serious crime needs more planning. The author suggests that the increase in stealing may be due to changes in methods of sale since the population is persuaded that it must have certain articles and these are often displayed on open shop counters. Thefts from the latter are specially by girls from 14-16, the goods taken being clothes, cheap cosmetics, etc. A fruitful source of larceny seems to be lack of money to spend on sweets, cigarettes and cinemas compared with other members of the group. Offences are most often committed in idle times, i.e. half-holidays and Sundays, except that girls tend to steal from open counters when shops are specially busy on Saturday afternoons. In Liverpool fewer cases are placed on probation than in the rest of the country but more are dismissed under the Probation of Offenders' Act. Liverpool sends more children to approved schools and a large number are fined which, in the case of children, seems of very little use. The Justices seem to profit very little by experience as they are not able or do not trouble to follow the future histories of their cases. It is found that one-third of the cases are recidivists; 44 per cent. of the cases were Roman Catholics from Inner Liverpool. Poor physical health did not seem to be an important factor but the chances of delinquency were greater among backward children but not amongst actual mental defectives. Backward children were also likely to be recidivists. As a whole, clubs did not exert the influence for which they are often given credit, since much depends on the leadership of the clubs, the number of attendances by the boys, and especially whether the clubs admit delinquents. If they do not, then any claim to prevent delinquency must be dismissed. Unemployment is very important but the same cause may be responsible for both unemployment and delinquency. Amongst employed delinquents, most are engaged in blind alley occupations and change their jobs frequently. Nevertheless, employment was better in 1936 than in 1934, though the delinquency figures were worse. Groups or "gangs" influence the incidence, especially among younger delinquents, but the effect of being in a group is more important than that the group may have one delinquent leader. Poverty is very important and so is overcrowding, because under such conditions children are drifting on to the streets. Removal to housing estates eventually diminishes delinquency though where the removal has been very recent no improvement is noticed for some time. Large families seem to favour delinquency but they also favour poverty and overcrowding and other delinquents in the family seem to favour delinquency and especially recidivism.

Lack of discipline in the home is very important and will often stultify all the best efforts of the Probation Officer. Similarly "broken homes" exert a similar influence.

The conclusions and recommendations are summarized at the end of the book and appendices discuss very briefly adult offences, and delinquency during wartime. With regard to the latter, the following points are suggested:

1. More thought should be given to the extent to which parents may be made responsible for the misdeeds of their children.
2. Methods already proposed whereby delinquents would be deprived of some liberty in their leisure time should be re-examined.
3. Much could be done by collaboration between the police and the court on the one hand and the teaching profession on the other.
4. The possibilities of a curfew should be examined.

Penal Reform in England. Edited by: L. Radzinowicz, M.A., LL.D., and J. W. Cecil Turner, M.C., M.A., LL.B. P. S. King & Son, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.

The first chapter deals with statistics of crime. The most striking recent development is that, allowing for all changes in conditions there is an increase in the incidence of juvenile crime. The causes of this are held to be smaller families, leading to the spoiling of children, a general lack of discipline, a failure in religious teaching, the decay of the apprenticeship system, the shortcomings of our educational and industrial system in regard to the adolescent and unemployment.

Many reformed penal methods are stultified by their unintelligent use, the most striking example of which is probation which has been regarded by many magistrates as a sort of universal panacea with the results that probation officers have been overloaded, often with unsuitable cases.

The next chapter deals with the trend of criminal legislation from the Gladstone Committee to the Criminal Justice Bill of 1939. This is followed by an account of the various types of Court and their powers with special reference to the still imperfect schemes for free legal defence of the poor and the increasing tendency to dispense with juries in trials for criminal offences.

"Solicitor" describes some irregularities in police procedure and in the conduct of Courts which, he claims, are becoming more common.

The constitution and powers of the Juvenile

Courts are next described. It is pointed out that two rather contradictory principles are involved, namely, guardianship and the punishment of a person who is responsible for his crime. The attitude of different courts to their function is apt therefore to vary considerably.

No discussion of approved schools is included in this book but the Borstal system is described and its frequently excellent results explained. Its chief weakness is the difficulty in finding for the boys on discharge such work as will fulfil the training and hope founded on this training which they have gained while in the institution.

The present Prison system in this country is finally dealt with, special attention being drawn to the New Hall Camp near Wakefield, where selected prisoners are employed on farm work without restraining walls of coercive detention.

In this series of essays by experts a great deal of information is to be obtained both as to present English practice in dealing with criminals both young and old and as to possibilities of advance and reform in the future.

The Factors of the Mind. By Cyril Burt.
University of London Press, Ltd. 21s.

The book deals with the logical and metaphysical status of factors in psychology, the relations between different methods of factor analysis and the distribution of temperamental types. Subsidiary arguments, illustrative examples, and abundant footnotes are provided and printed in smaller type for the convenience of the reader. Statistical theory is not discussed but working methods for computers and an analysis of a matrix into its latent roots and vectors are given as appendices.

The book is concerned with methods rather than results. The author holds the view that many of the criticisms laid at the door of the "factorist" prove, when closely considered, to be criticisms, not of the mathematical method of analysis adopted, but rather of the logic, or lack of logic, the factorial arguments display, and unless we can fit factor-analysis into its true logical setting we shall utterly misconstrue its nature and be continuously led astray. "I hold it to be far more important," Dr. Burt writes, "that the student of a particular science should appreciate the logical method of his science than that he should memorise a mass of details about the facts and the latest fashionable theories."

The thesis is developed that the factors arrived at, from the statistical analysis of and

correlation between mental test measurements are not, in reality, psychological entities but result from the principles of classification and method of analysis employed by the investigator.

From the data discussed the conclusions are drawn that we use factors in psychology as we use rectangular co-ordinates in other sciences merely because such simplified descriptions enable us to organize our facts and help us to state our arguments more cogently. The value of such factors must consist in their utility for purposes of systematized description. Whether or not any factor actually extracted happens to have a psychological significance is a problem that must depend upon the proper and relevant selection of traits and persons.

There will undoubtedly be a general agreement with Dr. Burt's view that the current treatment of factors as causal abilities implies an antiquated attitude towards both scientific and metaphysical issues. On the other hand we cannot help feeling that his warning would have been more explicit had it been expressed more briefly. He illustrates the need for supplementing statistical analysis with case study but one wonders whether, after all, the writer has really escaped from the inevitable tendency of psychologists, to treat the creative qualities of mental activity as having properties capable of measurement with reference to rectangular co-ordinates and one feels that in the later sections of the book, the writer is still mastered by the machinery of the statistician.

After a highly technical discussion concerning the different methods of analysis Dr. Burt asks if temperamental characteristics are, like intellectual characteristics, distributed in accordance with the normal curve. He discusses evidence to show that there can be no such things as mutually exclusive temperamental types, and that resemblance to the idealized type is essentially a matter of degree. It therefore only becomes necessary to devise some practical means of measuring the degree. For statistical purposes it is proposed to measure approximation to type by the inverse hyperbolic tangent to the saturation coefficient, for by so doing the more typical introverts and extraverts appear in the main to be merely extreme cases taken from the opposite tail ends of a normal, or nearly normal, distribution.

The "self", the causal factor which gives a unique bias to every psychological event, slips unobserved between the meshes of statistical technique. Its influence is evident throughout the book although, as a factor of the mind, it remains outside the field of enquiry.

J.C.R.