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THE WORLD'S OLDEST
TRAINING SCHOOL FOR
PRISON OFFICIALS

J. L. GILLIN

In an article in the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology for March, 1932, Lieutenant Peterson, school officer of the New Jersey Reformatory, evidently following the statement of Dr. H. H. Hart in his pamphlet entitled "Training School for Prison Officers," published by the Russell Sage Foundation in 1930, claims that the first prison officers' training school was opened in Wakefield, England, in 1925. Dr. Hart in his pamphlet speaks of this school as the pioneer of this kind of institution. Dr. Hart's pamphlet appeared in 1930. My book entitled Taming the Criminal was published in 1931 and therefore Dr. Hart is blameless for not knowing what I published a year later. In my visit to Japan in 1927 and 1928 I learned of the courses given by the Japanese Prison Association for prison officials. There are three such courses in the Japanese system. One is a common course inaugurated in 1908 and intended for all the lower prison officials, the chief warders of lower rank, jailers and women jailers. By 1925 this common course had graduated about 2,000 prison officials. It is carried on for six months annually.

In this course are included such subjects as European and American prison systems and their histories, criminal law, a discussion of both general and special problems necessary for prisons officials, crimin-