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## Editorials

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## EDITORIALS.

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### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

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[The following brief account of the proceedings of the recent annual meeting of the Pennsylvania branch of the Institute is from Mr. Edwin M. Abbott, retiring Secretary of the State Society and Secretary of the National organization. Other matters presented at that meeting will be published later in the Journal.—ED.]

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The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Branch of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology was held at the City Club, Philadelphia, on Wednesday, March 15, 1916, at 6:30 p. m. President Lichtenberger presided, and a most interesting program was carried out. At the election of officers for the ensuing year, Professor Louis N. Robinson of Swarthmore College was chosen President; Hon. William H. Staake, Judge of Common Pleas No. 5 of Philadelphia County, First Vice-President; Dr. Richard H. Harte, Second Vice-President, and Hon. Robert J. Sterrett, Assistant United States District Attorney, as Secretary and Treasurer, while the old Board of Directors were all re-elected.

Dr. Alfred Gordon of Philadelphia read a most interesting paper on the subject "Mental Deficiency and the Importance of Its Recognition from a Medico-Legal Standpoint."

In the discussion that followed many interesting facts were brought out, and those who participated were Professor Edwin R. Keedy of the University of Pennsylvania, Judge William H. Staake, Edwin M. Abbott, Esq., Hon. Maurice J. Speiser, Assistant District Attorney of Philadelphia; Mrs. Rippan, Chief Probation Officer of Philadelphia, and H. R. Richardson of the Juvenile Court. The peculiar fact brought out was that there is no legal standing in a criminal trial where the defendant is feeble-minded and cannot be classified as insane, and therefore cannot come within the line of defense which would excuse the action which constituted the criminal offense. The suggestion was made that there should be established a defense at law of "Feeble-Minded and Partially Irresponsible." This plea could be raised either before or after a conviction to be best determined by a consultation of those interested. The defendant

would then be under the control of the court, and placed in an institution or on probation and carefully watched and encouraged.

Dr. Walter H. Cornell delivered an address on "A Standardized System of Justice to Determine the Status of Feeble-Minded." This was an interesting and descriptive exposition of the entire subject of feeble-minded children as well as adults, and was illustrated by charts and record sheets which the Juvenile Court of Philadelphia has recognized in arriving at a solution of this difficult problem. Dr. Cornell was of the opinion that the final solution of this problem is still far in the distance, but that great strides are being made toward acquiring some better insight into the present condition of affairs and that great benefits have been derived from the institution of the system which is now being followed in the Juvenile Court.

PROGRAM OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINAL LAW  
AND CRIMINOLOGY.

The eighth annual meeting of the Institute will convene on Tuesday, August 29, 1916, in the English room at the Congress Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. Following is the program as it stands at present.—  
[Ed.]

FIRST SESSION, TUESDAY, AUGUST 29TH, 1916, AT 10 A. M.

Annual Address of President Ira E. Robinson.

Report of Secretary.

Report of Treasurer.

Report of Executive Board.

Report of Committee on "Insanity and Criminal Responsibility."

Edwin R. Keedy, Chairman. Discussion.

Report of Committee on "Probation and Suspended Sentence."

Arthur W. Towne, Chairman. Discussion.

Report of Committee on "Modernization of Criminal Procedure."

Robert W. Millar, Chairman. Discussion.

Report of Society of Military law. Henry W. Ballantine, Secretary.

SECOND SESSION—2 P. M.

Report of Committee on "Crime and Immigration." Robert Ferrari,  
Chairman. Discussion.

Report of Committee on "Sterilization of Criminals." Joel D. Hunter,  
Chairman. Discussion.

Report of Committee on "Indeterminate Sentence, Release on Parole and Pardon." Edward Lindsay, Chairman. Discussion.

Report of Committee on "Criminal Statistics." John Koren, Chairman. Discussion.

Appointment of Committee on Nominations.

THIRD SESSION—8 P. M.

Annual Address, "Probation in Its Relation to Social Welfare." By Hon. Robert O. Harris, of Boston, Mass.

Report of Committee on "State Societies and New Memberships." Frank K. Nebeker, Chairman.

Report of Committee on "Promotion of Institute Measures." Frederic B. Crossley, Chairman. Discussion.

Report of Committee on "Publications." Robert H. Gault, Chairman.

Report of Committee on "Nominations."

Election of Officers.

Unfinished Business.

New Business.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MILITARY LAW.  
CONGRESS HOTEL, ENGLISH ROOM.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30TH, 1916, AT 2:30 P. M.

Address by the President—Captain Ridley McLean, Judge Advocate General, U. S. N.

Report of Secretary—Henry W. Ballantine.

Paper by Colonel Nathan William MacChesney, National Guard, State of Illinois.

Paper by Colonel B. C. Chipfield—"The Legal Status of the National Guard Under the Army Reorganization Bill."

Paper—"The Pioneers' Military Establishment—A Question of the Constitution." By Thomas W. Shelton, Norfolk, Va.

Nomination and Election of Officers.

It is anticipated that Colonel Hull, the Judge Advocate of the Department of the Navy with headquarters at Chicago, and the Hon. Lindley M. Garrison, former Secretary of War, will address the members of the Society.

ORGAN OF THE AMERICAN PRISON ASSOCIATION.

We are in receipt of a communication from Mr. Joseph P. Byers, secretary of the American Prison Association, to the effect that this

JOURNAL is now recognized as an official organ of that Association. The announcement came too late to enable us to give recognition to this official relationship, beyond this brief note, in the present number. Beginning with the September number, however, we shall in each issue publish the list of officers and a brief statement of the purposes of the Association. A section will be set apart in the JOURNAL also for Prison Association matter. We will continue the policy we have adhered to in the past of publishing reports of Association committees. We believe that the Prison Association and this JOURNAL can cooperate to their mutual advantage.

ROBERT H. GAULT.