

Book Reviews

James, Howard. *Children in Trouble: A National Scandal*

Boston: The Christian Science Publishing Society. 1969, 124 p.

The national scandal concerning children in our society was first brought to the attention of the public by Howard James' articles in the *Christian Science Monitor*. It was an attempt by the author, after visiting a large number of institutions in America to alert citizens to the plight of America's children in trouble. The study was carried on over a period of one year.

The author is brutally frank and cites case histories that show the many roads a youngster travels toward delinquency. Even conscientious juvenile authorities admit they often fail to meet the special needs of their charges. The author goes on to relate that for those who are less conscientious, neglect and even brutality are the guidelines. "Bulldoze them to the ground." That's the advice many correctional authorities offer.

Institutions for the juveniles, for the most part, merely provide storage and degrade and brutalize the individual. James maintains that juvenile court judges must often act as substitute parents. These judges are frequently no better equipped to help than were the delinquent parents. He also speculates upon what the community would do if a mother locked her daughter in a closet for weeks, or a father forced his son to skip school, or parents forced disturbed or retarded children to associate with hoodlums seven days a week, or a mother made it possible for her daughter to be placed in an environment that encourages homosexuality, or a father who turned his son over to people who punctured his boy's eardrums or who beat him with a leather flogging paddle until he became black and blue. Such parents would undoubtedly be condemned by the community. Yet, the author states, too often that is what thousands of judges, serving under the law as substitute parents, do every time they dump children behind bars. Some of these children, the author points out, have never even committed a crime. On through 15 short but punchy chapters the author takes us through studies which indicate more than half of the youngsters in reform schools could better be helped at home under probation and that too often reform schools merely offer advanced degrees in criminality.

How are delinquents made? Who makes them? Schools don't have to make delinquents. The author maintains that your community can do something about it, and he relates what some communities are doing. He ends his small book with a chapter entitled, "You Can Help Children in Trouble," and lists 170 specific steps you can take to end this appalling waste of young lives.

Manford A. Sonstegard

Helson, Harry and William Bevan. Contemporary Approaches to Psychology
Princeton, New Jersey: D. Van Nostrand, Co. Inc., 1967, pp 475-479.

Under a chapter entitled "Personality Theory," Julian B. Rotter writes briefly of Alfred Adler's contribution to personality theory. He first indicates the reason Adler objected to Freud's system of psychology. He proceeds to explain the primary concepts of Adlerian Psychology. This is followed by an analysis of Adlerian Psychology under three topic headings: Systematic Nature of the Theory, Operational Nature of the Theory, and Content vs. Process. He cites an interesting study testing one of Adler's hypotheses relating to protection and sibling position. The findings of the study successfully supported Adler's observation. The account, even though brief, is well worth reading for the manner in which some of the concepts of Adlerian Psychology are stated and for the findings of the study.

Manford A. Sonstegard