given. The volume is unfortunately not well produced from this point of view, an important one surely, for quotations are too easily misused and need the author's context. It is further to be regretted that there is no index.

MICHAEL FORDHAM.

Prediction Methods in Relation to Borstal Training. By Hermann Mannheim & Leslie T. Wilkins. H.M. Stationery Office. 17s. 6d.

The Psychology of the Criminal Act and Punishment. By Gregory Zilboorg. The Hogarth Press. 10s. 6d.

Except for the excellence of their material and their focus on criminal behaviour there is little common ground between these two books. The former describes an original research into the prediction of success and failure among Borstal boys, carried out jointly by a criminologist and a statistician of distinction in their respective fields. The latter consists of a series of lectures given under the Isaac Ray Award to the American Psychiatric Association by an eminent psycho-analyst.

One of the great merits of the Prediction study is the authors' success in catering for the needs of the layman as well as of the expert, an aim which it is always difficult to fulfill. Theoretically the book is of particular importance on account of the new statistical model which the authors have applied to the treatment of the criminal. The first chapter contains a straightforward and clear account of earlier prediction studies in America and Europe, while chapter three raises (and answers) a series of questions as to the general status and value of prediction techniques.

The research was undertaken at the request of the Prison Commissioners. The object was to discover how adequately we can predict success and failure among Borstal boys committed for training in two different types of institutions, open and closed. A sample of 700 was drawn, of boys admitted during the years 1946-47. The records used were those normally required for administrative purposes, with all the disadvantages that this method entails. No special research interviews were given.

It is possible to denigrate the research if we are looking for new and startling conclusions as to the effect of Borstal training. It is, however, clear from the research that (i) open Borstals had a higher success rate than closed Borstals, even after taking account of the superiority of their inmates; (ii) the allocation system proved to be an effective one; (iii) long periods of detention appear to produce no better results than periods of about one year; and (iv) in writing their reports the Governors and Housemasters were unduly influenced by records of bad behaviour within the institution.

But the real contribution made to criminology by this work is in terms of methodology, as the authors rightly argue. Among the new features should be mentioned (a) the avoidance of overlapping of the factors used in predicting success and failure, (b) the reduction of the large unpredictable group in the middle characteristic of earlier studies, (c) the avoidance of long periods of follow-up—50% of the failures occurred in the first year of discharge—and the possibility of testing the stage at which the follow-up period can be regarded as adequate, and (d) the possibility of keeping the experience tables continually up-to-date. A methodological observation which also requires emphasis is the conclusion that factors useful in discriminating between delinquents and non-delinquents, as for example broken homes, do not necessarily enable us to discriminate between one class of delinquent and another.

A short review is an inappropriate place to discuss the most contentious issue in this book, namely the argument that "in criminology research with emphasis on decisions rather than on finding out things (particularly 'causes') is certainly likely to take us much further much faster." The extension of prediction techniques to other forms of treatment is certainly a serious need. But it is not necessarily an alternative to the study of causation which must continue *pari passu* with statistical investigation. On this issue the battle will long continue, but with advantages, we believe, to both parties.

Dr. Zilboorg's lectures concentrate on the relationship between law and psychiatry. His theoretical position is that of psychoanalysis and few psychiatrists are so well qualified to deliver them. The language is clear and the argument is well illustrated through the skilful use of case material drawn from American sources. The value of the lectures lies in the understanding which they provide into the two professions of law and psychiatry and the differences between them. Dr. Zilboorg does not give us—nor does he claim to do so—any concrete suggestions as to how the gap may be narrowed. His remarks are, however, an essential prolegomenon to any such process.

He commences with a discussion of the McNaghten Rules as examples of our present medico-legal confusion. This is followed by two lectures on the weaknesses of the deterrent theory of punishment and on the difference between the professions of law and medicine, both as regards training and background.

This brings us to what is clearly the central theme of these lectures, as for any psycho-analytic approach to crime, namely the concept of unconscious aggression and its significance not merely for our understanding of the criminal but also of the public and the court of law. Agencies of justice may thus be seen as agencies

of counter-aggression against the criminal. Without this understanding there can be no possibility of a rational penal code.

Dr. Zilboorg's critics may feel inclined to criticise the lack of specific recommendations for law reform. In his concluding lecture, however, where he discusses the difficulties confronting the psychiatrist in the criminal court faced with the obligation of giving evidence in legal and moral categories, he rejects the principle of psychiatric expert witnesses both for prosecution and defence. This indeed would be a useful beginning and a test of our desire for reform. His lectures deserve a wide public.

JOHN SPENCER.

Challenge to Heritage. By Ruth Anderson Oakley. London: St. Catherine Press Ltd. Pp. 124. 6/-.

There is no doubt that this book is written with the highest ideals: and it is accompanied by an introductory note by a bishop, an appreciation by a Metropolitan Magistrate a commentary by a doctor and a foreword by an industrialist.

It is lucid and challenging, and sets out to inspire mothers with the glory of their calling ("the proper environment for children is where father is second-in-command to mother"). The trouble is, will the mothers who are not already converted to these ideas read it, and if they do, will they be helped?

It is very disturbing to find running through the book a thread of emotional exaggeration:—most babies have to endure two years' "torture" of looking up into the sky; they should be protected by netting from marauding birds; they are vulnerable to every arrow and can't resist "the poisoned barb of some unhappy experience "a smack is an irreparable wound." All this—with statements such as "alcoholism can be inherited" and "alcohol eats into the walls of the artery which is nature's way to expel a foreign element"—makes one fear the effect on an imaginative mother.

R. F. TREDGOLD

The Cost of The National Health Service in England and Wales. By Brian Abel-Smith and R. M. Titmuss. Cambridge University Press. 27s. 6d.

This is an extremely valuable study undertaken for the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. It is essential reading for all administrators of our Health Service—and of any others planned elsewhere. For amongst other things it suggests that the figures given in the parliamentary estimates are extremely misleading as to the real cost to the nation.

But our readers may be more interested in the implications which this Survey has for planning future hospitals. We have mostly come to think in terms of an increasing number of old people