

Book Reviews

A SOCIOLOGY OF CRIME. S Hester and P Eglin. London: Routledge, 1992. 303 pp. \$74.50.

Reviewed by Alfred E. Fireman, M.D.

The premise of this book is precise: "crime is socially constituted through the processes of (1) law creation, (2) law enforcement, and (3) administration of justice."

Each chapter consists of an explication of some relevant portion of the theoretical perspective assigned to it with exemplary case studies and can be read by a student separately if his interest falls specifically to that section. For example, as a correctional psychiatrist, I found Chapter 11, Crime and Punishment, particularly interesting. The authors began by noting that it was not until the end of the 18th century that the following events occurred:

1. An increased interest by the state in deviancy and crime control;
2. the differentiation of the deviants;
3. segregation of deviants into asylums; and
4. the object of punishment, i.e., the mind, rather than the body.

The authors then proceeded to elaborate how changes in the modes of production created new class interests and therefore changes in the form and ideologies of punishment to support those interests.

They point out that too much inquiry

into crime appears to presume that the fundamental questions are what causes crime and what can be done to cure it. For them, however, those questions reflect a view that is itself in need of sociological investigation.

To these authors, acts are not criminal in themselves, their criminality is a property or meaning conferred upon them. From a symbolic interactionist point of view, they instruct that crime is a matter of social definition.

They elaborate by explaining how different forms of behavior come to be defined as deviant by various groups or organizations in the society. Therefore, the study of crime involves an understanding of (a) making crime by making law, (b) making crime through law enforcement, (c) making crime through the administration of justice (the courts).

The book is full of intriguing pearls of sociological insight that the average reader of the psychiatric literature is unlikely to come upon otherwise, e.g., they state "by sentencing individual offenders, the prison permits the individualization of crime and strengthens the individualists' ideology so central to capitalism." That is, criminals are failures as conceptualized in a capitalist society. From the authors' perspective this serves as a distraction insofar as the massive incarceration of largely petty offenders from underprivileged and minority groups, diverts attention away from the criminality of the rule-makers and the crimes of the powerful and distracts attention from acts that are much more

harmful to the population at large but that are not criminalized!

In discussing drinking and driving, the authors make the interesting point that there are no automatic effects of any drug, i.e., instead what people experience when they take a drug and how they comport themselves under the drug's influence, depends on what they know about it, what they expect of it, and what the culture permits in the way of behavior. The authors go on to show how alcohol and its presumed inherent effects are used as a way of accounting for traffic accidents. Frequently accidents are blamed on the fact that the parties to the accident had been drinking. The police routinely search for signs of drinking when they investigate the accidents. Such a practice not only presumes that alcohol itself is responsible for the accident, it also diverts attention from other possible and plausible ways of accounting for the accident and any injuries and fatalities that may have occurred.

The book is replete with germane quotes of giants in the field of the sociology of crime and well-placed commentary and criticism by the authors of their historical place and value.

Though this reviewer cannot do justice to the many complex formulations that exist in each chapter, such as Chapter 1, Sociology and Crime; Chapter 6, The Ethnomethodology of Policing; Chapter 8, Discipline, Domination, and Criminal Justice; and Chapter 12, The Functions of Crime Control, I can assure the reader that they make their points with a substantial body of supportive

data and come up with some extremely impressive conclusions. For example, in talking about the criminalization of opium, they state "in essence the criminalization of opiate use amounted to the creation of a social problem by the State" as a response, for example, to the July 1907 Asiatic Exclusion League by members of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, thus circuitously pinning the responsibility for social problems on foreign agitators through the use of those laws.

Although the book is only 271 pages, its compact style and thorough scholarship makes it a treasure of knowledge and insight on the sociology of crime and it is highly recommended by this reviewer to readers of our journal.

WORKING WITH ADULT INCEST SURVIVORS/THE HEALING JOURNEY. S Kirschner, DA Kirschner, and RL Rappaport. New York: Brunner/Mazel, 1993. 232 pp. \$28.95.

Reviewed by Malcolm D. Roberts,
M.D.

During the past 10 years public and professional knowledge of sexual abuse and incest has expanded almost exponentially. Recent psychiatric outpatient surveys have documented between 25 percent and 50 percent of this population were victims of this trauma as children. Increasing attention and research of the aftereffects of abuse has been primarily centered on treating the survivor alone. In their short but important clin-

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ical book, Kirschner, Kirschner, and Rappaport present a comprehensive model for treating not only the survivor while including also their spouse/partner and the family-of-origin.

The book begins with a brief foreword by Christine Courtois, whose landmark work *Healing the Incest Wound* is cited often in the early chapters of the book. In the first five chapters the authors cover the identification and assessment of the incest survivor, giving the reader important commonalities and clinical vignettes to aid in the process. The outline provided of the Incest Survivor Syndrome and the background dynamics of survivor relationship choices and their family-of-origins lay a foundation on which the next several chapters build.

The heart of the author's work and model covers four chapters. The outline of the model is presented clearly and is easily followed. The theory begins with the essential individual disclosure of the incest trauma from the victim, and quickly expands the scope of the victim-in-a-vacuum treatment so often mistakenly followed. The importance of bringing in the survivor's spouse/partner and children may seem intuitively obvious, but the structure and dynamics involved in the middle phase of therapy are not. The authors provide a wealth of clinical examples to familiarize their audience with the techniques (primarily cognitive-behavioral and directive) needed for therapy at this point with the patients. A chapter is devoted to working with the family-of-origin. This delicate and volatile topic is briefly discussed, with the readers referred to the Kirschner's earlier

work (*Comprehensive Family Therapy*, Brunner/Mazel, 1986) for more background. The endphase of the therapy is also discussed, broaching the issues of couples' sexuality and post-termination recovery issues. Finally, the authors devote a separate chapter to the male incest survivor, correctly pointing out the dearth of clinical research and understanding of this population of survivors.

The strength of the text comes in the inclusion of those involved with the victims, as well as their family-of-origin. Perhaps too little attention is paid to issues of the therapist's countertransference during the different phases of working with survivor's and their families. Also, the authors could have given more emphasis to issues of termination rather than expanding their discussion of couples' post-termination sexuality.

The fundamental contribution of this text is an important step in the clinical treatment of incest survivors. The forensic patient population is overrepresented with incest survivors. This book is excellent reading for those practitioners involved in psychotherapy with survivors, and is a clearly written though specialized work for the library of the forensic psychiatrist.

LIFE SENTENCES: RAGE AND SURVIVAL BEHIND BARS. W Rideau and R Wikberg. New York: Times Books, 1992. 342 pp. \$15.00 (paper).

Reviewed by Kenneth J. Weiss, M.D.

This is a collection of pieces—many prize-winning—from the publication

The Angolite at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. The articles are mostly about and by lifers and others ignored by the system and the world. Behind the well-written and remarkably even-handed prose lies extremes of emotion: rage, despair, impotence, brutality, hope, and hopelessness. The fate of these men, in anecdote and interview, would be important reading for judges and parole officials as well as psychiatrists and students of human adaptation.

Life Sentences is a marvelous testament to free speech, but not just an exercise in ventilation of feelings; *The Angolite* has contributed to real reforms in Louisiana and given freedom back to those whose keys had been thrown away. The reprinted articles, written mostly by the editors, are skillfully crafted pieces of journalism, combining history, case studies, interviews, and editorials. I was especially impressed by the ability of the authors to maintain enough distance from the material for credibility. But I also found myself wishing for more gut-spilling and subjectively rageful writing, à la *Soul on Ice*. To their credit, however, the authors refrained from a racist interpretation of the criminal-justice system in Louisiana.

The reader will find many of the pieces studies in adaptation. The inmates of Angola are faced with competing survival pressures: the need to interface with the outside for the appeal process, the accumulation of "goodtime" with which to impress the parole board, and the skills to survive the social hierarchy of prison life. Coping styles include jailhouse lawyering, entertaining

the staff (the case of "Leadbelly"), escape, suicide, submissiveness, and hypermasculine domination of other prisoners. Whereas several of the case histories are sympathetic, and even heartwarming, particularly horrifying are the stories of the executioners (the electric chair was retired in 1991) and the "sexual jungle." We often hear about sex in prison, but here we come to understand that it does not always represent homosexuality *per se* but a social structure of masters and slaves and role delineation of astounding depth.

Although I work part-time in a county jail, hearing inmates' stories of maladaptation, *Life Sentences* opened my eyes wider. Any of us who ask, "How would I survive in prison?" will have a soul-searching workout with this book. The authors: Mr. Wikberg was paroled; Mr. Rideau, editor of *The Angolite*, remains imprisoned.

VIOLENT ATTACHMENTS. JR

Meloy. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1992. 365 pp. \$42.50.

Reviewed by Harold J. Bursztajn, M.D.

It is rare that one has the opportunity to review a work that is sure to be a classic. I feel privileged to have such an opportunity here. Dr. Meloy's *Violent Attachments* is sure to become a classic in forensic literature. Building on a foundation of psychoanalytic understanding and the subsequent literature on attach-

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ment, Dr. Meloy offers a deeper level of understanding of violence in intimate relationships than has heretofore been available.

Part I of the book is devoted to a review of the clinical theory and research on attachment, object relations, and violence. This part will serve as a useful introduction to new developments in psychoanalysis. It also serves as a foundation for understanding relationships at risk for violence or performing a psychological autopsy on relationships that have ended in violence. Its clarity, freedom from dogma, and scope make it more than a simple synthesis, but raise this review to the level of an original contribution. While considering new developments in the biology of the mind, Dr. Meloy avoids reductionism. At the same time, while never losing sight of the intrapsychic dimension, he avoids solipsism by keeping a clear focus on the context of the "lived world": the world of relationships.

In the first of five the chapters that constitute Part I, Dr. Meloy moves easily from the results of animal and infant research on normative attachment patterns to psychopathological attachments and consequent violence. On page 18, he summarizes the premises that form the cornerstone of his book: "attachment is a biopsychosocial behavioral system, early disruptions of attachment manifest as characterological traits in adulthood, such traits may predispose an individual to violence, and the intrapsychic aspects of these violent attachments are organized at a borderline or psychotic level of personality."

Chapter 2, "Violence and Erotomania," reviews narcissistic, hysterical, paranoid, and psychopathic traits often present in those who wish "to injure or kill their once loved and now hated object of affection."

Chapter 3, "Catathymic Homicide," reviews the acute and chronic forms of affect-driven violence. In doing so, Dr. Meloy performs a service by calling attention to the impact of affect in violence. Although this may seem obvious, it has remained an all but neglected area of inquiry.

Chapter 4, "The Psychopath as Love Object," is perhaps of greatest interest, as Dr. Meloy turns his attention to those who love the psychopath. Here, he brings to bear the psychoanalytical model of Heinrich Racker, who delineated two types of identification in his understanding of countertransference in the analytic situation. The first type of identification is the *concordant* variety, where the analyst is identified with the patient. In *complementary* identifications the analyst on the other hand is identified with the patient's objects. This model, familiar to most practicing psychoanalysts, is put to good use in exploring the variety of identifications with the psychopath, including the masochistic, hysterical, sadistic, and psychopathic. Where the first two can be considered complementary concordant identifications, the later two are considered identifications with the psychopath. Such a model is useful when understanding violence in ongoing relationships and answering such questions as "Why doesn't she just leave him?"

Part II, "Clinical Diagnosis and Treatment," consists of four chapters. Chapter 6, "Erotomania and Other Non-delusional Attachments," describes six chilling cases of "fatal attractions." Chapter 7, "Borderline and Psychotic Catathymia," reviews two cases of affect-driven violence. Chapter 8, "The Female Victim of the Psychopath," is particularly timely in view of the current epidemic of domestic violence. "Case 2: Religion, Sexual Perversity, and Multiple Murder" sheds some light on the role of the misuses of religion, with which we are all too familiar in the wake of Jonestown and Waco. Chapter 9, "Revisiting the Rorschach of Sirhan Sirhan," demonstrates Dr. Meloy's skills as a clinician who approaches the Rorschach with a wealth of superlative experience.

There are two appendices: "Appendix I: Erotomania, Culture, and the Insanity Defense," serves as a forum for Dr. Meloy to demonstrate his skills as a report writer and makes for fascinating reading. "Appendix II: Weapons History Assessment Method," has a precautionary caveat wisely made. It is not a reliable psychological test instrument. In my experience, when it comes to assessing violence, there is unfortunately no substitute for an intensive microanalysis and forensic psychiatric interview.

In conclusion, Dr. Meloy is owed the gratitude of any forensic professional. He has brought a new level of understanding to a subject that is all too often beset by the double stigmata of mental illness and violence. Forensic clinicians who strive to provide a thorough forensic assessment of those charged with violent acts face the ongoing challenge of

translating research and clinical experience into objective forensic assessment. Dr. Meloy's work meets this challenge. This book will be a helpful read not only for forensic clinicians, but also for members of the legal profession. Only by appreciating the labor-intensive approach Dr. Meloy outlines for the assessment of those at risk for violence or those who have committed violent acts will the courts and the public create the resources necessary to undertake the in-depth examination that Dr. Meloy demonstrates is not only possible, but also necessary.

TRUE AND FALSE ACCUSATIONS OF CHILD SEX ABUSE. RA Gardner. Cresskill, NJ: Creative Therapeutics, 1992. 748 pp.

Reviewed by Andre P. Derdeyn, M.D.

This is an interesting and clinically useful book focusing primarily on false accusations of child sexual abuse, particularly those accusations related to divorce and to daycare centers and nursery schools.

Dr. Gardner offers many astute observations and suggestions based upon his clinical experience in this area. The sections on divorce-related false accusations of sexual abuse are excellent. Dr. Gardner emphasizes investigating very carefully the timing of the allegation of sexual abuse, and tracing in detail its evolution. He suggests asking specific questions regarding the very first time

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the accuser began to think about the possibility that the child was being sexually abused, and whether those thoughts developed in response to actual events or were engendered by internal processes.

Dr. Gardner throughout the book stresses the need for the consultant's impartiality. He advocates that all members of the family be ordered by the court to participate in the evaluation. He holds that the most efficient way to proceed is first to meet with both parents without the child. One of the foci of this interview is to determine the origin and the evolution of the sexual abuse allegation, as mentioned above. Parents should also be seen individually, and the child should be seen with each parent (including the alleged perpetrator). He suggests the child should also be seen with both parents together.

In the chapters "Leading Stimuli, Leading Gestures, and Leading Questions" and "Interviewing Techniques," Dr. Gardner presents a comprehensive discussion of the subtleties of clinical interviews in this area. He suggests a minimum of three or four interviews, which should always be videotaped because taping might protect the child from further interviews. In the chapter "Children Who Have Actually Been Sexually Abused," Dr. Gardner recommends psychotherapeutic work with the whole family, and emphasizes that both parents should be given the opportunity—when safe—to continue the relationship with the child. Pointing up the importance of the relationship with the father to the child, Gardner stresses maintaining and building that relation-

ship whenever possible with both the father who has been found to have sexually abused the child and with the father who has not. The section on therapeutic approaches to some of the common symptoms of sexually abused children in the chapter, "Treatment of Children Who Have Actually Been Sexually Abused," is very thoughtful, particularly the many sources of feelings of guilt that the child may experience.

This book has much value for the forensic child psychiatrist. However, the many problems associated with these allegations and with Child Protective Services investigations of sexual abuse are attacked with such vehemence that some of the valid points tend to be obscured by the extreme positions that are taken. The beginning of the book is cluttered with some extraneous material—the author's theory on biological factors in the paraphilias—and questionable material—indicators of pedophilia in the adult male and female. Dr. Gardner states that the indicators provided are just criteria to consider, but it is a concern to this reviewer that some readers will give such material more credence than it deserves.

This book is most useful when it focuses upon post-divorce allegations of child sexual abuse regarding young children and for the treatment of children whether they have been sexually abused as alleged or whether they have not. Dr. Gardner's astute clinical contributions in these areas and his emphasis on maintaining or rebuilding the relationship with the falsely accused and with the guilty father are welcome additions to the literature.