

cerned are Catholics—widely supported, in this respect, by Catholic intellectual and spiritual leaders) such an insight would be invaluable.

WALTER STEIN

**ATTENDANCE CENTRES.** An Enquiry carried out by the Cambridge Institute of Criminology. By D. H. McClintock, in collaboration with M. A. Walker and L. C. Savill ; Macmillan; 28s.

Punishment nowadays is an unfashionable word but, disguise it as one may in the jargon of psychiatry, it still has its part to play. It clearly emerges that Attendance Centres were first conceived in the Criminal Justice Bill of 1938 and made law ten years later as a punitive measure. When imprisonment for the young and birching were abolished, Attendance Centres were substituted in the hope, no doubt, that this humane measure would do something to satisfy the sadistic demands of back benchers without giving undue offence to the sentimentalists for whom punishment is anathema.

Parliament, however, never seems to have been very clear as to what it really intended and the 1950 Rules show a leaning to the welfare aspect. Many experienced juvenile court justices, on the other hand, have been quite clear in what they want of the Attendance Centres. While they have never looked with favour on judicial birching they recognize the type of young offender who needs discipline, not the discipline administered by a long period of restraint, but by a short, sharp lesson which can be taught in twelve hours. That any reformatory treatment can be achieved in a period of twelve hours spread over several weeks is absurd. Still more absurd is the proffering to the Bench of semi-psychological reports on the offender's character by those who merely run these Centres and have such slight experience of him. They are unnecessary and can be a misleading duplication of reports properly tendered by probation officers trained for this work.

Attendance Centres are not intended for those in whom criminal tendencies have become ingrained, in fact they may not be used for those who have been to Detention Centres or Approved Schools. They are primarily designed for the mischievous, for those whose leisure is not put to any purpose and whose unruly behaviour and lack of discipline may easily lead to serious crime. By curtailing their leisure, by making them faintly ridiculous to their companions, by putting them to distasteful (though not necessarily useless) chores and by a smartening up process with arduous physical training it is hoped that the Attendance Centre may teach the unruly that crime leads to retribution. Furthermore, the Attendance Centre may well be combined with Probation and can be very useful as a corrective for breaches of a Probation Order.

Mr McClintock gives an interesting description of the three different types of Attendance Centre: the first in which the aim is purely punitive, the second in which it is purely reformatory, and the third which combines the punitive

and reformatory elements. As the officer in charge has a free hand in the organization of his Centre and the activities he prescribes, there is a wide difference between the three types of Centre but, since pride of service, discipline and smartness are outstanding characteristics of the police force, these are the qualities which are instilled in common at all the Centres. One of the most valuable lessons they teach the young is one of example—that even grown men are subject to authority and obedience—and, if we criticize them for adopting a welfare attitude it is doubtless because they, in common with most of our countrymen, find it impossible to go on being beastly all the time.

Mr McClintock does not pass judgment on the different types of Attendance Centre, but he clearly sets out the facts and leaves the reader of this very competent and useful work of research to draw his own conclusions.

RUTH MORRAH

## Shorter Notices

JOHN XXIII: POPE OF THE COUNCIL. This useful paper-back, in Burns and Oates' *Universe* series (5s.), gives a well-documented biography of the Pope by Zsolt Aradi, together with a foreword by Douglas Woodruff on the historical role of the Holy See and an epilogue by Michael Derrick (whose recent death has been such a heavy loss for Catholic journalism) on the preparations for the forthcoming Council.

Routledge have added three valuable titles to their paper-back series: *A History of Greek Political Thought*, by T. A. Sinclair (10s. 6d.); *Modern Man in Search of a Soul*, by C. G. Jung (9s. 6d.); and *Six Existentialist Thinkers*, by H. J. Blackham (6s.). From the S.C.M. Press come two biographies by E. Allison Peers: *Mother of Carmel*, 'A Portrait of St Teresa of Jesus' (7s. 6d.); and *Spirit of Flame*, 'A Study of St John of the Cross' (7s. 6d.).

Sheed and Ward's 'Stagbooks' series now includes the English translation of Olivier Rabut's Dialogue with *Teilhard de Chandin* (8s. 6d.). In Faber's 'Paper Covered Editions'. A. G. Hebert's *Liturgy and Society* (8s. 6d.) finds a deserved place. And from Macmillan (New York) comes *The World's Great Scriptures*, 'An Anthology of the Sacred Books of the Ten Principal Religions', by Lewis Browne (20s. 6d.).