

Review

Reviewed Work(s): *Social Pathology in China*. by Herbert Day Lamson

Review by: Bingham Dai

Source: *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 40, No. 4 (Jan., 1935), p. 528

Published by: The University of Chicago Press

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2768565>

Accessed: 08-10-2017 21:33 UTC

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://about.jstor.org/terms>



JSTOR

The University of Chicago Press is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *American Journal of Sociology*

Social Pathology in China. By HERBERT DAY LAMSON. Shanghai, China: Commercial Press, 1934. Pp. vii+607.

This book treats of the problems of livelihood, health, marriage, and the family in China and suggests remedies for their solution. Its data are taken largely from the works published in the English language by both Western and native scholars, describing the extent of each of these problems both abroad and in China, relating what has been done in the West to solve these problems, and pointing out what may be done in China. The work is intended to be a source book for the study of Chinese social problems for English-reading college students and should serve this purpose well.

The author of this work is apparently more interested in what should be done to cope with the problems mentioned above than how these problems come to be as they are. No attempt is made to grasp the fundamental characteristics of the Chinese culture and to interpret the problems of social and personal disorganization in the light of the whole cultural complex. However, the questions and topics suggested for study at the end of each chapter should be able to arouse the students' interest in further research.

BINGHAM DAI

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Social Backgrounds of American Literature. By RALPH PHILIP BOAS and KATHERINE BURTON. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 1933. Pp. xii+353. \$1.50.

Surely, it is not unreasonable to expect that a book entitled *Social Backgrounds of American Literature* will be (1) a social history of the United States, (2) an account of American literature in its social implications, or (3) an attempt to define the effects of social conditions on our literature. The authors were well advised to relinquish the third task as beyond their powers, and to content themselves with a compromise between the first and second objectives indicated. In consequence, the book is a readable elementary social history, with rather jejune comments on literature dragged in by the heels. It is disconcerting to find the authors using "disinterest" as a noun and ascribing Jack London's education, not to the University of California, but to the University of Chicago. It is impossible to see how such suggested subjects for study as "Lindberg's Transatlantic Flight" and "Total Eclipses of the Sun" could be made relevant either to our social backgrounds or to our literature.

FRED B. MILLETT

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO