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Book Review: Correctional Institutions (1972)

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Correctional Institutions. Edited by Robert M. Carter,¹ Daniel Glaser² and Leslie T. Wilkins,³ Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Co., 1972. Pp. xxii, 554.

*Reviewed by Donald E. Wilkes, Jr.*⁴

Today there is new interest in corrections. Recent studies of the pattern of corrections in the United States have examined closely current practices while also pointing out problem areas and suggesting reforms.⁵ Corrections literature has been swelled by a stream of books⁶ and articles in legal,⁷ professional,⁸ and popular⁹ journals. The new concern with corrections is shared by the President¹⁰ and the Chief Justice of the United States,¹¹ both of whom have voiced disapproval of the present state of corrections.

Correctional Institutions, an anthology of corrections writings, was compiled in response to the rise in the level of interest in corrections. The editors are eminent authorities in different disciplines. Robert M. Carter is a specialist in public administration at the University of Southern California. Daniel Glaser, also at Southern California, is a sociologist. Leslie T. Wilkins is a criminologist at the State University of New York.

The book's thirty-four selections present the reader with a broad range of corrections perspectives as well as a comprehensive overview of corrections. The contributors are a diverse lot—"administrators, practitioners, scholars and researchers from both within and without the field of corrections."¹² Their writings utilize theoretical, empirical, and descriptive methods and approach the problems of corrections from the viewpoint of the community, institutional authorities, and inmates of correctional institutions.

Correctional Institutions is divided into five sections, each preceded by an editors' introduction summarizing the contents of the section and describing the background of the contributor. The first section¹³ deals with the history

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⁵ See PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, TASK FORCE REPORT: CORRECTIONS (1967).

⁶ E.g., PRISON WITHIN SOCIETY (L. Hazelrigg ed. 1968).

⁷ E.g., Hirschkop & Millemann, *The Unconstitutionality of Prison Life*, 55 VA. L. REV. 795 (1969).

⁸ E.g., Skoler, *Future Trends in Juvenile and Adult Community-Based Corrections*, 21 JUVENILE COURT JUDGES J. 98 (1971).

⁹ E.g., TIME, Jan. 18, 1971, at 46-55.

¹⁰ N.Y. TIMES, Nov. 14, 1969, at 1, col. 5. President Nixon announced the formation of a 15-member Task Force on Prisoner Rehabilitation on October 16, 1969. The report of the Task Force—*The Criminal Offender—What Should Be Done?*—was issued in April 1970 and is found in 7 CRIM. L. BULL. 242-66.

¹¹ Burger, "No Man is an Island," 56 A.B.A.J. 325 (1970).

¹² CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS vii (R. Carter, D. Glasser & L. Wilkins ed. 1972).

¹³ *Id.* at 3.

and current status of correctional institutions. The selections present a history of imprisonment as punishment and survey the present system of jails and prisons in the United States. The second section of the book, "The Correctional Institution as a Community,"¹⁴ is comprised of sociological writings and discusses the following subjects: the social relations of persistent offenders; the world of a prison inmate; and the ways in which inmates change while in prison.

The third section, "Specific Programs in Correctional Institutions,"¹⁵ concentrates on the treatment of prisoners. Classification, correctional education, prison industry, counseling, and other rehabilitative techniques are discussed, as are problems of prison discipline and inmate self-government. The fourth section of the book is entitled "Fusion of Institutional and Community Programs"¹⁶ and deals with proposals for extending corrections services into the community. Work release and prerelease programs, alternatives to institutionalization, reorganization and relocation of detention facilities, and use of correctional volunteers are discussed. In the final section, "Scientific Guidance of Institutional Policies,"¹⁷ consideration is given to the possibility of applying scientific methods to achieve correctional reform. There is also an examination of the reasons underlying opposition to reform of correctional institutions.

The selections in the book are of uniformly good quality. A few—"Correctional Philosophy and Architecture,"¹⁸ "Sociology of Confinement: Assimilation and the Prison 'Rat,'"¹⁹ "The Social Meaning of Prison Homosexuality,"²⁰ and "Impediments to Penal Reform"²¹—are especially meritorious. Because it is a rehash of G. Albert Wohl's foreword to an earlier anthology²² edited by Professors Carter and Wilkins, the foreword by E. K. Nelson, Director of the School of Public Administration at the University of Southern California, is the only part of the book deserving a serious criticism.

Correctional Institutions is an important collection of writings about an aspect of the criminal justice system which has been neglected for too long. It draws attention not just to present and proposed methods of operating correctional institutions—lockups, jails, and prisons—but also to the basic aim of correctional institutions. One who has read *Correctional Institutions* inevitably will conclude that correctional institutions cannot continue to

¹⁴ *Id.* at 145.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 277.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 383.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 435.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 110.

¹⁹ *Id.* at 193.

²⁰ *Id.* at 221.

²¹ *Id.* at 461.

²² See PROBATION AND PAROLE vii (R. Carter & L. Wilkins ed. 1970).

immure convicts in "massive, medieval, monastic, monolithic, monumental, monkey-cage monstrosities";²³ instead they must protect society by rehabilitating offenders. Because of this *Correctional Institutions* is a valuable book.

²³ CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS 110 (R. Carter, D. Glaser & L. Wilkins ed. 1972).