
*Science & Technology***INSIDE THE
CRIMINAL MIND**

by Stanton E. Samenow
Times Books, 1984
285 pp. \$15.50

"To understand crime," writes Samenow, a Washington, D.C., clinical psychologist, "we must focus on personality, not laws and social mores." Samenow rejects the widespread notion that poverty, parental pressure, or other external causes have a significant role in the making of a criminal. Instead, he believes, the criminal *chooses* from earliest childhood to behave in antisocial and destructive ways. Rehabilitation fails, Samenow contends, because there is nothing positive in the criminal to restore. The only way to change him is to alter the way he thinks. Reviewing case histories of patients and prisoners, Samenow finds that the criminal sees himself as a victim and that his idea of going wrong is getting caught. To the felon, the law-abiding life not only seems dull but fails to reward personal effort quickly enough. Samenow's solution: intensive group therapy in which former convicts are required to produce daily "moral inventories" of ways they have chosen to redeem themselves. Unlike other therapists, Samenow strives to instill fear and guilt in his patients; otherwise, he believes, they will never develop any regard for other people. Samenow says his approach works: 13 out of 30 of his patients, once released, not only stayed out of jail but achieved productive, law-abiding lives. While this is not a radical improvement over the U.S. recidivism rate (roughly two-thirds of imprisoned felons are repeat offenders), it may be an encouraging start.

**THE TOWER AND
THE BRIDGE:
The New Art of Structural
Engineering**

by David P. Billington
Basic, 1983
306 pp. \$24.95

The Swiss architect Le Corbusier (1887–1965) once described structural engineers, with undisguised condescension, as mere technicians. He said that they lacked the aesthetic sense of the architect who, "by his arrangement of forms, realizes an order which is a pure creation of his spirit." This book by a Princeton professor of engineering is a learned and persuasive counterargument. Structures, Billington reminds us, *are* part of technology—the static half, complementing