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Bulletins of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology

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BULLETINS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY.

BULLETIN NO. 2, JANUARY, 1910.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE A: System for Recording Data Concerning Criminals.—“Investigation of an effective system for recording the physical and moral status and the hereditary and environmental conditions of delinquents, and in particular of the persistent offender; the same to contemplate, in complex urban conditions, the use of consulting experts in the contributory sciences.”

Edward A. Ross, Madison, Wis. (sociologist), *chairman*; Horace M. Brown, Milwaukee, Wis. (physician); Arthur MacDonald, Washington, D. C. (anthropologist); Wm. Healy, Chicago, Ill. (physician); D. P. McMillan, Chicago, Ill. (psychologist); Harold N. Moyer, Chicago, Ill. (physician); F. Emory Lyon, Chicago, Ill. (criminologist); Harry Olson, Chicago, Ill. (judge); John L. Whitman, Chicago, Ill. (penologist).

A. SYSTEM FOR RECORDING DATA CONCERNING CRIMINALS.

The general problem of studying the criminal and the causative factors of his career falls under three main heads—sociological, medical and psychological. These must be supplementary and interrelational if convincing work is to be done. The following system of recording data concerning criminals has been developed with the advice of numerous American authorities,¹ consulted personally by Dr. William Healy,² and has been suc-

¹Full acknowledgment should be here made of the assistance rendered to Dr. Healy in working up the original plan for an examination of delinquents by the following men, among others, who were seen and many of whom, at the expense of much time, generously gave of their special knowledge on the various points involved:

Professor J. R. Angell, University of Chicago.
Judge Baker, Juvenile Court, Boston.
Professor Franz Boas, Columbia University.
Dr. W. F. Dearborn, University of Chicago.
Dr. H. H. Donaldson, Wistar Institute, Philadelphia.
Dr. W. E. Fernald, Massachusetts School for Feeble-Minded.
Dr. S. I. Franz, Government Hospital for the Insane.
Dr. H. H. Goddard, New Jersey State Training School.
President G. Stanley Hall, Clark University.
Dr. Arthur Jelly, Boston.
Arthur MacDonald, Washington.
Dr. Adolf Meyer, New York.
Professor Hugo Münsterberg, Harvard University.
Professor M. V. O'Shea, University of Wisconsin.
Dr. W. T. Porter, Harvard University.
Professor Josiah Royce, Harvard University.
Professor E. C. Sanford, Clark University.
Professor F. C. Sharp, University of Wisconsin.
Dr. Boris Sidis, Boston.

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cessfully applied for the last eight months in the work carried on by the Juvenile Psychopathic Institute of Chicago. The advantage of such work as may be done in connection with a trial court is obvious, both on account of the opportunity for gathering a large number of relevant facts and of getting corroboration of the same from relatives, neighbors and officers. How much in the way of reliable data can be obtained through investigation of incarcerated criminals is yet to be shown by competent workers, but even if the material is narrower in scope, it will readily fall into its proper place in the following system.

It is plain at first sight that all the numerous details of this system can only rarely be ascertained in any single case. Moreover, the details themselves have by no means equal value. Some of them have been included simply because they may develop negative evidence against theories already held by experts to be absurd. One of the aims, indeed, in compiling this system of records has been to include practically all the hypothetical foundations for the growth in the individual of criminal traits. If the observer will bring to the examination the attention which a medical expert gives to one of his cases—surely a more than justifiable procedure—and gets the co-operation of the delinquent's family and friends, he will in the majority of instances be astonished at the explanatory light which he is able to throw on the offender's actions. Experience proves that families and friends show rational willingness, for the most part, to consult with a physician and psychologist and to leave no point unturned in an effort to get at the bottom of a situation which often has been their problem and sorrow for years. Such work as this system represents is no mere gathering of statistics, but aims directly at diagnosis, prognosis and remedy—whether for a single individual, as when done in connection with a trial court, or for the general criminal situation, as when some investigation of many individuals is undertaken at a custodial institution.

The main divisions of the system are:

- I. FAMILY HISTORY—especially all aspects of heredity.
- II. DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY—including antenatal conditions.
- III. ENVIRONMENT.
- IV. CHARACTER.
- V. ANTHROPOMETRY—including photography.
- VI. MEDICAL EXAMINATION—particularly from a neurologic and psychiatric standpoint.
- VII. PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.
- VIII. PSYCHO-ANALYSIS—especially offender's own narrative.

The details to be ascertained under these heads are as follows:

Professor E. E. Southard, Harvard University.
Professor E. L. Thorndike, Columbia University.
Dr. F. L. Wells, Waverly, Mass.
Professor G. M. Whipple, Cornell University.
Professor L. Witmer, University of Pennsylvania.
Dr. F. A. Woods, Boston.
Professor R. S. Woodworth, Columbia University
[The report was mainly drafted by Dr. Healy, of the Committee.—Eds.]

SYSTEM FOR RECORDING CRIMINAL DATA.

I.

FAMILY HISTORY.

Name.	Date.
Address.	Sources of information.
Age.	
Name of	Birthplace and race
Religion	Years in United States.
Are father and mother	Age at birth of this child
Are parents related?	
Occupation of father	
of mother	
Earnings per week	
father.	
mother.	
Earnings, how used.	
Other support of family.	
*Siblings: Sex, age, order of birth, including, if possible, miscarriages.	
Habits of father	
of mother	
Diseases of father	

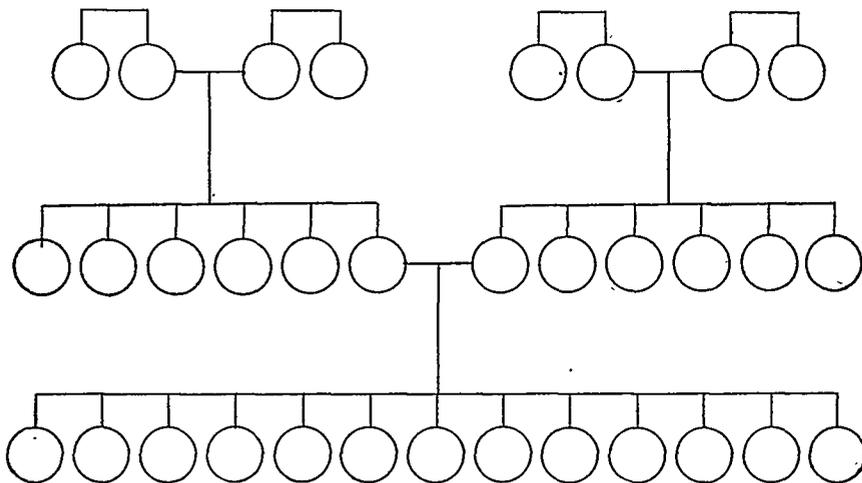
*A convenient term for brothers and sisters taken together.

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- (g) feeble-minded: grade of amentia.
 - (h) deformed.
 - (i) ever in hospital or sanitarium: for what.
- of mother (inquiry as above).
- of grandparents—specify paternal or maternal.
- (a) consanguinity.
 - (b) general diseases.
 - (c) nervous and mental diseases.
 - (d) ever in institution: for what.
- of uncles and aunts—specify paternal or maternal.
- (a) general diseases.
 - (b) nervous and mental diseases.
 - (c) ever in institution: for what.
- of siblings
- (a) general diseases.
 - (b) nervous and mental diseases.
 - (c) ever in institution: for what.
- Deaths. Father
- (a) age.
 - (b) cause.
- Mother
- (a) age.
 - (b) cause.
- Siblings
- (a) age.
 - (b) cause.
 - (c) miscarriages—especially with relation to time of birth of this child, to cause. How far along in pregnancy did they occur.
- Longevity of grandparents—paternal and maternal.
- Suicides in family.
- Mental disposition and schooling: father
- (a) mental traits and talents.
 - (b) mental peculiarities as child.
 - (c) mental peculiarities as adult.
 - (d) schooling.
 - (e) ability to speak, read and write English.
- mother (inquiry as above).
- siblings
- (a) schooling.
 - (b) mental peculiarities.
- grandparents, uncles, aunts
- (a) mental peculiarities.
- Relief received—public or private charity.
- Court or Institution record of father
- (a) what.
 - (b) when.
- of mother
- (a) what.
 - (b) when.
- of siblings.
- of grandparents, uncles and aunts.
- Social station: (a) occupation or position of grandparents or other members of family.
- (b) is tendency of family morally or socially up or down.

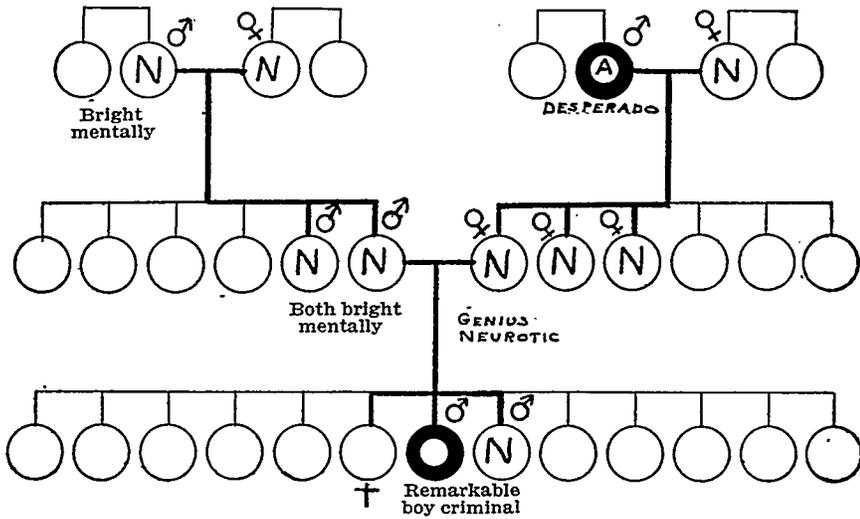
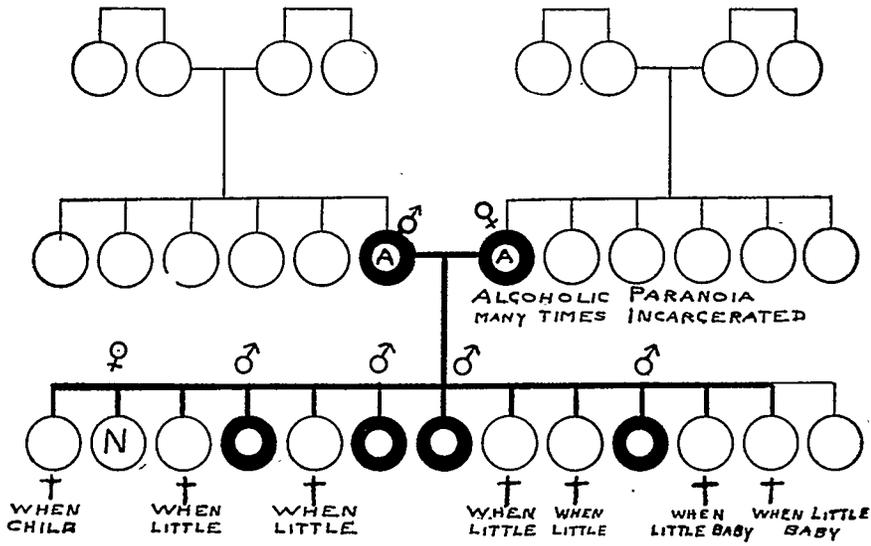
SYSTEM FOR RECORDING CRIMINAL DATA.

HEREDITY CHART, MODIFIED FROM THE ONE DEvised AND USED BY DR. H. H. GODDARD.

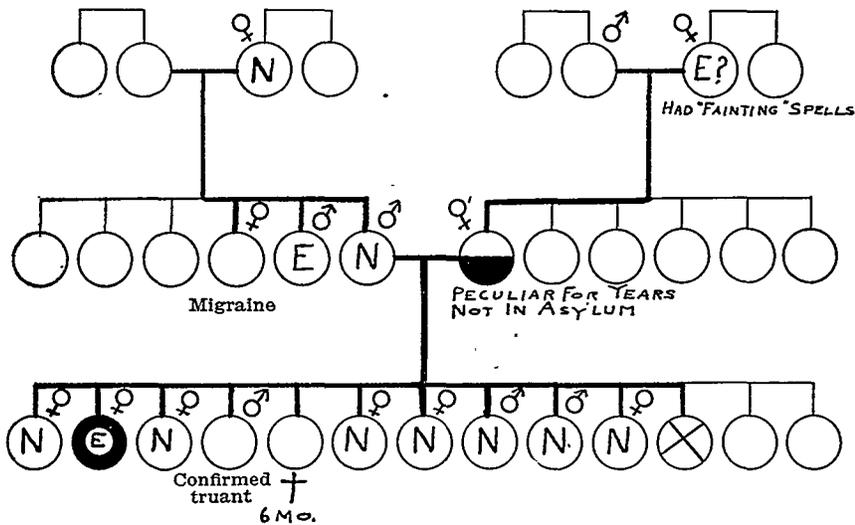


Explanation of Symbols.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ○ No data. | To be placed outside the circle. |
| ● Criminal. | ♂ Usual biologic sign for male. |
| ○ N Normal. | ♀ Usual biologic sign for female. |
| ○ A Alcohol—more than moderate drinker. | ↳ Born. |
| ○ E Epilepsy. | m Married. |
| ▨ Mental defective—all grades. | † Died. |
| ◐ Insane. | †/↳ Tuberculous. |
| ◑ Grave sexual offender, male or female. | Sy Syphilitic. |
| ⊗ Miscarriage. | B Blind. |
| ○ T Confirmed runaway or tramp. | D Deaf. |



SYSTEM FOR RECORDING CRIMINAL DATA.



These 11 children born within 18 years—most of them still quite young.

II.

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY.

Sources of information.

Conception: (a) during year previous to conception was father or mother sick; under special stress or excitement; given to excess of alcohol or drugs.

(b) any feeling of sexual aversion by mother toward father.

(c) was conception peculiar, e. g., father or mother intoxicated or drugged.

(d) did mother desire this child.

Pregnancy: (a) did mother have any disease during pregnancy—if so, full description is desirable.

(b) was abortion attempted.

(c) any pelvic disease or accident—such as uterine hemorrhage.

(d) any special worry or stress during pregnancy.

(e) any fright or shock.

(f) how much did mother have to work at that time.

(g) did mother have any so-called “maternal impressions”; if so, what effect does she think they had on her child.

(h) was child legitimate.

Birth: (a) was labor specially long or difficult; if so, from what cause.

(b) were instruments used.

(c) was it difficult to get baby to breathe and cry.

(d) was there any deformity, especially of head.

(e) weight or size at birth.

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- Infancy: (a) did baby nurse—and for how long.
(b) was vitality good.
(c) how fed when weaned.
(d) any rickets or other nutritional disease.
(e) convulsions: when—how many—attributed cause—general description of attacks. (All this is very important.)
(f) general diseases: when—what—severity.
(g) injuries: when—what—resultant disability.
(h) deformity.
(i) was anything unusual noticed about mind or body.
(j) did infant see well.
(k) did it grasp and hold things well.
(l) how old when could first crawl.
(m) how old when first walked.
(n) how old when could run well.
(o) how old when began to talk.
(p) was progress in talking normal.
(q) when did first teeth appear.
(r) comparison in these matters of development with others in family.

- Childhood: (a) vitality; nutrition.
(b) nervous condition.
(c) diseases; what—severity.
(d) injuries—especially to the head.
(e) enuresis—how long continued.
(f) night terrors.
(g) are remarkable dreams habitual.
(h) somnambulism.
(i) ever in hospital or institution—where—for what—how long.
(j) menstruation: when did it begin—regularity—any difficulty.

Habits during developmental period:

- (a) tea and coffee in excess—began when.
(b) tobacco, in what form—began when—to what extent used.
(c) alcoholic beverages; what—began when—to what extent.
(d) sexual habits; masturbation—began when—how much; other sexual habits.
(e) cocaine or other drugs; when begun—how much.
(f) sleep; what time to bed—to rise—insomnia—if lies awake thinks of what.

III.

ENVIRONMENT.

Sources of information.

Birthplace.

What places lived in.

What conditions during developmental period:

- (a) persons in family.
(b) dwelling; number of rooms—sanitation—bathroom—cleanliness—sunlight.
(c) neighborhood; tenements—saloons—dance halls—character of people—density of population.

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- (d) changes in residence; city to country or vice versa—emigration—possible effects on character.
- (e) vacations; where—effect of.
- (f) poverty; influence upon character of it.
- (g) clothes; kind worn and possible effect in producing delinquency.
- (h) recreation facilities (one special point to be noted, if city child, did it live near a playground).

What conditions recently: inquiry much the same as above.

- Family:
- (a) harmony in family.
 - (b) influence by other members of family.
 - (c) rational attempt at home control.
 - (d) when child was mother away working.
 - (e) step parent; influence of.
 - (f) difference between care, neatness, etc., of this delinquent and other members of family.
 - (g) if adult, complete history of matrimonial and family experiences.

- Associations:
- (a) spends evenings where.
 - (b) character of associates.
 - (c) anyone with peculiarly strong influence.
 - (d) belong to gang; as leader or follower—what are activities of gang.
 - (e) belong to club; purpose of club.
 - (f) has delinquent a lover; character of—other lovers previously.

- Amusement:
- (a) theaters; how often—prefers what kind of plays or shows—vaudeville—moving pictures.
 - (b) dances; where—how often.
 - (c) saloons; amusements there besides drinking.
 - (d) athletics; to athletic shows—athletics personally practiced—how much—where.

- Church:
- (a) attends where—how often.
 - (b) Sunday school; where—how often.

Other influential factors in environment:

IV. CHARACTER.

Sources of information.

- Schooling:
- (a) duration of attendance; why left.
 - (b) grade reached.
 - (c) public, sectarian or private schools attended.
 - (d) knowledge of English; was foreign language used in the school.
 - (e) much absence; why.
 - (f) teacher's report; scholarship—department—general impression.
 - (g) child's impressions of school.
 - (h) studies; which was child best in or worst in.
 - (i) was child ever regarded as subnormal; ever studied by a child study department.

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Occupation as child: outside school hours.

Reading: (a) how much.

(b) what classes of books, magazines or newspapers.

(c) what variation in reading proclivities at different periods of life.

Special talents: (a) for music

(b) for drawing.

(c) for tools; where instructed in manual training.

(d) for machinery.

(e) for athletics; specially good at what games—at swimming.

Work: (a) work while attending school.

(b) regular work began at what age.

(c) what jobs or occupations.

(d) have changes been frequent.

(e) earnings at best and now.

(f) hours of work.

(g) detailed occupation experiences, success, failure, vicissitudes.

Behavior: (a) at home; treatment of members of family—support of family—
—are wages used for support of family—if unmarried, are wages used for support of parents or others.

(b) spends money wisely.

(c) contracts debts.

(d) gambles.

(e) pawns.

(f) treatment of animals.

(g) religious feeling.

(h) conduct in games.

(i) liar—to what extent.

(j) general characteristics of behavior, such as: industrious—
shrewd—sly—trustworthy—seclusive—moody — apprehensive,
etc.

(k) queer ideas about property, family, individual rights, religion,
social institutions, etc.

Habits: (a) tobacco in excess; for how long—what form.

(b) alcohol; begun when—what form—how much—easily affected—
how often drunk—actions when drunk.

(c) sexual habits; masturbation—begun when—how much; other
sexual habits.

(d) drugs; cocaine, opium or other drugs.

(e) tea and coffee; if in excess.

(f) sleep; hours—insomnia.

Delinquencies: in all essential detail.

Cause of delinquency: in opinion of parents and others.

Probation: how long—under what conditions—effect of it.

Institution: nature of custody; training, occupation while there.

Attitude of delinquent: toward court, probation, institution, etc.

Efforts to help: what agencies have been interested in this delinquent before
or after custody.

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V.

ANTHROPOMETRY.

The high hopes of leaders of the anthropometric school of criminologists not having been fulfilled, especially with regard to our American population, the detailed work to be done in this field with prospect of valuable results is, according to our best authorities, decidedly limited. In study of the young offender, perhaps developmental tendencies are worthy of the most attention. To be especially noted are—Time of appearance of menstruation and its characteristics; Time of appearance of hair on the pubes and on the face; Time and degree of development of the breasts; Time and peculiarity of eruption of the various teeth; Studies of the growth curves of height and weight. In addition, and more particularly for all ages, are to be recorded: Complexion and color of hair; peculiarities of physiognomy; The well-known stigmata of degeneracy—especially those of head, ears, eyes, palate, teeth, hands and feet; Weight; Height; Chest size and capacity; a few careful measurements of the head, taking principally the circumference; the biparietal and antero-posterior diameters and allowing for or eliminating measurement of hair as much as possible; the sitting height if taken according to standard, has been suggested to be of value. Besides such determining of the status of the body and its parts, tests and measurements may be taken of motor functioning—for example, the strength, precision and control of one hand in relation to the other.

Criminal characteristics are frequently not marked in photographs of a criminal's face taken in repose, and it has been amply proven that differentiation of even the feeble-minded from the normal cannot be made by a study of such photographs. It has been suggested that, since skillful observers frequently make diagnosis of these classes by studying motor phenomena, not only of the whole body, but of the face in action, that possibly some clue to the character and mental status of the individual might be gained by developing a photographic method of recording instantaneous impressions of, say, response in the facial expression to various intellectual and emotional stimuli. Moving film pictures have also been suggested for this purpose.

VI.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

Family History (complete record under section I).

Personal History: special attention to convulsions, epilepsy, petit mal, sexual habits and diseases, alcoholism, excess of tobacco, drug taking, sleep.

Present Ailments:

Examination: (aa) personal cleanliness—vermin, etc.

(a) weight.

(b) development.

(c) nutrition.

(d) deformity.

(e) attitude.

(f) expression.

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- (g) speech.
- (h) thyroid gland.
- (i) nose.
- (j) throat.
- (k) thoracic viscera; heart, lungs.
- (l) abdominal viscera.
- (m) teeth; special attention to Hutchinson teeth, carious and impacted conditions.
- (n) temperature—pulse—blood—urine.
- (o) genital organs.
- (p) trophic conditions; muscle—skin—bones.
- (q) functions of digestion, circulation, etc.
- (r) Mental (very important):
 - (1) perceptions: hallucinations, illusions, clouding of consciousness, etc.
 - (2) association processes.
 - (3) attention.
 - (4) judgment: delusions, orientation, etc.
 - (5) memory.
 - (6) emotions: many abnormal variations.
 - (7) abnormal physical sensations.
 - (8) physical control.
 - (9) mental control.
 - (10) moral control.
- (s) Cranial Nerves: I.
 - II. vision—visual fields—optic discs.
 - III, IV, VI, pupillary form and reactions—strabismus—ocular movements—nystagmus—ptosis—diplopia.
 - V, motor—sensory.
 - VII, paralysis—tics.
 - VIII, hearing—subjective auditory disturbances.
 - IX, X, XI, XII.
- (t) Sensory:
 - (1) headache.
 - (2) vertigo.
 - (3) pain.
 - (4) tactile sense.
 - (5) temperature sense.
 - (6) joint sense.
 - (7) vibratory sense.
 - (8) paræsthesias.
- (u) Motor:
 - (1) upper extremity.
 - (2) lower extremity.
 - (3) trunk.
 - (4) coordination.
 - (5) tremor.
 - (6) gait.
 - (7) tonicity.

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- (v) Reflexes: (1) conjunctival.
(2) palatal.
(3) pharyngeal.
(4) abdominal—upper, lower, right, left.
(5) cremasteric.
(6) plantar.
(7) jaw.
(8) arm.
(9) knee jerks.
(10) ankle jerks.
(11) micturition.
(12) defecation.

VII.

PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

The development of any scheme of mental tests is as yet far from being complete or satisfactory, but a vast amount of highly enlightening information can be gained from the means already at hand. According to the best workers in the field, the use of elaborate apparatus and the establishment of a psychological laboratory as such is quite beside the mark. Much more important is development of a standard technic and establishment of accurate norms for the tests that are used. The main points to be estimated in regard to the individual are: (a) Native ability, apart from school training or environmental factors. (b) If subnormal, degree of subnormality; if aberrant, type and degree of deviation. Both should be particularly estimated with reference to the educability and the possibility of the individual being a source of danger to the community. (c) Formal education and its effect or lack of effect on the individual. (d) The mental content to be estimated in a general way by intelligent inquiry and perhaps by question tests to ascertain the range of general information.

It is to be hoped that in the near future the value of the tests for mentality which are now being tentatively used by workers in this field may be justly appraised, and the tests themselves be more widely published. Insufficient work, however, has been done in this as in many other branches of psychology, and the time is not quite ripe for putting forth valid conclusions.

VIII.

PSYCHO-ANALYSIS.

Many authorities have called attention to the great value of information that may be obtained by the modern methods of psycho-analysis. A record is kept of the individual's own words and peculiar expressions. He is urged to give a direct narration of his own career and of the causes which led him into delinquency—this to be supplemented by getting him to analyze out in detail such features of the narration as seem to be of the greatest interest. Anything that savors of cross-examination must be conducted in a most patient and mild manner, the whole idea being to get the fullest possible expression of the inner self. Plainly enough the results of this work will

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vary greatly, according to the ages, the ability and ingenuousness of the person examined, and the more his statements can be corroborated by other testimony, the greater value, of course, the record will have.

The time and labor necessary for working up a case in such a method as that outlined above, which at first sight appears to be rather extensive, is by no means prohibitive if a well-trained person can have his whole time to devote to the work. Only by investigation, at least as thorough as this, can we hope to make permanent contributions to knowledge of causation of criminality and to the development of methods of prevention and reformation. Only by such thorough work can we bring about the ideal conditions when the bench will adjudicate criminal cases in accord with the social and physical needs of the offender, which, in the long run, is directly equivalent to the best financial and moral protection of society.

We therefore recommend that the above system for recording data concerning criminals be utilized wherever practicable, and especially do we urge adoption in large cities where numerous courts and cases exist and the co-operation of scientific experts can be secured.

This "System for Recording Data Concerning Criminals" is not copyrighted and may be freely used. In the interests of development of the newer ideas of preventive or curative treatment of offenders, whether in juvenile or adult court service, it is suggested that workers along these lines take pains to check up with each other their methods and results. Only by putting together facts drawn from many sources can safe general conclusions be finally formed. Dr. William Healy, 4038 Clarendon Avenue, Chicago, would be particularly glad to hear about the work of anyone who is using these more thorough methods.

[This report while in page proof was taken under consideration by the judges of the Municipal Court of Chicago, and the system described herein of recording data concerning criminals was recommended by them for adoption in their court.—Ens.]