Child Killing in English Law. The essay on The Mental Element In Crimes at Common Law may perhaps most interest the medical and lay reader. Mr. Turner shows that as time passed the idea developed, probably under ecclesiastical influence, that the infliction of punishment for crime was necessary, and that liability to punishment should depend upon moral guilt. In course of time the moral test has been giving way to one which bases the liability of the defendant on his foresight of the consequences of his action. A brief consideration of abnormal mental conditions under the heads of insanity, infancy, and provocation is followed by discussions on manslaughter and murder. Of this section of the book Professor Winfield writes: "Here, Mr. Turner, Dr. Jackson and Mr. Seaborne Davies have illuminated regions of the law that have been somewhat obscured by doubts or inconsistent interpretations." The reviewer may add that the essays are presented so clearly that the lay reader can follow them with interest and understanding.

The fourth and last part of the book is made up of two articles on criminal science from the comparative point of view. Dr. Stallybrass compares The General Principles of Criminal Law in England with the Italian "Progetto Nuovo", and Dr. Radzinowicz discusses International Collaboration in Criminal Science. Here again one may quote from the Preface: "The value of scientific comparison of various systems of law is that, where the systems reveal a practical identity of particular rules, this may be the foundation of international unification of at least some parts of that branch of the law; and where, as frequently happens, there are points of difference or even of direct conflict, they may quite well be instructive as throwing light on the national characteristics of the particular States concerned."

It is to be understood that the essays are written primarily for the use of teachers and students of criminal law in English-speaking countries. But all those who are concerned with the administration of criminal justice, and who are in direct or indirect association with the problems concerning crime and criminals should have this valuable book at hand. They will often turn to it for instruction and will seldom fail in their quest.

W.N.E.

After Conduct of Discharged Offenders. By Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck. Foreword by Dr. Felix Frankfurter. Preface by Professor P. H. Winfield. MacMillan & Co. 1945. Pp. xvi, 114. Price 8s. 6d.

This book is published under the auspices of the Department of Criminal Science of the Faculty of Law in the University of Cambridge. Professor and Mrs. Glueck are well known in this country as well as in America for their painstaking investigations in Criminology and their forward outlook on problems connected with crime and criminals. The book, although small, is full of facts and information.

In the Foreword, Dr. Frankfurter states that the characteristic of law in a progressive society is an adjustment between continuity and change. Our criminal codes should not too rapidly accommodate themselves to the latest guidance of scientific enquiry.

In previous volumes the authors have considered the careers of criminals. They again stress the importance of follow up studies of offenders who have been released from prison which afford a means of assessing the value of criminal legislation, and in a chapter on Prediction of Criminal Behaviour suggest that the construction of

scientifically devised prediction tables in years to come may radically influence the administration of justice.

The authors find, as have other American observers, that, compared with the general population in U.S.A., the families of delinquents and criminals frequently contain a high incidence of native-born children of foreign-born parents. Mixed nativity families often have higher criminality rates than those in which there are native-born children of native parents, or foreign-born children of foreign-born parents. The importance of understanding child-and-parent education during the period of transition is stressed. They find inebriety, immorality and criminality of parents or near relatives frequent.

Two types of reformed ex-criminals are described. The one includes youths and men who, having reached a socially requisite state of physical, mental and emotional maturity, and a socially requisite state of personal integration, abandon their criminal ways. The other consists of men who abandon crime or engage in less aggressive forms of crime as a result of deterioration of the organism.

The eighth and final chapter discusses the differentiation between the guilt-finding element of criminal procedure and the sentence-and-treatment element. The reviewer has elsewhere suggested that as far as this country is concerned it might be well, except in cases of murder, to consider whether the trial judge, after the jury have convicted, might not award a sentence with a minimum and maximum limit, and that the date of the offender's release within those limits should be decided by some other authority on the results of observation and reports during the currency of the sentence.

The reader who is interested in follow-up studies of discharged offenders will find a great deal of information distributed throughout the book. It is written with the authors' usual clearness of expression and vigorous thought.

W.N.E.

Problem Families: An Experiment in Social Rehabilitation. Edited by Tom Stephens. Foreword by B. Seeborn Rowntree. Pacifist Service Units. Pp. 72. Price 2s. 6d.

This study of the problem of the socially subnormal family comes appropriately at a time when the State is about to introduce the most comprehensive health and social security measures yet known in this country. Will these measures automatically wipe out this "problem family" in our midst? The answer that it will not is implied in this Report, for as the writers say, the peculiar characteristic of these families is their inability "to make the best of their circumstances and to profit by the facilities and services which are available to them". For this group of people, then, improved social services are no guarantee of a raising in their standard of living, since they do not respond automatically. The problem is a moral as well as a material one. These are the families well known to every family case worker. It is a familiar picture—the squalor, the border-line mental deficiency, the apathy; and above all the absence of any standards of conduct, the absence even of discontent.

The book sets out in the first place to give an account of a small sample of such families situated in Liverpool, with a view to discovering whether they have any common characteristic, and whether it is possible to diagnose causes; and in the second place to record the experimental methods adopted by a team of people, the Pacifist Service Units, in attempting to see whether rehabilitation could be brought about by intensive case-work methods,