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Book Review. Kuhlman, A. F., A Guide to Material on Crime and Criminal Justice

Ralph F. Fuchs

Indiana University School of Law

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the circumstances under which children are made wards of the court and forcibly taken from their parents or other adults in whose custody they may be.

WILLIAM G. HALE.

Washington University School of Law.

A GUIDE TO MATERIAL ON CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, prepared by *Augustus Frederick Kuhlman* for the Social Science Research Council. New York: The H. W. Wilson Co., 1929. 633 pp.

When the history of modern scholarship comes to be written an honorable place ought to be accorded to the indexers, catalogers, and bibliographers. They are analogous to the digesters of cases in the field of law. Damned for stupidity by many whom they serve, they continue to pore patiently over periodicals, pamphlets and books. Spurred on by faith that their work may aid the cause of scholarship, they classify and arrange names, titles, and descriptive words in the hope that future searchers may be led to the materials they need. Research under present conditions, with the flood of publications that issues ceaselessly forth, would be all but impossible without the results of their labor. Their basic products are the card catalogs of libraries and the indexes to periodical literature. Occasionally, however, it becomes desirable to gather in one place the references upon a given subject which appear in the several general indexes; for libraries are widely scattered and the guides to periodical literature are fairly numerous in themselves. It is this sort of compilation of references which the Social Science Research Council publishes in the volume under review as a result of the labors of its Committee on Survey of Research on Crime and Criminal Justice.

The need for a work of this sort in the field of crime and criminal justice was particularly great. Workers in law, political science, sociology, psychology, psychiatry, medicine, education, ethics, and perhaps other fields have contributed literature to the subject. One who wished to do an exhaustive piece of research upon some aspect of it prior to the publication of this book would have had to examine six separate periodical indexes comprising more than a score of large volumes and to journey from one to another of the large libraries of the country in search of material. Now the examining and the journeying have been done for him, with the result that 13,276 titles, dating from 1926 and before, are listed in a volume of 623 pages. Books, monographs, and reference works contained in fourteen of the most important libraries of the country are exhaustively listed, with symbols indicating the libraries in which they may be found. In addition, a selection of references to periodical articles is given. These various titles are arranged under what appears to be an excellent classification, forming in itself a useful analysis of the crime problem. The book is attractively printed by the publishing house which is famous for having placed periodical indexing upon a secure basis in the United States.

In a field in which coordination of effort is badly needed, this Guide is a promising first step. If it is followed by the further work which is anticipated from the committee of the Social Science Research Council and from other investigations now under way, much of the duplication and misdirected energy that have characterized study of the crime problem heretofore may be eliminated.

RALPH F. FUCHS.

Washington University School of Law.