to acquire an official record, so that samples of official delinquents probably have an over-representation of unfavourable backgrounds.

'Perhaps the most important result to emerge from this study was the undramatic and unfashionable conclusion that traditional criminological beliefs about the backgrounds and characteristics of delinquents are true.'

There were five background factors of particular significance: low family income, large family size, parental criminality, low intelligence, and poor parental behaviour. Each of these five factors, all of which were susceptible to reasonably clear definition and to careful measurement, remained significantly associated with delinquency after matching in turn for each of the others.

Background factors (even using any three of the five mentioned) are highly predictive of delinquency, yet the ratings of troublesome behaviour made by teachers and classmates were in themselves as predictive of official delinquency as any combination of background assessments, and could be made at a very early age.

Sheldon's linking of mesomorphy with delinquency is not confirmed.

Low performance on psychomotor tests of clumsiness (hitherto regarded as one of the most reliable correlates of delinquency) is linked with low intelligence rather than delinquency.

Eysenck's theory that neuroticism and extraversion correlate with delinquency is not confirmed, nor is minimal brain damage at birth an important factor.

Particular secondary schools do not foster delinquency (but perhaps the range of schools was not so wide as in the East of London where Powers reached a different conclusion).

Shyness, timidity, and neurotic symptoms are possibly alternative forms of response to family stress.

'Altogether, the findings . . . strongly support the concept of a typical delinquent, in the sense that most delinquents display a behavioural syndrome which encompasses far more in the way of deviant conduct than the limited range of illegal acts for which they are apt to be convicted.'

If all the participants at Bratislava had read this book, it would have been a much better conference.

REFERENCES

WEST, D. J. & FARRINGTON, D. P. (1973) *Who Becomes Delinquent?* London: Heinemann.

ROBINS, L. N. (1966) *Deviant Children Grown Up.* Edinburgh: Livingstone.

COHEN, S. (1973) The failures of criminology. *Listener*, 8 November, pp. 622–25.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Congress on Psycho-Sexual Problems

The Congress will be held at the University of Bradford from 11–13 September 1974. Speakers will include Mr. Justice Waller, Sir John Peel, Prof. H. Gwynne Jones, Dr. T. F. Main, Dr. Donald West, Dr. John Randell, Dr. P. G. McGrath and Dr. J. H. J. Bancroft.

The fee will be £3 for delegates and £2 for non-delegates. Application is being made for attendance at the Conference to be recognized for seniority payment.

Full particulars from Dr. H. B. Milne, Postgraduate School of Studies in Medical and Surgical Sciences, University of Bradford, Bradford, Yorkshire BD7 1DP.

Course in Family Psychiatry for Psychiatrists

The Annual Introductory Seminars in Family Psychiatry will be held in Ipswich from 17–21 June 1974.

Provisional applications should reach the Institute of Family Psychiatry, 23 Henley Road, Ipswich, as soon as possible.

World Psychiatric Association

The Fifth International Congress of Social Psychiatry will be held in Athens from 1–7 September 1974.

Further information from Dr. G. Vassiliou, Athenian Institute of Anthropos, 8 Demetriou Soutsou, Athens, 602, Greece.

Fourth International Congress of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology

The Congress will be held in Israel from 27 October to 2 November 1974.

Further information from Dr. S. Mor, P.O.B. 16271, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

Caribbean Psychiatric Conference

The Conference, which will have as its general theme Aggression and Psychiatry, will be held in Bermuda from 2–7 December 1974 under the auspices of the Bermuda Department of Health and Social Services.

Further information from Peter A. Warren (Honorary Secretary), 'Sargasso', Harrington Sound Road, Smith's Road, Bermuda.

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