

Book Reviews

THE PREVENTION OF CRIME. By Stuart Palmer. New York: Behavioral Publications. Pp. 277. 1973. Price \$9.95.

One tends to have large expectations of a book written by a known authority in the field, and it is possibly for this reason that I felt somewhat let down when I read Stuart Palmer's book, *The Prevention of Crime*.

The scope of the subject is certainly challenging, and no doubt it is difficult to bring new knowledge to a subject of which the history is largely a history of failure. The book sets out to describe the whole field of crime and its prevention, and with this aim in view is divided into two parts. Part I deals with the problem and describes specific as well as generic crime and some tentative theories and explanations—a lot of ground to cover in a few pages. Part II deals with the different ways and means of prevention, including theories, laws and programmes.

To deal with categories of offences and special problems there are twenty-one chapters, with references for each chapter at the end of the book. To take one example, Chapter 6 deals with Victimless Crime and Mass Disorder. This is quite a complex topic, and one can judge the degree of condensation to which the author has had to resort if one considers that the chapter is restricted to less than eight pages, plus references. The references for this chapter are well-known ones, such as special books, reports and studies, including some of the author's, so that many researchers and teachers in the field will already be familiar with them.

Chapter 6 can be taken as fairly representative of most of the book, and the problems are well summarized and set forth. This quality should attract many readers who want to have a general view of the problem of crime prevention. The book will be a useful one to students who are in the process of orienting themselves in the field of criminology, as well as to citizens interested in having information on this general topic. This is to say that the author has probably achieved his aim; he says in the Preface: "Sociologists and psychologists who specialize in the analysis of crime and delinquency should find the book of interest and, presumably, of value. But this book is largely directed to those who work actively from day to day with the crime problem and to citizens in all walks of life who desire to take part in preventing crime and delinquency."

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THE EMERGENCE OF DEVIANT MINORITIES. Robert W. Winslow, Ed. New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Books. Pp. 378. 1972. Price \$9.75. Also San Ramon, California: Consensus Publishers, Inc. 1972 (paper).

The temptation is great to use the standard cliché, "No forensic psychiatrist should be without this book." In fact, the contents and purposes of this very handy compendium ought to be at the fingertips of all psychiatrists, even those who decry that such a thing as the practice of forensic psychiatry exists. The volume is subtitled lengthily—*Selections from Commissions on Crime, Campus Unrest, Causes and Prevention of Violence, Marijuana, Homosexuality and Prostitution, and Obscenity and Pornography*. In short, as the man says, everything that makes life worthwhile.

Is there a psychiatrist so isolated in his ivory tower today that he is not bombarded by the constant message of change in the way his or her patients see themselves because of activist movements? Even if the psychiatrist is not a member of APA, it would be hard for him or her to avoid recognizing how the voice of American psychiatry has been heard to change its points of view about many, many things over the past ten