in their areas but with an independent Inspectorate to ensure basic standards are maintained and a medical service clearly part of the respective Regional Health Authority. Certainly regionalisation within the existing structure has been disappointing in its lack of authority and scope. If change is to be the order of the day and a new dynamic is wanted, then these studies by the Harvard Law School will be essential reading.

JOHN STAPLES  
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### Neutralising Inmate Violence

BARRY C. FELD  
*Ballinger/Wiley 1978, £10.40*

My experience of American books is that they are usually verbose and full of American technical phraseology. Fortunately, although I found this one protracted in presentation, it was easy reading. Although experienced staff will not find any of the research conclusions original or dramatic, it is a good read for students, laymen interested in penology, and those who work in community-based agencies.

The background to the book is the dramatic institutional upheavals that took place in Massachusetts. Broadly speaking, the state's Department of Youth Services decided it was time to reform its policy. Commissioner Miller decided to close many youth institutions and redefine the aims, structure and methods of those remaining. He also diverted most of the state's resources into community-based programmes.

This book attempts to report the problems of inmate (and staff) violence in the young offender institutions that remained during the seven year period of reform from 1969. It also gave Feld and others an opportunity to study the process and impact of significant changes in policy and the relationship between the organisational structure of correctional programmes and inmate subcultures. The study was conducted in nine 'cottages' with various regimes, ranging from the closed, staff-imposed to the treatment-oriented with inmate-staff involvement.

I found the first two chapters rather boring, mainly because of my varied institutional experience. These chapters attempted, quite successfully, to paint a backdrop for the central figures, the inmates and staff in their nine varied environments. The third chapter was a little more interesting in that it thrashed through the inmate subcultures. The fourth chapter was beginning to 'grab me' because at last it talked of the 'meat' of the book - the violence and aggression

of both staff and inmates. I found a certain naivety in presentation, as if the writer did not want to be too rude; a glossing over of detail, especially in the sensitive issue of staff violence.

Basically, the conclusions and research findings were as I expected. Where you have an imposed, repressive, aggressive regime you can expect an impersonal, uncaring violent social structure which staff and inmates collude to maintain. Alternatively, where you have a caring, altruistic, problem-solving community in which inmates and staff work together to understand each other and resolve social living problems, you have a society where violence is minimal and unnecessary. The research findings are dramatically impressive and should convince any 'fringe thinkers' and provide a sound argument with which to confront 'hard-line' advocates.

Another expected result was that an analysis of reconviction rates during the first six months of freedom showed inmates from the repressive custody failed in com-

parison with those from treatment community. At the 12 month stage, the results evened out. Another interesting statistic was the higher success of the mixed sex cottage.

Feld makes a number of important observations. One which particularly impressed me is that if organisations pursue humane goals, then staff recruitment and selection becomes of paramount importance. Our service has, I fear, avoided this nettle until now: what a grand opportunity this Inquiry into the prison service should give!

MALCOLM WILTSHIRE  
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### Sentences of Imprisonment—a Review of Maximum Penalties

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE  
PENAL SYSTEM  
*HMSO 1978, £3.75*

Perhaps the most notable feature of this report is the extent to which it has been misunderstood and misrepresented. "Would you like to see rapists given more lenient sentences? ... Yet this Home Office report recommends, in effect, that ninety percent of rapists convicted by the courts should have their sentences reduced" (*Daily Mail*). Under the headline "Criminals' Charter", the *Daily Telegraph* referred to "the controversial proposals of the Advisory Council on the Penal System, which would drastically reduce prison sentences faced by most offenders convicted of serious crimes". Among the newspapers I have seen, only the writers in the *Times*, *Financial Times* and *Guardian* showed that they read and understood this report. BBC Radio featured an impassioned debate in the "You the Jury" series about whether maximum penalty for rape should be reduced from life imprisonment to seven years, regardless of the fact that no such suggestion is made in the report.

The need for a review of maximum sentences arises from the fact that the existing statutory maxima are intended to indicate Parliament's judgement of an appropriate level of sentence for the worst possible example of each offence. Consequently, as the report shows, the existing maxima bear little relationship to the sentencing practice of the courts in 'run of the mill' cases. The members of the committee were at pains to point out that they have not tried to "pluck a new set of values out of the ether", but have reflected the existing practice of the courts. This elementary point has been largely missed by the media.

What the report proposes is a set of maximum sentences for ordinary cases of each offence. These maxima represent the length of prison sentence below which ninety percent of sentences for the particular offence fell in 1974-1975. The remaining ten percent of cases may be regarded as 'exceptional' and, for these, the report suggests determinate sentences of unlimited length.

The new set of maxima would appear unlikely to make any substantial difference to sentence lengths; the existing informal tariff for 'run of the mill' cases remaining unchanged. There may be a small number of cases in which the existing statutory maxima are lower than the court would wish, and the new system would enable courts to impose heavier sentences in such cases, but the numbers involved would be too small to make any discernible difference to the prison service.

What may be more controversial are the report's subsidiary recommendations. For example, executive control of the length of time served on the 'exceptional' sentences would be extended, the earliest date for parole consideration being after one third of the sentence or the maximum sentence which could have been awarded in an 'ordinary' case, whichever is the less. The impact of this recommendation upon

effective sentence lengths depends, of course, on the future policy of the Parole Board. It is also recommended that life imprisonment should be imposed less often, long determinate sentences being substituted in many cases. For murder, life imprisonment would remain the maximum sentence, but would not be obligatory. The likely effect of this would be to make life imprisonment sentences comparatively longer than at present, exceeding in length all (or nearly all) determinate sentences. The abolition of 'merciful' life sentence would restore some if its lost meaning to life imprisonment.

The report is worth reading, despite the limited practical impact of the recommendations on maximum sentences. Its review of the history and development of penal policy is informative, and throws some light on the present confused state of public and political opinion about crime, sentencing and prison regimes. There are also some fascinating comments on the possible use of partially suspended sentences, combined sentences of imprisonment plus a fine, compensation order or costs and criminal bankruptcy.

What seems regrettable is that these interesting ideas have been largely obscured from view by scare-mongering about the eminently sensible (but not very important) recommendations about statutory maximum sentences.

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## The Southfield Papers

No. 8, OCTOBER 1978

For the past four years, Frank Foster has produced the *Southfield Papers*. Taking their name from a hostel in North London which provided accommodation for homeless ex-borstal trainees, the *Southfield Papers* continue to provide discussion articles about hostels. This batch contains a range of material from staff and residents and does not shirk from including an account of a "house for ex-offenders" which went badly wrong. As usual, the *Papers* prove a worthy contribution for those associated with or interested in hostel schemes and one which is unique in the literature.

R. E.

## Crime and Personality

H. J. EYSENCK  
Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1978,  
New revised edition, £4.50

In the introduction to this "new revised" edition, Professor Eysenck makes many disclaimers about the status of his "theory of criminality". He recognises that the theory is "too far from validation to make its practical application possible or advisable". "Needless to say", Professor Eysenck is not (by his own admission) "competent to write" a textbook on criminology. Professor Eysenck is a modest man and, as Churchill said of Prime Minister

Attlee, he has much to be modest about.

His theory rests on four pillars: first, the generality of behaviour; secondly, the validity of particular measures of personality; thirdly, conclusions drawn from studies of twins; and finally, generalisations from learning theory. Through all of this, there is a tenuous thread of argument relying at times on analogy and at others on journalism. Let us take each of the pillars of the theory in turn.

It is a working rule of most professionals in the area of crime and delinquency that general behavioural theories of criminality are implausible at the outset, since they defy common sense. Good theories may account for specific, well-diagnosed aspects of criminality, but general explanations are impossible without first establishing generality. Eysenck leans heavily on Hartshorne and May's (1929) studies of honesty which were models of sampling and test construction. They claimed that their results indicated a useful level of test homogeneity but a considerable diversity of behaviour. Eysenck claims that they showed a high level of "generality" of behaviour.

The book continues with a review of personality theory, culminating in the first major addition to the earlier version. It is a statistical technique which is heuristic, but dangerously so since it invites interpretation of non-significant data. Two other features stand out: first, the emergence of the so-called "psychoticism" dimension of personality and, secondly, the failure to comment on the criticisms of Cochrane (1974). Perhaps the latter is too much to ask - after all, who wants to heap criticism upon himself? The former is more important: a new dimension of personality is suddenly invoked to account for the differences between "prisoners and controls". The data have some numerical glory but we know nothing of the testing circumstances, literacy problems and sampling procedures. Likewise, no comment is made about the perennial problem of interpreting group average differences for large, over-lapping groups. Admittedly, Eysenck himself makes such disclaimers, although the introduction of a new factor without fair statement of its validity is not particularly helpful, and there is nothing in the references to help the reader.

The third chapter proposes that "heredity plays an important part" in predisposing individuals to crime. The question is whether this really is, as Eysenck claims, a "vital" part or whether behavioural-genetics are perhaps a little more complicated than he suggests. Unfortunately, the results from studies of twins suggest that the data are crude beyond imagination. Eysenck relies heavily on such data, without indicating problems of methodology. The issue of genetic aspects of any behaviour is, primarily, a scientific one and to look for support for the theory in its supposed political unpopularity is irrelevant.

Next we come to learning theory

and the reader may be entranced by the image of the dysthymic rat skulking in the corners of its cage whilst its dimensional opposite casually predares. Whether or not evidence from animal experiments can be widely generalised is a significant question. The value of the theory—disclaimed and devalued as it is by the author—could still rest on the results obtained by the application of its principles or by the findings of research by its adherents. Davison and Siegman are neither adherents nor polemicists. Their analysis of the effects of behaviour therapy, in one form or another, on the change of delinquents' behaviour, led to pessimistic conclusions. Their review has no mention in Eysenck's references.

Finally we come, portentously, to the "task of society". Before we can catch our breath at the magnitude of what we are being asked to think about, we are plunged into 20 year-old psychopharmacology and a "typical study" by Curtis and Casper - unnoted anywhere in the references. This final chapter is nothing but polemic - entertaining polemic, perhaps, but the unprofessional lurching from pseudo-science through "case-histories" to attacks on the Church, leads one to ask what it is all about and why one should read it. Eysenck claims to have been concerned with "a search for truth", not for practical steps that follow from acceptance of the theory.

This book unfolds a veritable tiger of a theory - with a predatory capacity to devour other theories, and other's data: psychoanalysis, the ego-theorists, the social thinkers, all fall prey to the attacks of this scientific tiger. But, as Alice's Adventures in Wonderland has it, perhaps this tiger "really was a kitten after all".

A. P. SEALY

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## Essentials of Management

W. JACK DUNCAN  
(Second Edition)

Holt-Saunders 1978, £10.50

This is a very useful reference book "designed for the first course in colleges and universities. As such, it assumes no pre-requisite knowledge of the field". It deals adequately with essential management concepts ranging from the art to the science; mainly of the American experience but not exclusively so.

I found the 'encyclopedic' style rather irritating but, considering that the book is aimed at the beginner, the approach is probably sensible: not too long, not too much detail, plain language, some interesting case studies and not overloaded with academic theory or statistics. In short, a very handy digest giving sufficient detail of various schools of management.

I can think of no better way to end this review than to quote the authors concluding comments: "Management today is exciting and promises to be even more so in the future. New opportunities are being presented in the not-for-profit as well as profit oriented

sectors. As organisations become larger and more international in scope, society's expectations increase. This has the inevitable effect of increasing public accountability and responsibility.

"The science of management has shown great progress; the development of the art is less impressive. One of the greatest challenges facing students of management is to become involved in answering some of the 'whys' of management and to carry on the great tradition that is evolving. All of us must accept this responsibility not only for ourselves but for the welfare of the larger society."

W. J. KEAST

Assistant Governor I  
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### Sexual Assault of Children and Adolescents

A. W. BURGESS, A. N. GROTH,  
L. L. HOLSTROM & S. M. SCROL  
Lexington Books, 1978, £13

This book emphasises that our picture of the sex offender is usually wrong. The myth of the "dirty old man" brigade is indeed a myth. Most sexual assaults are not committed by strangers, few are violent, and hardly any are perpetrated by ageing homosexuals. *Sexual Assault of Children and Adolescents* examines the more common patterns, including incest, and concentrates on the professional help that rape and assault victims may need.

For members of the Prison Service, the first three papers are more immediately relevant because they deal with the offender rather than his victim. Chapter 2, "Guidelines for the assessment and management of the offender" — is the most relevant although much of this is a little late by the time we are dealing with the assailant in an institution.

The other eleven chapters handle sensitively and practically the problems of dealing with young victims. There are quite a few case studies describing sexual assaults and I felt the same mixture of curiosity and wretchedness as I do when reading the snippets about court cases in the *News of the World*. Although of less practical use to people working in the service, these chapters illustrate men's continuing inhumanity to man or, in this case, to children: and not just the callous insensitivity shown to the young victims by the offender but the unhelpful responses too often shown them by parents, agencies and society in general.

RICK EVANS  
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### Crime and Penal Policy Reflections on 50 years Experience

BARBARA WOOTTON  
George Allen & Unwin 1978, £5.95

I do not know whether Barbara Wootton intends this book to be her last major work—a synopsis of

a long lifetime's experience and applied wisdom in this field. She would probably repudiate such an idea as premature and insulting, for she is an indomitable lady, who will have much say and influence yet on penal arguments familiar and still to be devised.

The work is comprehensive, crisp, lively and authoritative. I thought it an incomparable introduction to the field of criminal justice for the 'beginner' in legal/penal/social policy areas, and one that doubles equally effectively as a refresher and stimulator of hazy doctrine, muddled facts and tarnished principles for "old lags" like me. Everything you need is in it, in terms of current legislation and practice, covering the range of options available to both adult and juvenile courts, and their application. The prison system, with all its problems, is also dealt with in a smooth mixture of information with relevant, and often piquant, commentary. Any student reading this book could be confident of acquiring not merely a reliable reference to current legislation and a compendium of historical and descriptive fact but, for bonus, a kind of penal thesaurus of the principle theories, social and political arguments, prejudices and fantasies which he is likely to encounter in his working life. And this is not a massive tome — quite a modest format, light to hold and extremely easy to digest.

What makes it easy, of course, is Lady Wootton's delightful prose style. She is an expert who has been around long enough to be able to debunk much of her own and others' expertise. She has herself played no small part in the framing of legislation and, above decent compromise to every apologetic issue in the world of crime and punishment.

The chapter on murder is typical of her approach and style. In this most emotive area, Lady Wootton reviews the case for and against capital punishment and, in so doing, reveals the threadbare subtleties, legal and prejudicial, that over the years have littered the road to abolition in this country (and which still cause backward glances in some quarters).

With equally refreshing honesty and lucidity, she examines our confused moral and legal attitudes towards drugs, drink, and motor-ing offenders. Why, she asks, is our society's draconian treatment of petty theft under all circumstances not matched by a comparable hatred of other kinds of offence, arising often out of greed or sheer lack of concern for human life, the consequences of which kill or maim on a vast scale?

Undoubtedly, the educative value of this book lies in the author's repeated appeals to basic truths and values, her continual questioning of established beliefs and superstitions, and her challenging of the punitive response. "The upshot of these reflections in my long experience", runs the final paragraph, "is the hope that if we were less obsessed with the attempt to punish (those) criminals as we think they deserve, and more eager to make the path of virtue both more accessible to

them and more glamorous — then perhaps in their turn they might take a kindlier view of our desserts".

No one should imagine from such a statement that this writer is a "softie". It is fashionable in an era of rising crime and violent reaction to knock the liberal viewpoint, but it is in the end our only hope for a saner world. To those who merely want to understand the workings of criminal justice in this country I commend this book anyway, and to those who have not yet joined the Gardarene swine in their wild dash to the glasshouse I offer it as a useful refresher course in common sense.

D. ATKINSON

Governor

Leyhill

### Criminology

GRESHAM M. SYKES  
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1978  
£9.50

In his preface, Sykes states that he aims to "present a broad, balanced picture of criminology — one that is fair both to the many intellectual orientations of those who study crime, and to the great variety of subject matter ... a text-book should be clear, fair, coherent, comprehensive and stimulating". Sykes certainly fulfils these aims.

The book is divided into five parts, and the flavour of the whole can perhaps best be indicated by an outline of each. Part 1, entitled "The Content of Criminology", looks at the history, the present state, and possible future trends of the discipline. It includes an excellent discussion of the consensus and conflict views of society and law, and an interesting résumé of defences to crimes.

Part 2, on "Breaking the Law", gives a clear analysis of different types of lawbreaking, although many of the definitions are more applicable to the American legal system than to our own. A good outline and discussion of Sutherland's work on white collar crime is included. Sykes also discusses individual and collective violence, and their emotional and physical effects on victims. He touches interestingly on the distribution of violent crime, stating that "crimes of violence must often be seen as part of a process of social interaction, and our understanding of many violent acts is not complete until we understand the social patterns in which they are rooted". He goes on to relate the incidence, distribution and types of violent crimes to their social, cultural, economic and temporal contexts — a necessity which is often overlooked in similar studies.

"Causes of Crime", the third part of the book, gives a succinct précis of various sociological and psychological theories relating to deviance (including Merton, Mills, Cohen, Sutherland, and Freud) and an excellent review of the labelling theorists.

Part 4, "The State versus the Accused", is mainly concerned with police and court procedures.

Sykes draws largely on the American legal and judicial systems, so that this part of the book is primarily useful for comparative purposes. It is particularly interesting on sentencing policies. There is also a thought-provoking section on the police, and the ambivalence of public attitudes towards them.

In part 5, "Social Reactions to Criminal Behaviour" are discussed, including imprisonment, parole and probation. The American examples do not appear to limit the relevance of this section for the British prison service. The chapter entitled "The World of the Prison" outlines different types of prison regimes and the formal and informal social structures associated with them. The social roles of "custodians and helpers" as seen by themselves and others, are discussed, together with different types of treatment, therapy, and attempts at rehabilitation.

Sykes states that "criminology can be seen as caught in an endless conflict between the goal of scientific objectivity and a passion for justice". The tension thus engendered provides the discipline of criminology with a "promise of continuing vitality". Sykes' book presents a coherent and comprehensive overview of the subject, at the same time making one very much aware of its vitality.

P. MIDGLEY

Assistant Governor  
Hatfield Borstal

### Juvenile Court Law (10th Edition)

PATRICIA M. AUSTIN £1.80

### Magistrates Summary Jurisdiction: Guide to Sentencing Powers (5th Edition)

JOHN A. HENHAM £1.40

### Child Abuse: Procedure and Evidence in Juvenile Court

JEAN GRAHAM HALL and  
BARBARA H. MITCHELL £4.25

### Criminal Law Act 1977, Part III (and related provisions)

HEATHER HALLETT £2.80

All published by Barry Rose, 1978

The books have the following features in common: they are concerned with the administration of the law in the magistrates' courts, they are slim and pithy (only *Child Abuse* has more than fifty pages including index), and they are excellent works of reference and explanation. I found *Child Abuse* to be stimulating despite my familiarity with much of the ground covered, but the remainder will be read from cover to cover only by the reviewer and the committed learner.

*The Guide to Sentencing Powers* devotes ten of its thirty-two pages to the powers of the juvenile court in care and criminal proceedings and, by a simple structuring of the notes, readily separates the pro-



ceedings and orders available at different ages. One small error of omission occurs in explaining the basis for care proceedings; the new primary condition related to a child or young person becoming a member of a household which includes a person convicted of an offence against a young person (now Section 1(2)(bb) of the *Children and Young Persons Act 1969*) is overlooked. Perhaps Shaw and Sons' *Table of Proceedings in Juvenile Courts* is a handier reference work for those concerned with juveniles only, except that the latest edition available to me does not include the amendments introduced by the *Criminal Law Act 1977*, which are incorporated in Mr Henham's booklet. The section on adults offers a clear guide to the powers available in dealing with offenders of 17 or over with a continued structuring of the limitations to age 20. I am sure that this pocket-size mini-manual will be a valuable accessory for magistrates and probation officers.

For those already familiar with the magistrates' courts, Ms. Hallett offers rather more than a straightforward statement of charges introduced by the *Criminal Law Act 1977*. She relates them to the report of the James Committee to illustrate their rationale and to highlight such contentious issues as the proposal to reintroduce the notion of 'petty crime', which was not accepted by Parliament. The presentation and clarity of content are excellent and the index appears to be comprehensive.

*Juvenile Court Law* was published before the implementation of the *Criminal Law Act* and excludes its provisions. Its particular virtue lies in its starting at the beginning; the constitution and setting of the court and the process whereby a child is brought before a court in care or criminal proceedings are stated before describing the powers available. It does not presume to discuss the content of actual hearings but states the basic duties of local authorities probation offices. The text is in simple note form wherever this is consistent with clarity of expression and references to appropriate legislation for fuller details are clear and plentiful. Most social workers and probation officers should be familiar with most of the content but it is a handy work of reference even for the experienced.

Most community-based and hospital social workers, together with those seniors who convene and chair case-conferences, are familiar with the dilemma of deciding whether evidence obtained on enquiry into a report of neglect or ill-treatment of a child is substantial enough to bring care proceedings. The social worker's professional opinion and knowledge of the child and parents in such cases can be critical when the medical evidence, say, is a bit thin and, whilst no legal text can relieve him of this burden, *Child Abuse - Procedure and Evidence in Juvenile Courts* does offer considerable help in providing a clear statement of the context. The first half of the book, relating to juris-

diction, legislation and juvenile court powers, will be familiar enough to most social workers but is nonetheless a lucid explanation that will be particularly helpful to medical personnel and students. Jean Hall and Barbara Mitchell, both law experts, explain legal concepts, presentation and rules of evidence with examples and reference to cases in some detail but without recourse to legal phraseology. A final chapter on "Appeals and Alternative Proceedings", including wardship, provides useful information that is not always readily available to the social worker. The table of contents and the index are admirable and this is a most useful book that should be made widely available.

VAL GALLAGHER  
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*Leeds*

### The Canadian Criminal Justice System

ALICE PARIZEAU and DENIS SZABO  
*Lexington 1978, £11*

This book completes a complicated jigsaw of the criminal justice system under one cover, and serves as a valuable comparison with the system in England and Wales.

The various stages in the development of the penal system make interesting reading and mention of old, overcrowded penal establishments rang bells. Successive chapters cover the judicial structure, criminal statistics, the Bill of Rights, and police services in Canada.

The penal system appears more flexible than our own, with an estimated 25,000 volunteers involved (although the Montreal social services and probation had never heard of them when I visited). What also interested me as an ex-prison officer, is an experiment in living units which started in 1971: "They must gain the prisoners' confidence and in meetings and group sessions make them participate in decision making on daily problems". When I (as part of a POA committee) mentioned extra training in counselling skills some 12 years ago to several important visitors, we were laughed at. This stimulating chapter ends on a positive note: "Social workers on the staff of the Parole Board worked with inmates inside the prison, prepare him for release and help him find his place in society after release". Is this an argument for some combination of our prison and probation service?

The Canadian parole system, pioneered by the Salvation Army in 1898, seems well developed. Conditions of probation can be quite detailed, and I would have liked the authors comments on the feasibility of carrying out the supervision of these conditions when comparing probation with parole. The Parole Board has also been involved in bringing about legislative reforms, including the abolition of whipping as late as 1972.

This book, although heavy-going in places, certainly stimu-

lated my own thinking and I look forward to any follow-up by these authors.

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*Pontefract*

### Modern Social Problems

FRANK MCVEIGH and  
ARTHUR SOSTAK  
*Holt-Saunders 1978, £10.50*

This book is essentially a college text book designed for American students. It is a critical analysis of modern social problems: crime and punishment, drug and alcohol abuse, the family and sex, poverty and inequality, ethnic minorities, health and education. In each case, the problem is looked at from a number of different perspectives and solutions are given at the end of each section. The chapters also include statistical information, graphs, charts and photographs, and references.

The approach is eclectic rather than partisan, enabling the reader to decide where he or she stands rather than being forced into a particular way of thinking. Ironically, one of the strengths of the book, namely its comprehensive scope, is also one of its main weaknesses as it makes the work exceedingly long; it is likely to be used as a reference book. I suspect, moreover, that anyone not actually engaged on a course of full-time study would be discouraged, rather than encouraged, by the format.

Whilst the authors acknowledge that social problems have an international dimension, almost all the material relates to the United States and consequently might be of less interest and relevance to the British reader. The old adage that what is happening today in the United States will be happening tomorrow in the United Kingdom might be sufficient reason to read it, but it is mainly a book by Americans for Americans. This is especially true of the section in each chapter which gives career guidance and opportunities for the aspiring American student.

One section which is of especial interest, and perhaps more relevance, is that relating to crime and the prison system. Clearly, the United States crime rate is far higher than it is in this country but some of their problems are not too dissimilar from those of Britain, including prison riots. Some of the facts about prisons, moreover, will strike a familiar note with many people who work in the British penal system: a prison built for six hundred men, in single cells, for example, now houses over two thousand, with drastic consequences for prison discipline.

Other useful insights into post-Watergate America can be gained by reading this book. Some quite amusing, others very moving. For example, in a discussion about the Women's Liberation movement, reference is made to a group of women who have organised a counter-movement. Believing that woman's place is in the home, they call themselves the 'Pussy-

cats', and maintain that the lamb chop is mightier than the karate chop. By contrast, the chapter on poverty and inequality is immensely thought-provoking and is calculated to challenge many preconceived and comfortable ideas on the subject. One has to ask, however, whether the amount of time taken to read the book helps one to understand Britain's problems any better. On a general level, it enables one to grasp certain issues but, hopefully, the style of this book might encourage someone to write a similar work specifically on modern social problems in Britain.

ROBERT WATERS  
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### Counselling in Correctional Environments

LAWRENCE BENNETT,  
THOMAS ROSENBAUM and  
WAYNE MCCULLOUGH  
*Human Sciences Press, 1978*

In this short book, three practitioners provide an overview of the counselling of American prisoners. In fairly easy language, they outline the history of individual casework, group counselling and therapeutic communities. Although they usefully describe the range of available therapies (including 'transactional analysis' and 'behaviour modification'), there is very little convincing discussion about why counselling should work for inmates or about the implications of groupwork programmes for institutions. Nor is the section on studies of the effectiveness of counselling strong enough. There are many issues involved in the evaluation of treatment and to recommend simply that clients need to be better matched with the appropriate style of counselling is either naive or ducking the issue. This exemplifies the problem of the monograph: it is apparently "scientific"—with references and sections on specific approaches—but it will not satisfy the knowledgeable or specialist reader because it is superficial. Nevertheless, it provides a readable introduction to various types of counselling if you should need it.

R.E.

### The Probation Officer as Prosecutor

Institute of Criminology,  
*Cambridge, 1978, £2.50*

Imagine, on your right, Tweedledum (180 lbs.) and, on your left, Tweedledee (150 lbs.). When Dee looks at Dum, he sees a burly, bluff fellow who would bang a prisoner on report, if nowhere more painful, as soon as look at him. When Dum looks at Dee, he sees a namby-pamby, chatting ineffectually with a rascal who is between 'jobs' and neglecting to tell the police where they can pick him up. So much for imagining: what is the real picture?

The probation officer does have teeth. If boyo doesn't do what he's

agreed he will, the officer can come down like a ton of bricks and boyo is back to court for 'breach', as well as for the original offence, and can end up inside. Do probation officers do this? Judging from Lawson's study of two years' work by Essex officers, some do; they tend to be the more senior and older ones. They don't do it often - only in about 4% of cases - but there are reasons for this. One is when boyo skips and the police don't catch up with him until he's clear or landed for other offences. Others apply, for example, to the probationer who is so harassed by other circumstances that it would make no sense to add a court appearance to his or her troubles.

What the study presents is a painstaking, if not very stimulating, attempt to explore the way Essex probation officers use their discretion in discharging their responsibilities to the court, to the offender and to society. The disadvantage of the study is that while we learn a bit about the probation officer's decision to bring breach proceedings, we learn very little about his or her decision not to do so. However, for anyone who is interested in discovering what probation officers' work is and how they set about it, it is good reading - short and to the point, rich in case-histories and not overloaded with jargon.

Waiting like a ripe plum to be plucked - when the season is right - is a parallel study of the way the prison officer uses his or her discretion. Until some enterprising Assistant Governor applies for a Cropwood Fellowship along these lines, we are going to know a good deal less about how Tweedledum goes about his business than we now know about Tweedledee.

MARK BEESON  
Leeds University

### Harvey the Hasty

GEORGE W. KEETON  
AND BARRY ROSE, 1978 £14.50

One of the niceties of doing the odd book review is the tradition that the reviewer retains the book. The review, when published and placed on the fly leaf, is often a good conversation piece with friends to whom you subsequently lend the book. The requirement is that one is objective, discerning and capable of generating some witty or pithy comment that encapsulates the book.

*Harvey the Hasty, a Medieval Chief Justice* is a study of an indefatigable servant of the Law, whose career spanned the reign of Edward II. He made an outstanding contribution to the development of Common Law. Professor Keeton, whose judicial pedigree clearly makes him an academic of considerable distinction, has written an accurate dossier of a judge in a rather blurred era. Alas, the subject appeal and myriad of cross-references makes this book, to all but the most avid researcher, the final and absolute cure for insomnia.

In the final analysis, I doubt if the loan of this book to even the

staunchest of friends would endear one. It has a very limited appeal but, to be fair, it is an interesting contribution to the overall picture.

M. S. NEWTON

Officer Gloucester

### Human Communication

MICHAEL BURGOON  
AND MICHAEL RUFFNER

Holt-Saunders, 1978, £7.75

This lengthy textbook is divided into three major sections dealing with the nature of human communication, the contexts in which communication occurs, and its functions including persuasion, the development of social relationships, and the management of conflict.

It would be impossible to condense this book successfully into a short review. Readers will be able to gain from it a knowledge of the fundamental importance of perception in the field of communication. They will also find much information about the barriers to communication and what can be done to remove them. Finally, they will find that the book has an excellent illustrated section on nonverbal communication.

Since information is the lifeblood of management, and management is a game of influence, this textbook is a must for managerial types. To help improve performance, the book includes instructional modules which, if completed, should provide valuable learning. If used in this way, it is conceivable that this textbook could become a major tool for the improvement of human communication skills.

J. W. SHARPE  
Chief Officer  
Prison Service College  
Wakefield

### Drugs: a Brief Factual Guide

Release 1978, 20p

Unfortunately this pamphlet is so outrageously slanted that any sensible reader would be liable to nominate it as 'joke book of the year'.

The format is excellent and the drugs mentioned are descriptively and technically correct, yet there is no mention of drug abuse or the possible dangers. The message of the pamphlet is indicated on page 9:

"If you take any of these drugs mentioned in this pamphlet it is best to do so in a place where you are most likely to feel at ease and with people you like".

**Rating:** achieves a high mark for irresponsibility and misrepresentation of fact. It is unrelated to penal practice and far too biased to be of any practical use, the only exception being that it may help to convince someone that his 'trip' through life is not so bad after all.

E. HAWKSWORTH  
Principle Officer  
Gloucester Prison

### Problems of Asians in Penal Institutions

ROSHAN HORABIN

Joint Publication by the Runnymede Trust and the Howard League for Penal Reform 1978, 75p

With the assistance of a Cropwood Fellowship from the Cambridge Institute of Criminology, and the co-operation of the Home Office, Mrs Horabin visited 21 convicted Asians in six penal institutions. In contrast with many other offenders, the Asians all appeared ashamed of their offences, coming as they do from a culture in which crime is still seen as an overwhelming disgrace, not only for the individual but for his family. The importance of the extended family to the Asian is also stressed.

Language and cultural problems vary immensely, relating to the degree of assimilation of the English way of life. It is unfortunate that Mrs Horabin concentrates on the feelings of Asians, ignoring much of the conflict of their domestic, dietary and hygiene needs with established prison routines. Relationships between inmates and staff were generally felt to be good, although in many cases conflict arose in the Asians' minds between their stereotype of the well-educated English Gentleman and the reality of their landing officer. Communication was seen as a problem, with prison staff being suspicious of conversations and letters in languages which they could not understand.

There are eleven suggestions and recommendations, some of which do not appear to have been derived from the research. The main ones are:

(i) *Problems of communication should be seen as a reason for, rather than against, early contact by the Probation Service.* I feel it is unrealistic to suggest that social enquiry reports should be prepared purely because an individual is an immigrant or has language problems. It may be, however, that legal aid should be extended to cover the provision of an interpreter to enable a case to be better prepared.

(ii) *Importance of establishing contacts with and help for families.* I would imagine that the extended family would be a source of support for the Asian inmate's immediate family. There may be scope for voluntary groups to contact families, both in this country and overseas, and to offer assistance.

(iii) *It is vital to reduce delays related to deportation.* My contact with the Immigration and Nationality Department has convinced me that delays relating to deportees held in custody are kept to a minimum, commensurate with present legislation and internal procedures. It is extremely rare for an inmate to be detained for many months, unless appeals are being made on his behalf, and I am sure Mrs Horabin is not suggesting that we dispense with such appeal rights. Delays can, as she points out, be due to slowness in the issue of travel documents by an Embassy or High Commission,

and it would help if such delays were minimised.

(iv) *Prison officers should be given more help in understanding and communicating with Asian prisoners.* Prison officers can already attend a course on ethnic minorities. This external course has limited value because it overlooks the more basic cultural and domestic needs of racial groups. It will not always be possible to cope with such needs, but I agree that staff should ideally be aware of them, and preliminary or in-service training may well be the answer.

Other recommendations include:

(i) provision of reading and recreational material for inmates. This is difficult, however, where only one or two inmates have such a need.

(ii) more contact with inmates by volunteers, embassies and students. Surprisingly, however, deportees at Pentonville are, on average, visited by relatives and friends more frequently than other unconvicted inmates; perhaps this problem is being overstated.

(iii) translation of routine questions in courts and prisons during reception interviews. These questions exist in all the major languages at Pentonville; the difficulty lies in translating the wide variety of possible answers.

In summary, *Problems of Asians in Penal Institutions* gives a broad picture of the difficulties faced by ethnic minorities in prisons and, indeed, of some difficulties faced by all inmates. I have no reason to believe that Asians are more deprived in prison than outside it, but their problems are different and could be better understood by staff. This is a report which should be read, albeit critically, by those dealing with minority groups within the penal process and, at 75p, should be within the budget of even the most hard-pressed members of our service.

IAN D. NIXEY  
Assistant Governor II  
Pentonville Prison

### Aggro—The Illusion of Violence

PETER MARSH  
Dent 1978, £5.95

The title has an attractiveness of its own which will appeal to individuals involved in the "people business" and also those fascinated, for a variety of reasons, with violence.

The author sets out methodically to describe the origin of 'aggro' and how it is an expression of aggravation rather than violence. He then takes the reader on an interesting journey through animal and tribal studies during which he challenges earlier works in these areas and has the courage to express his own views. He then switches his approach to look at man and his territories, the hunting factor, and the changing patterns of violence.

I found the book tedious at times. On completing the task, however, I was convinced of its

value. It challenges thought and, although I did not agree with several of the author's conclusions, I found his views and projections positive and realistic.

I think the approach to the subject and the book is aptly put by Desmond Morris in his foreword: "Try to forget all you have seen in the media in the topic of 'savage thugs'. Try to view the subject as if you are encountering it for the first time."

L. W. G. HEWITSON  
Deputy Governor  
Polmont Borstal

## Learning to Labour

PAUL WILLIS  
Saxon House 1978, £3.95

At first sight, it would seem pretty silly for anyone to hand out good money to a researcher for him to try to explain "how working class kids get working class jobs". As Alf Garnett might say "It's all they're fit for, you silly moo". It's doubtful whether Alf would be stopped if the silly moo said "Who says it's all they're fit for? They're as good as you or me, 'specially you'".

It is scarcely worth mentioning that most of those who make their way through detention centre, borstal and prison come from the working class, and the less advantaged of it at that. Of course, this is partly because the middle classes rule O.K. and are able to clobber those who do things which the m.c.'s don't approve of, like taking their cars away and burgling their houses. The m.c.'s don't like being victims and find it hard to understand that our society, along with most other industrial societies of the world, make victims of those who are born at the bottom of the heap - denying them the security, the credit-worthiness and the sense of purpose that make middle-class life so fulfilling. Since the prison service gets the protesters (though many of them don't know they're protesters and believe they are simply thieves), Paul Willis' account of the lives of kids on the way to becoming workers ought to appeal to readers of the Journal.

Chunks of the book are devoted either to transcriptions from tape-recordings made by the author or to his recollected versions of boys or their parents talking. These excerpts have a tremendous directness and value, showing the richness of the culture which kids at the bottom end of the school develop and which they then take to work. To understand this culture is to appreciate that these kids, as Willis insists on calling them, cannot be *disciplined* into righteousness, cannot be exhorted into morality, cannot be redeemed by two extra teachers and a boxing ring. As Willis puts it -

"The possibilities for ... principled pedagogic practice with disaffected working class youth are fraught with difficulties and must be carefully proposed. This study warns that disaffected working class kids respond not so much to the style of individual teachers and the content of education as to the

structure of the school and the dominant teaching paradigm in the context of their overall class cultural experience and location. These structures and the basic patterns of relationship in the teaching paradigm are much more difficult to change than teaching style or particular kinds of content. And yet the problem remains that individual teachers do have to continue with their awkward and demoralising class contacts with disaffected kids in schools as they are presently constituted, and seek to place this day to day contact in a longer perspective".

Willis does make practical suggestions which may inspire education staff. He also tackles the theoretical issues which are involved in using an intensive study of a dozen kids from the midlands to try to develop an analysis of what is happening in the consciousness of the disaffected working class. This, the second part of the book, calls for more than one reading. It is not clear whether Willis has merely managed to get out of the analysis precisely what he took into it. Are the boys self-evidently speaking for themselves or is Willis skillfully assembling what they may be taken as saying? Even though the book provides a sort of epilogue in which the boys tell the author what they think of him and his book, we are left in ambiguity. On the other hand, we have at least heard *something* of what the boys have to say and that, I'm sure, is progress. Anyone who takes to this book will also appreciate Willis' *Profane Culture* (Routledge and Keegan Paul, 1978).

MARK BEESON  
Leeds University

## Social Deviance: Perspectives and Prospects

CHARLES S. SUCHAR  
Holt/Saunders 1978, £5

Suchar's book provides a useful introduction to the work of various sociologists, from the early days of their discipline's emergence as a social science to the present day. His emphasis is upon the historical development of thought.

The book begins with an account of the early work of Durkheim, Lombroso and others - together with a reproduction of Lombroso's memorable comments on the solving of the problem of criminality. I cannot help but reflect here that in one hundred years' time the work of Zimbardo and Milgram (who does not merit inclusion) may appear just as quaint as Lombroso's exposition of the atavistic brigand.

Labelling, differential association and the "new criminality" all feature in their proper historical contexts though there is, perhaps, insufficient notice taken of parallel theories, particularly in the early days of the subject's growth.

My principal criticism of the book is that, at times, the language used appears excessively technical and one has to battle hard to follow fairly mundane arguments. This criticism must be balanced against the novel use of press cuttings, re-

search findings and comment that follow the chapters. These notes make a firm connection between a science which has often been criticised for its lack of relevance to practical social problems, and the arena of such problems.

I recall a 'Waddingtonism' from Staff College days that "sociology is what sociologists do". Here is a book that answers what it is that sociologists do and have done. Stick with it, if you can, and it is of quite some interest. As a reference work for the non-sociologist who needs to know what Cicourel, Matza, Becker and countless others had to say, it is a most useful guide.

PETER M. QUINN  
Assistant Governor  
Long Lartin Prison

## Hostage Taking

The literature dealing with hostage taking is sparse, particularly regarding hostage situations in prisons. The Prison Service Library has recently acquired an MA thesis from America by James Needham, entitled *Neutralisation of Prison Hostage Situations - A Model* (Sam Houston State University, 1976). Needham demonstrates that, while there are few absolute rules about such crises, there is a set of useful considerations which have emerged in the last decade. The "model" he describes is one of negotiation (i.e. anxiety reduction, developing rapport, and gathering information)

rather than immediate hard bargaining or military intervention. Needham shows how time plays a key role and how contingency planning pays off. The thesis is primarily a review of the literature and of field practices, including the results of a questionnaire completed by police and prison departments in America.

More compelling reading comes from a book not yet obtained by the Prison Service Library. *Hostage* (Behaviordelia, 1978, £4.95), is by two experienced consultants, Murray Mirron and Arnold Goldstein. Professor Miron concentrates on particular incidents in America, drawing important lessons from each case, and taking a short excursion into the semantics of "threat language", which he suggests provides further insight into terrorists' acts. Professor Goldstein, well known in the U.S. for police training, focuses on how intervention skills can be learned and negotiators selected. One of his chapters is a checklist of procedures for hostage negotiations which catalogues concisely many of the points made earlier by Miron and by Needham in his thesis.

Both volumes are useful. As Needham says: "All prisons should certainly anticipate the possibility of being faced with hostage situations some time in the future". "It is possible to plan for crisis situations, anticipate them, and take steps to prevent escalation".

R. E.



# Annual Supplement to PSJ Index

Prepared by Steve Kirby B.A., A.L.A., Librarian, H.M. Prison Service College. Earlier indexes will be found in the May 1976 and April 1978 issues.

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## ENQUIRY INTO THE STATE OF THE PRISON SERVICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Editorial Board invite readers to send comments on the state of the Prison Service. It is hoped to publish a selection of these as "Letters to the Editor" in the October 1979 edition. Because of the timetable for publishing material, we have to work some months in advance and comments - which should be on the content of the Inquiry only - must reach the editorial office by [REDACTED]

1st August 1979.



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