Louisiana Law Review

Volume 13 | Number 2 The Work of the Louisiana Supreme Court for the 1951-1952 Term January 1953

CRIME AND CORRECTION: SELECTED PAPERS, by Sheldon Glueck. Addison-Wesley Press, Inc., Cambridge, 1952. Pp. 273.

Samuel W. Widdifield

Repository Citation

Samuel W. Widdifield, CRIME AND CORRECTION: SELECTED PAPERS, by Sheldon Glueck. Addison-Wesley Press, Inc., Cambridge, 1952. Pp. 273., 13 La. L. Rev. (1953)

 $A vailable\ at: https://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/lalrev/vol13/iss2/30$

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Reviews and Journals at LSU Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Louisiana Law Review by an authorized editor of LSU Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact kayla.reed@law.lsu.edu.

Unless we intend to wait until the knife of federal intervention is needed, adequate, nation-wide legal aid is a necessity. It can be furnished on a community basis at a cost low enough to be included in most Community Chest budgets. But it must be furnished if we are to keep what Judge Learned Hand has called one commandment of democracy, "Thou shalt not ration justice." If lawyers are not to blind themselves to the needs of the present and the future, they should read "Legal Aid in the United States."

Alvin B. Rubin*

CRIME AND CORRECTION: SELECTED PAPERS, by Sheldon Glueck. Addison-Wesley Press, Inc., Cambridge, 1952. Pp. 273.

Professor Glueck is without question one of the foremost of the present day criminologists. The assemblage, therefore, in this small volume of some of his papers and addresses is extremely welcome. The book makes conveniently accessible the results of study and reflection that would otherwise be lost to all but the researcher.

The material is organized into six parts: Part I, Causes and Conditions of Crime; Part II, Administration of Criminal Justice; Part III, Psychiatry and Criminology; Part IV, Peno-Correctional Treatment; Part V, Crime Prevention; Part VI, War Crimes. A broad survey of the field and of the social and legal problems involved is presented.

Of the eleven articles that comprise the collection, it may be noted that at least seven were written in 1935 or earlier. The articles, however, are still timely. This may be a discouraging fact to those interested in progress in the field. Some progress has been made in the treatment of offenders such as the development of correctional programs, juvenile offender treatment, prison reform, probation, and the growth of psychiatric and social services. By and large, however, the present penal laws are based on the outmoded theories of punishment and expiation. Progress is therefore made extremely difficult because of the necessity of having to graft any changes and improvements, based on new theories, on to the outmoded and obsolete existing penal law structures.

In a brief review particular articles cannot be reviewed at length. "Crime Causation," in Part I, is noteworthy in that it points up the complexity of the problem in showing that there

^{*} Member, Baton Rouge Bar; Assistant Professor of Law, part-time, Louisiana State University.

is no one beautifully simple underlying cause. In Part II, the article "Principles of a Rational Penal Code" is outstanding. It contains the essence of the problem of treatment of offenders. The article not only influenced the development of the idea of the Youth Correction Authority, but also, at the present time, lends strong support to the undertaking, by the American Law Institute, to draft a Model Penal Code. Such a code may be a realization of the hope, as stated in "The Future of American Penology," in Part IV, that we are entering upon a new era in penology. Such a code may also stimulate the various states into re-examining and appraising the structures of their present penal laws and systems in the light of modern theories.

"Psychiatry and the Criminal Law," in Part III, concerns itself with the questions of the use of psychiatry in criminology, with the problem of how the existing substantive law and procedure could be brought into line with psychiatric views, and with the evolution of criminal procedure relating to treatment of all offenders. It is basic and pertinent.

"Crime Prevention," in Part V, illustrates the interrelation of all the facets of the problem of crime and correction. It explains some of the causes of crime and offers practical suggestions for prevention by both the local community and the nation as a whole.

The "Nuernberg Trial and Aggressive War" in Part VI is sui generis. The first five parts of the book are devoted to the problem of the cause of crime and the treatment of the offender in our culture. The leap to the international criminal makes the article in this collection somewhat anomalous. However, because of the arguments raised as to the merits of such a trial and in light of what is now known of the fate of those indicted, the article is informative and fascinating reading.

The student of criminology should find this book a welcome addition to his shelf. In a comparatively few pages it gives a reader an insight into the basic problems and offers practical, realistic suggestions for beneficial action and future changes. Not only the student, but anyone interested in this most serious and complex of community problems would find it profitable reading.

Samuel W. Widdifield*

^{*} B.S. 1946, LL.B. 1948, Boston University; LL.M. 1950, Harvard Law School; J.S.D. 1952, Yale Law School. Member, Massachusetts and New York Bars. Employed in the Office of the General Counsel, Maritime Administration.