

There are sixteen of these, and they are as diverse as "The Creative Child", "The Inattentive Child", "The Poor Reader", "The Aggressive Child", "Children with Difficulties in Musical Growth", and "The Juvenile Delinquent". Most of these labels which serve as chapter headings, are mainly non-technical terms, and the writer of each chapter aims at discussing the problem referred to in the terminology of his own specialism; each also gives ample bibliography.

The result cannot be said to be successful. "The Creative Child", for example, is said to be difficult because, amongst other things, he is "different" and because "he is always asking questions", but the reader is offered reassurance by the statement that Edison and Einstein were also difficult as children.

What is lacking is a theoretical framework to provide a clearer understanding, which could lead to effective action. Such advice as is given is usually disconnected.

There is one gem of a quotation, however, which as far as this reviewer is concerned will not go unreported. This is in the chapter on the child with language problems by Norman R. Willey, who quotes Johnson: "a difference, to be a difference has to make a difference".

What is wrong with this book is that it does not make *enough* difference.

J. H. Kahn

DRUGS IN OUR SOCIETY

Based on a Conference sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University.

Edited by Paul Talalay and Jane H. Murnaghan. (Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 48s.)

In November, 1963, a small private symposium met at Johns Hopkins University to explore what were the major problems in making safe and effective drugs available to our society. Naturally, pharmacologists, practising clinicians and research workers from both the academic and industrial fields were present. In addition, the group included economists, the president of a drug company, lawyers and an English social scientist (Professor Richard Titmuss). In the course of their deliberations they surveyed the scientific, clinical, social, economic and legal problems involved in the use of drugs. At times, and particularly when the cost of research and the price of drugs were considered, some strikingly different views were expressed.

The value of bringing together members of different disciplines is open to question. Each may speak to his brief and a real "dialogue" never arise. At worst, the symposium is then a collection of authoritative opinions on different subjects. At best, however, it can provide a stimulating contrast in points of view, and a valuable exchange of opinions. The present book achieves the best ends of symposia, and offers a splendid series of articles and summaries of discussions. Amongst the articles, special mention might be made of Gaddum's survey, in which he points out how he advocated the consistent use of controlled trials in 1940, and in which he also shows how misleading animal experiments may be. Throughout the book, ethical and social problems are repeatedly considered, and particular attention is given to them by Edward Cahn, a lawyer. A good deal of attention is also paid to legislation in the U.S., and these chapters are not without interest here. The final summary of views could have been extended with advantage, but nevertheless this is a very valuable volume.

H. Merskey

UNDER LOCK AND KEY—A STUDY OF WOMEN IN PRISON

By Xenia Field. (Max Parrish, 30s.)

Mrs. Field has set herself a difficult task in attempting to describe, in a comparatively short book, the various penal institutions for women in England, their administration, staffing, and, hardest of all, their inmates, whose personalities and offences are also discussed. Her object in writing it is to plead that women, or all but a small minority, should be kept out of prison at all costs—and "to emphasise the pitiful drabness and social inadequacy, rather than the criminality, of the vast majority". She points out that few women commit crimes of violence, and they are, therefore,

not a danger to society. It is consequently ridiculous, she argues (and who would deny it?) to lock them up in a maximum security prison such as Holloway.

As an alternative to prison, Mrs. Field advocates a system of parole, combined with the use of prediction tables, the "Parole Officer" being, most probably, a probation officer. Few people would quarrel with Mrs. Field's argument that as many women as possible should be kept out of prison.

It is a pity that parts of this book give the impression of having been written rather hurriedly, and that some of its statements appear to a social worker to be contradictory and confused. For instance, in the chapter on Borstal she says,

"There are those girls who genuinely feel that it is unfair to have been placed in jail, and that there was no real harm in their disgraceful behaviour. However, whatever the upbringing, most young offenders know the difference between right and wrong."

"Unattractive as they must sound, with their sullen looks, the bolder members with their arms inscribed with the name of their boy-friend . . . they are young and immature. Once they can trust somebody—once it can be explained to them exactly why they have failed—they often improve their ways."

However, in all fairness, it must be admitted that it is no easy task to try to describe the complex personalities and behaviour of the small minority of girls who find themselves in Borstal.

As a probation officer and former prison welfare officer, I cannot help feeling that is over-optimistic to say that by "intensive probation"—"the women's prison population could easily be halved". Mrs. Field says herself that "the woman prisoner's troubles are deep-seated, she is more withdrawn and capable of greater powers of deception than the male prisoner".

These, indeed, are some of the reasons why she is a difficult person to help, and why there is no "easy" solution to her problems. Many women prisoners have already been on probation and many have no homes to return to, but drift from one furnished room to another and from one partner to another. Their situation is, indeed, tragic, the more so in that they are incapable of making meaningful relationships with other people—to many, indeed, prison is a refuge.

This book tackles a baffling and complex problem with warmth and sensitivity. The general reader may well find it enlightening, even if the professional social worker may query some of its propositions.

M. O. May

THIRTY-THREE TROUBLESOME CHILDREN

By D. H. Stott. (*National Children's Home, London, 10s. 6d.*)

In his National Children's Home Convocation lecture for 1964, Dr. Stott provides a clear statement of his views on the classification and causes of maladjustment. This is in the context of his study of a group of children attending a secondary school in a high delinquency area, and presenting delinquent-type problems. Very striking in this group were the high frequency of adverse circumstances and stresses in the family, and the high proportion of the children who showed "somatic-neutral" impairment, leading to the development of vulnerable personalities.

The findings are interesting, but do not provide proof of Dr. Stott's hypotheses. This does not diminish the importance of his thoughtful and constructive views on possible approaches to the treatment and prevention of delinquency, which include: an adequate school welfare service, systematic diagnostic investigation of children brought before the Courts, special day and residential educational facilities, voluntary approved schools", residential industrial training, development of leisure activities, and more research. Most important of all is Dr. Stott's emphasis on the great need for systematic examination of the effects of preventive and treatment measures.

M. L. Rutter