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form the series of political events in America from the Stamp Act Congress on, which influenced the shaping of the Constitution, and the other showing in like form the distribution of powers and the manner of their functioning in the American system. Those who are accustomed to think of the guarantees in the Bill of Rights as possessing historical interest only, or as having long outlived the need of them, will be astonished, in reading Mr. Norton's discussion of these clauses, to note the number, range, and importance of the decisions of the Supreme Court within the last few years which have turned upon the language of the first ten amendments.

CRIME; ITS CAUSES AND TREATMENT.
By Clarence Darrow, New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1922. Pp. 292.

The starting point for Mr. Darrow's discussion of crime and its causes and treatment is the mechanistic theory of human behavior, which asserts that there is no fixed distinction between what is called "right" and what is called "wrong"; that man has no such thing as a "soul"; that he is not a free agent, but is "the product of heredity and environment, and that he acts as his machine responds to outside stimuli and nothing else"; and that "man is an animal and can live only from and by the primitive things." On these premises Mr. Darrow rests his main thesis, which is, that there is no such thing as moral responsibility for crime, because unsocial behavior, commonly

called "crime," is the inevitable result of circumstances such as heredity, poverty, environment, unstable organization, bad luck, and so on, for which the delinquent is not to blame. On this hypothesis, society has no right to feel indignation against even the most atrocious criminal; he is only to be pitied. Nor, on the same theory, is there any right in society to punish him, any more than to punish the unfortunate victim of a street accident. In either case, the sufferer is to be helped, and the main effort should be in the direction of removing or reducing the conditions which make crime probable or even possible.

The mechanistic theory is a dreary gospel. And it has implications far beyond these. For if it explains crime as a pathological symptom, it equally denies all nobility of life or heart or achievement. It may be admitted, however, that the best modern thought, enlightened by the new biology and sociology, is veering away from the old "instigation of the Devil" theory of crime, though it does not necessarily make a complete surrender of ethics, nor of the uses of punishment as a deterrent and as a means of reformation. It is true also that in many ways the influences which Mr. Darrow calls the "causes" of crime are recognized as being at least what physicians call "precipitating factors." To this extent the book before us may be valuable as a contribution to the science of sociology, though it is believed that few readers would accept its premises and its conclusions in their entirety.