

1915

## Reviews and Criticisms

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### Recommended Citation

Reviews and Criticisms, 6 *J. Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology* 149 (May 1915 to March 1916)

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## REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS.

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THE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WISCONSIN VICE COMMITTEE. PUBLISHED BY THE STATE OF WISCONSIN. 1913 pp. 246.

This report is the second State vice report to be published, the first being that of Massachusetts, published in 1913. The study of the cause and effects of prostitution in Wisconsin was made by a non-expert, unpaid, legislative committee composed of three state senators and three state representatives. Of these gentlemen, three were lawyers, one a doctor, one a decorator, and one a country newspaper editor. Five of them were candidates for re-election to the legislature last November and only one was successful. The members of the Committee not only gave generously of their time but, in honestly and energetically fighting a battle which proved to be unpopular in certain quarters, lost their political positions.

The report is the result of about sixteen months' steady work during which time public hearings were conducted in 13 cities, 605 witnesses were examined, 35 cities and towns studied by investigators and more than a million words of testimony and evidence secured. The report is a digest of this testimony and evidence with the deductions and recommendations of the Committee and numerous quotations in point from other reports and publications.

The body of the report dwells at considerable length upon the themes: first, the relation of the liquor traffic to prostitution; second, the relation of non-enforcement of law to prostitution.

The Committee finds the closest interlocking between commercialized vice and the business of selling intoxicants. Alcoholic drink is held to be one of the most important causes of immorality among women. The agents of saloons are frequently also the agents of houses of prostitution, the bartender often acting as a procurer for the prostitute. Wine rooms, palm gardens, and saloons are all included in the indictment, but roadhouses are found to be most wanton. Lying outside of the jurisdiction of neighboring cities from which they draw their patrons, roadhouses are difficult to regulate and to keep under police surveillance. Hotels and lodging houses which permit liquors to be served to guests in their rooms are also frequently found to be blameworthy. The selling of intoxicants in houses of ill-fame at exorbitant rates is one of the principal adjuncts and feeders of the business of prostitution. That this is true is indicated by the statement of a "madam" in which she says that when the sale of liquor was prohibited in her parlor house the general business decreased about one-half.

The Committee severely blames law enforcing officers for existing

conditions. In various instances it is shown that officers wink at the activities of mayors, sheriffs, district attorneys, police officers and others to the effect that these officers knowingly permitted grossly immoral conditions to be maintained in Wisconsin cities. Some of the reasons given by these officers for thus failing to enforce the law are as follows:

"I think it (prostitution) a necessity."

"The sentiment of the people is the controlling force regarding the enforcement of law."

"My judgment is as good, if not a little better, than some others making laws on this subject, (subject of redlight district)."

"My oath of office means that I shall use my judgment." (See page 148.)

The drift of the statements of all these officers indicates that public opinion did not demand the abolition of the houses of prostitution and that the officers were controlled by this attitude of the public. The Committee recommends that an officer shall either enforce the law or resign, and proposes a statute which will make it possible to remove an officer for non-enforcement of law.

The report contains some interesting statistics regarding illegitimacy; the earnings of prostitutes; the length of time during which a number of prostitutes had been engaged in business; the number of houses of ill-fame in certain Wisconsin cities, at the time of investigation, with the number of inmates in such houses; the work of the Milwaukee Society for the Prevention of Commercialized Vice in enforcing the Injunction and Abatement law; the statements of 63 district attorneys of the State regarding enforcement of laws relating to prostitution; Wisconsin hospitals which treat venereal disease; police records from Milwaukee at the time that city had a segregated district; and much other interesting material.

In general the report is especially valuable in two respects. It opens the question of moral conditions in small centers of population. It presents, first hand, numerous interesting cases.

Many of the cities visited and investigated are small centers for a wide farming area, towns of from 10,000 to 15,000 people. The fact that surprisingly bad conditions were found in many of these villages indicates that there are difficult and unsurveyed problems to be studied in the smaller centers of population. The Wisconsin report does not attempt to adequately analyze the problem of the small town but it does indicate the existence of the problem and gives a significant cue to the next investigation in a western state.

The quotations from the reports of investigators and testimony is especially interesting to readers of this document. Many people who see the report may not agree with the interpretations and deductions of the Committee, but they will not fail to be interested in such cases, as for instance, that of the ignorant and unfortunate girl cited on page 67, and the life story of the "madam" on page 181, and the intensely human statement of the prostitute on page 183. In this type of material the report is rich.

There may have been some carelessness in the handling of data, as for instance the statement on page 221, that, "testimony shows that a large majority of all males and a very large number of females, at some time during life, contract venereal disease." And again, on page 219, "the average mentality of women addicted to immoral practices is shown by the three recognized tests to be only about that of a child ten years of age." Such statements, without supporting data, may damage the report in the estimation of the careful student. The arrangement of the report is not as clear in its sequence of thought as it could be, there being a dearth of major and minor sectional headings to indicate the skeleton of the argument of the report.

At the close of the report there are 34 recommendations, 19 of which are again set forth in the form of bills to be presented in the 1915 legislature. The most important of these bills may be summarized as follows:

1. Making it a felony to transport females from one city or town in the State to another for purposes of prostitution (an application of the Mann Act to the State).
2. Requiring cities of the first, second and third class to provide police women.
3. Creating a state police department for the "investigation, detection, and prosecution" of crimes. This is based upon the findings of the Committee regarding non-enforcement of laws.
4. Raising the age of consent from 14 to 16 "previous chaste condition," to 18 and 21 "previous chaste condition."
5. Establishing an industrial institution for immoral women (modeled after the Bedford Reformatory of New York State.)
6. Inflicting a penalty upon any person who "transmits or assumes the risk of transmitting "a venereal disease, (after the Iowa law on that point).
7. Authorizing the Circuit Court or Judge to remove any mayor, district attorney, city attorney, sheriff, police officer, marshal, or constable from office for "misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office."

Six or seven of these bills have been introduced in the Senate by Senator Robt. Monk, a member of the Vice Committee.

Twelve other bills are proposed relating to the conduct of saloons, wine rooms, employment offices, the sale of drugs and appliances, pandering, etc.

There is a broader significance to the Wisconsin Vice Report than has been indicated in the foregoing comments. The State of Massachusetts took the lead in carrying the problem of prostitution over from a purely municipal problem as it has been previously considered, and making it a conscious concern of the State. Wisconsin followed in the path of Massachusetts and a commission in Maryland is at this time studying Maryland's problem. The methods of the most advanced social sciences are being applied to the problem of prostitution, and the experience of cities and states which have ap-

proached the solution of the problem through a scientific method seems to indicate that this method has come to stay. Persons and agencies interested in the suppression of vice are no longer willing to act before knowing the facts in the case, for they now demand a careful diagnosis of conditions before attempting to prescribe remedies. Will the next step in advance be the Federal Government attacking the problem more definitely and investigating the causes and effects of prostitution as a national problem? Some of us who are interested in the campaign against the social evil look forward to this development.

Chicago.

WALTER CLARKE.

WANDERTRIEB UND PATHOLOGISCHES FORTLAUFEN BEI KINDERN. By *Edwald Stier*. Gustav Fischer, Jena, 1913. Pp. 135. Paper. M. 3. 60.

The writer's analysis is based on 87 cases of pathological "*Wandertrieb*" and vagrancy. These represent selected cases in which the tendency to run away was the chief symptom of clearly recognized mental disorder. All of these children had been patients in a neurological clinic, and were carefully examined and investigated by the writer himself.

The motives for running away are two-fold: physiological and pathological. The author's use of the word physiological is exasperatingly vague (p. 11, 33, 37, 55, 66). The context indicates that the word physiological is frequently used in the sense in which the psychologists use the word psychological. This monograph suffers chiefly from a lack of psychological insight—running away is a mental happening and cannot be interpreted merely as a chain of physiological events. In the majority of cases it is a consciously motivated undertaking.

The author's pathological—*i. e.*, related to mental disease—groups comprise the following: (1) Psychopathic children, including those suffering from exaggerated affect-reactions, those subject to a morbid hyperactivity of the imagination, those subject to serious ethical defects, those in whom running away is a family trait, cropping out at about the time of puberty, and those subject to other psychopathies. (2) Psychotics (incipient forms of dementia praecox). (3) Epileptics. (4) The feeble-minded. The most frequent pathological classes are the feeble-minded and the psychopathic, followed by the epileptics and hysterics. The juvenile cases with actual psychoses are rare.

The author has given an excellent analysis of cases which seem clearly to be pathological, or at least abnormal, although some doubt may be entertained as to whether all of his feeble-minded cases were actually feeble-minded. His testing of the level of intelligence of these cases was extremely meager—certainly markedly inferior to the work done in the best psychological clinics in America. In fact, certain statements in the text arouse the suspicion that some of these cases were diagnosed on the basis of facial appearance: *e. g.*, "a large, powerful youth, facial expression not clearly feeble-minded." But

facial appearance is a wholly worthless "symptom" of feeble-mindedness in practically all the cases which are difficult to diagnose.

The author has admirably called attention to the services which the psychopathologist may render in the treatment of this social anomaly and has ably discussed the prognosis and therapy from the standpoint of psychopathology. But the reviewer's impression, after examining a considerable number of children who respond to the *wanderlust* or migratory instinct, is that the cases with mental disease are in the minority.

I do not recognize feeble-mindedness as a disease, except in the very infrequent cases which respond to medical treatment. Antiluetic treatment is claimed to have "cured" some cases of feeble-mindedness which call for the services of the examining psychologist and of corrective pedagogy, rather than the psychiatrist or the psychopathic institution. No one is qualified to handle this problem who is ignorant of the psychology of adolescence.

The author has reviewed the German literature (particularly the medical), but has not noticed any of the American literature.

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POLICE PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE. By *Cornelius F. Cahalane*, Inspector in Charge of Police Training School, New York City, 1915. Pp. 250.

That many cases of police inefficiency which are ascribed by the man in the street and by the press to police corruption are in reality due to police ignorance, is a fact well known to superior police officers and students of police administration. Yet few systematic efforts have been made in this country to train or to educate police officers. The instruction in most of the schools of instruction in American cities is so rudimentary and so poorly presented that its practical value is small and for the older members of the force there is generally no instruction whatever.

Commissioner Woods, in New York, realizing the importance of police education, has established a police training school for all ranks, in place of the old school for recruits and has in addition to amplifying and revising the curriculum of this school distributed to each member of the uniformed force a copy of *Police Practice and Procedure*, which has been prepared by *Cornelius F. Cahalane*, inspector in charge of the Police Training School.

*Police Practice and Procedure* is a volume of two hundred and fifty pages giving in simple, non-technical language all of the technical and practical information which a police officer requires for the efficient performance of his official duties. It covers the subjects of discipline, physical condition and the performance of patrol duty. It explains the power of arrest, the giving of evidence and the elements of criminal identification. It defines each of the principal crimes and

shows how criminals of each class may be most readily apprehended. Its chapters on public morals and the liquor problem are especially valuable.

The peculiar value of this book lies in the fact that it gives the information which police officers require in the simple non-technical language, which they most easily understand, that it is replete with examples culled from the wide practical police experience of its author and that being devoid of statutory citations it is of as great value to the police officer in San Francisco as to the police officer in New York.

This book possesses such great practical value that in the opinion of the reviewer, any chief of police who fails to supply his men with copies of *Police Practice and Procedure* is guilty of neglect of duty.

New York City.

LEONHARD FELIX FULD.

A HISTORY OF PENAL METHODS. By *George Ives*. Stanley Paul Co., London, 1914. Pp. 409.

The author of the volume under review keeps in view the fact that punishments are survivals, and therefore the only way to understand punishments inflicted on criminals in our day is to delve into their historical development. We are accustomed to seeing new laws made from year to year, and new crimes created thereby. Mr. Ives has tried to analyze the theories and assumptions on which criminal laws are founded; and to exhibit their falsity. He presents here a number of instances of archaic punishment which is certainly instinctive. He infers that all punishments are derived from evil (pain producing desires). He is animated by the thought that each crime has its causal connections, that its cause rests on the one hand in the nature of the individual who commits the offense, and on the other hand in the surroundings in which he has lived, and from which proceed those stimulations which in the course of time develop his disposition, whatever it may be. The author is looking forward to the realization of Salleille's idea of the individualization of punishment. A recital of the chapter headings will suggest to the reader the scope of this valuable work. Penal Methods of Modern Ages; The Witch Trials; Treatment of the Insane; Banishment; The Origin of Cell Prisons; Penitentiary Experiments; The Model System; Model Labor; Penal Servitude; Military Despotism; The Silent System; Visitation of the Sick; Monotony; The Conventional View; The Instinct of Retaliation—Punishment of Things, Animals and Corpses; Classification of Crimes; Classification of Offenders; The Direction of Reform, and Practical Prisons.

Northwestern University.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

SUBTERRANEAN BROTHERHOOD. By *Julian Hawthorne*. McBride-Nast & Co., N. Y. pp. 300. \$1.50.

Just how the prison system of the present appears to a mature mind of high intelligence, is portrayed in the recent book by Julian

Hawthorne. In his "Subterranean Brotherhood" this author utilized his literary training and experience with telling effect. The result is by no means creditable to the prison system as he found it.

The book has been criticised as being overdrawn and grossly oblivious of other than the prisoner's side of the problem. The rebellious spirit of a convicted man, it is charged, is too apparent, and the many difficulties involved in dealing with all sorts of offenders, are ignored.

It is evident that the prisoner's side of the story is uppermost throughout the book. The author carefully states, however, that this is not done because of bias or malice, even though intentional. He reminds us that officialdom has had ample opportunity to express itself, often with equal evidence of exaggeration in its favor.

The prison inmate, on the other hand, has had no voice. Doubtless Mr. Hawthorne's great sympathy for the misfortunes of his fellows led him to lose sight of the fact that there are two sides to every story. He also apparently assumed that manifest sincerity is not the only test of truth. He overlooked the possibility that some of those with whom he talked in the Atlanta Penitentiary were incapable of seeing both sides of the shield at the same time, and really believed what they were telling him. Nevertheless we cannot dispute the fact that this writer of education, refinement and presumably normal instincts, was inexpressibly shocked at what he actually saw behind prison walls, not to mention what he heard and experienced.

It is hardly to be supposed that conditions at the Federal Prison are essentially different from those to be found in most other prisons. The factors which receive the severest criticism in the prevailing method of dealing with prisoners, are factors which reveal the inherent weakness of the system.

That weakness lies in the effort to deal with all kinds and conditions of men *en masse*. It is against the stupid habit of handling the man of sensitive instincts, or a nervous wreck, in precisely the same way as the dull, phlegmatic individual, that Mr. Hawthorne hurls his sarcasm and invective.

For instance, by what stretch of the imagination, should it be considered necessary to handcuff a man of this author's character and connections, merely because of a hoary custom in dealing with desperate offenders.

The same question of lack of discrimination is raised all through the book. The reader is led to ask, why indeed, notwithstanding all the difficulties of penal administration, should not the social, temperamental, physical and moral differences in a thousand men, be given recognition.

Just how this could be accomplished by a suitable classification of prisoners, by reorganizing the discipline, by the personal attitude of officers, the author does not attempt to say. He does, however, raise a mighty big interrogation point, which a few of the best prison men are only beginning to essay an answer.

Still more distressing and tragical results are depicted as the result of the "red tape" involved in the granting to prisoners various

merited privileges, including parole. Evidently, and perhaps naturally, the abuses in this direction are greater in Federal institutions than elsewhere.

It is not charged by the author that these interminable delays are usually conscious or intentional. It is insisted, however, that responsible officials should, in all conscience, know the havoc wrought in men's minds by the agony of suspense. Promises, too lightly given, are treated with indifference, pending the uncertain convenience of fulfillment. Several cases are cited where inmates were promised a change of work, or of quarters when ill; or of parole, but waited in vain for the tantalizing boon. In one instance a man was given good reason to expect a parole so that he might care for his wife and daughters, but was never permitted to realize his dream because, while he waited, his wife and both daughters died, and he was taken to the hospital a nervous wreck, to die also.

This sort of thing, if even approximately describing the facts, can hardly be considered less than the author calls it: "A species of refined cruelty, constituting a modern taltalus."

Just why has the "Subterranean Brotherhood" not made more of a sensation, the reader naturally asks. Presumably because the author was a prisoner, and convicted men are not supposed to be capable of telling the truth.

This conclusion on the part of the public would show it to be as lacking in discrimination as the institutionalized and stupid prison guard.

If this book is not substantially true, the unanswered question remains, why has not the author, with all his plainness of speech, been called to account in a suit for libel?

The volume with its excellent diction, and highly interesting psychological side-lights, is worth reading. More important still, the conditions described are worth investigating.

Chicago.

F. EMORY LYON.

WITHIN PRISON WALLS. By *Thomas Mott Osborne*. D. Appleton & Co., N. Y. pp. 328. \$1.50.

Exceptional interest attaches to an autobiography of prison experience, written during the last year, by reason of the fact that the writer has since become the Warden of Sing Sing Prison.

"Within Prison Walls," by Thomas Mott Osborne, is a diary of prison life with the above sequence.

The author, a wealthy manufacturer of Auburn, New York, was appointed by the Governor as Chairman of a State Prison Commission to make investigations and recommendations in regard to the penal system of the State.

He conceived the rather unusual notion that such a commission should get its information, not merely by visiting the Warden and accepting his hospitality in the State Dining Room, but at first hand by living with the prisoners.

He says: "I convicted myself in the Court of Conscience for my indifference to, and ignorance of what is going on behind prison walls,

and for this crime, I sentenced myself to one week at hard labor in Auburn Prison."

The question the writer proposed to answer by this unusual procedure was as to, "Whether our prison system is as unintelligent as I think it is; whether it flies in the face of all common sense and all human nature, as I think it does; and whether, guided by sympathy and experience, we cannot find something far better to take its place, as I believe we can."

The reader finds that Mr. Osborne is able to learn a great deal in one week, and goes far towards answering his question. He secures the confidence of the prisoners in a remarkable degree, is able to convey to us a graphic word picture, not only of the externals of routine prison life, but also the inner workings of his own mind in the midst of this situation.

He indicates carefully that the shortcomings of the present prison system is due, not so much to the intentional harshness of prison keepers, as to the inevitable tendencies of the system itself.

He sets forth the absurdity of certain method of prison discipline that are followed, not because they are essential, but largely because of the natural tendency to follow the customs of the past, instead of originality in discovering better methods.

The unwholesome atmosphere of prison life, both upon the bodies and minds of men, is set forth in the clear manner and excellent diction we should expect from a Harvard graduate.

The book is written, however, by no means merely from the cold intellectual standpoint, but contains heart and life. If there are but few men who can make you feel what they write, Mr. Osborne is evidently one of them.

His book should make a strong impression upon the public, as his fraternal sharing of hardships with the inmates of Auburn Prison made upon them. As a result of his sacrifice of home comforts even for this short time, the prisoners organized a Fellowship League, which has resulted in securing radical changes in the life of the institution. Outdoor recreations and other privileges, previously unknown, have now been secured.

Since Mr. Osborne has been made Warden of Sing Sing Prison, a Golden Rule League has been formed by the inmates there, and the Warden's intimate experience behind the prison bars is bearing fruit in the inauguration of uplifting influences in all departments of the prison.

The recommendation of the "Prison Commission," needless to say, is also of far reaching and practical character.

Chicago.

F. EMORY LYON.

DAYS OF MY YEARS. By *Sir Melville L. MacNaghten, C. D.* Longman's Green & Co. New York, 1914. Pp. 300. \$3.50.

This unique volume by the late chief of the Criminal Investigation Department, of Scotland Yard, is dedicated to Sir Edward Richard Henry: "The best all-around policeman of the twentieth century, the man to whom London owes more than it knows." "The

days of my years are not yet three score and ten, but they are within an easy decade of the allotted span of man's life. Taken all round those sixty years have been so happy that I would, an I could, live almost every day of every year over again.

"Sam Weller's knowledge of London life was said to have been extensive and peculiar. My experiences have also been of a varied nature, and certain days in many years have been not without incidents, which may be found of some interest to a patient reader, and especially so if his or her tastes lie in the direction of police work in general, and metropolitan murders in particular.

"I never kept a diary nor even possessed a note book; so that in what I write I must trust to my memory and to my memory alone. Therefore I crave indulgence if any inaccuracies are to be found to have crept into some minutes of my days."

These quotations from the preface give us a glimpse of the features of this fascinating book. It is written in literary style; a style that seems almost to grow without training out of a genuine Scotchman's soul, but in this case it is a style that has at once such a native root, and that at the same time reflects on almost every one of the three hundred pages, the classic training of old Eton. The quotations suggest on the other hand the nature of the subject matter, for the book abounds in stories of famous murderers and murders, and the ins and outs of famous detectives pursuing their stealthy calling.

In this volume we find stories of early days at Eton, the start in life of Bengal, Jack the Ripper, Bombs and Their Makers, Motiveless Murders, Blackmailers and Blackmailers, Some Sidelights on the Crippen Case. These are interspersed with descriptions of Days with the Bloodhounds, with Diurnal Oddments and the dinners and farewells with which the "Days of My Years" are closed.

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THE MENTAL HEALTH OF THE SCHOOL CHILD. By *J. E. Wallace Wallin*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn. Pp. 450. \$2.00 net.

This volume is made up in large part of papers that have been presented here and there by the author, who is well known throughout our country as an expert in the diagnosis of mentally deficient children. Of particular interest to students of criminology, at present at any rate, are Chapters 8 and 9, in which the author discusses the Binet-Simon Tests, in which he shows in his incisive way some of the shortcomings of the method in its present form. We are interested further in Chapter 18 on "Public School Provisions for Mentally Unusual Children." One of the striking things brought out here is the degree of training that has been attained by mental testers. In a large number of public school systems this presents a rather discouraging picture. It would seem to us that the difficult task of determining the mental condition of youth should be entrusted invariably to men or women of wide experience in dealing with such problems.