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Reviews and Criticisms

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REVIEWS AND CRITICISMS

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF STATE PRISONS OF NEW YORK
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1916. Pp. 445.

Owing to a change in the fiscal year, this report covers only nine months. The cost of maintaining the four prisons at Sing Sing, Auburn, Clinton, and Great Meadows for this period was \$813,853.91. At Sing Sing the average expenditure per inmate per day was 56.32 cents, or \$154.25 per year. At Great Meadows the average expenditure per inmate per day was 54.09 cents, of which 31.92 cents were for "ordinary support." At Clinton the average expenditure per day was 53.53 cents. At Auburn the average expenditure was 52.68, of which 28.02 cents were for ordinary support. The daily average population of these four prisons for the period covered was 5,422; the number on parole on June 30, 1916, was 2,406. The corresponding figures for the year 1907 were 3,456 daily average and 337 on parole, a notable increase in prison population and an especially notable increase in the number on parole.

At the Clinton prison a tuberculosis hospital is being built. At Clinton and Auburn the insanitary bucket system still prevails. Improved arrangements for the segregation of the different classes of prisoners, and much better provision for feeble-minded delinquents in New York are required. The medical report from Sing Sing includes the statement that the average number of men applying for treatment is less by 24 men per day, since the inmates have been allowed a large increase in outdoor privileges.

The utilization of the labor of prisoners as a partial payment from them for the expense which they cost the state and as a means of improving their health and character and general fitness for normal participation in the life of society, has been carried to a considerable length in the prisons of New York. However, this industrialization evidently might be much more whole-heartedly and progressively managed. There is a certain amount of agitation to do away with some of the less profitable and less educative indoor factory work and to substitute for it labor in the open air, either by much more extensive employment of prison labor for road work or by the acquisition of additional farm lands. Farming appears to be the most profitable of the New York prison industries. It is also recommended by the Superintendent of Prisons that as a substitute for cash payments to prisoners, reductions of sentence be offered as a reward for faithful labor. The net profits of the prison industries at Sing Sing for the nine months covered by this report were \$44,180.17; total net sales of products from this prison amounted to \$239,477.36. At Auburn the industries show a net loss of \$8,860.97 for this period, although for the preceding nine months they had shown a profit of \$14,006.20. The falling off is attributed to the increased cost of materials and to the falling off in orders for the products of that particular prison.

Prison industries at Clinton earned a net profit of \$42,917.95 during the nine months.

School attendance at the New York prisons appears to be in general voluntary; however, a considerable proportion of inmates avail themselves of this privilege. A better library equipment, both of supplementary material for the school work and for general circulation would be desirable. Of 1,582 inmates at Sing Sing, 21 had had a college education, and 19 an academic education; only 615 were married, and but 539 claimed to be abstainers from alcoholic beverages. At Clinton 62 out of 1,443 had had college or high school education.

The church affiliations claimed by the prisoners were as follows:

	Sing Sing	Auburn	Clinton	Great Meadows
Catholic	862	761	789	558
Protestant	432	486	476	331
Hebrew	259	101	150	82
Greek-Catholic	14	..	..	12
Pagan	2	..	..	..
Others .....	..	..	..	6
None	7	7	20	..

The nativity of the prisoners was:

	Sing Sing	Auburn	Clinton	Great Meadows
U. S. born.....	892	883	1,050	518
Foreign born.....	690	472	393	471

Twelve per cent of the men admitted at Auburn showed a positive Wasserman blood test and 13 per cent of those admitted were illiterate, 27 per cent of those admitted at Clinton were illiterate and at Great Meadows 181 out of 989 were illiterate.

In addition to the reports of the four prisons mentioned, this volume contains the report of the Auburn prison for women and the Valentine State Farm for women, the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminal Insane, the Dannemora State Hospital, and the State Board of Parole. The Matteawan State Hospital appears to be in a shamefully crowded condition. The report recommends that this condition be relieved by ceasing to send paralytics and others who commit minor disorderly acts that are mere symptoms of their disease and who do not reveal such dangerous tendencies as to require their commitment to an institution like that at Matteawan. Of the 103 admitted to this institution during the nine months covered by this report, 54 were natives of the U. S. and 49 were foreign born.

Illinois State University.

E. C. HAYES.

PERFORMANCE NORMS FOR THIRTEEN TESTS. New York State Board of Charities. Department of State and Alien Poor. The Bureau of Analysis and Investigation. Eugenics and Social Welfare Bulletin No. VIII. Pp. 142.

The thirteen tests here reported are part of a larger group (see Bulletin No. V) developed by the bureau to supplement the Binet-Simon Measuring Scale for Intelligence.

Several of the tests appear altogether new. In particular, attention may be directed to two drawing tests in which the child is required to illustrate by a drawing a specific scene in a story, which has just been read to it. Significant differences were found in this test between the results for children of different ages.

The total list of thirteen tests is as follows: The Knox cube test, a three-number cancellation test, a recall of objects tests, a grouping of objects test (a test of the power of association), a learning test (making use of a peg design), a story reproduction test, a syllogisms test, two drawing tests (mentioned above), a balancing nickel test (simple motor co-ordination), a motor co-ordination test involving use of peg board, a combined motor co-ordination and intelligence test using a nest of hollow boxes, an intelligence test involving a boat and three men to be got across a river (analogous to fox, goose, and corn puzzle).

All thirteen tests were tried on school groups and asylum groups. Significant differences were found between the reactions of normals and subnormals. Age norms for each test were established. The report should prove a valuable and interesting contribution to all concerned with the problem of intelligence rating.

Northwestern University.

EDWARD C. TOLMAN.

MENTAL EXAMINATION. New York State Board of Charities. Department of State and Alien Poor. The Bureau of Analysis and Investigation. Eugenics and Social Welfare Bulletin No. XI. Pp. 73.

The results of seven different investigations are presented.

(1) An examination of 2,142 orphan asylum children indicated less than 7 per cent feeble-minded, nearly one-half mentally retarded, and 2 per cent mentally advanced.

(2) An examination of 607 delinquent girls in the New York Training School for Girls proved that the great majority were of moron or border-line intelligence. It was found, however, that it was the brighter rather than the duller girls who gave the most trouble in the institution.

(3) The 194 inmates of a women's reformatory—The Western House of Refuge for Women, Albion, N. Y.—were found to consist of 17 per cent normal, 48.4 per cent subnormal, and 34.5 per cent feeble-minded individuals.

(4) As a result of examining "special classes" in various different communities the bureau recommends a handicraft class or "Craftsman School" for the backward boys of an industrial community and a Farm School for those of an agricultural community.

(5) From an examination of certain pupils in the Thomas Indian School, Iroquois, N. Y., it appeared that some Indians are as good or better than the average white child in intelligence. They have very distinctive abilities, however. This makes it seem inadvisable to try to cast them into the same educational mould as the whites.

(6) A mental re-examination of 37 asylum children ten months after the first examination indicated that the normals were more likely to raise their basal ages than were the subnormals, while the retarded or feeble-minded subjects were more likely to retain the same basal ages or to lower them.

(7) A report on a special class of eleven defective children in the City of Utica contains some interesting individual diagnoses. All of the children were feeble-minded and some had decided criminalistic tendencies.

Northwestern University.

EDWARD C. TOLMAN.

THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE COMMISSION
OF PRISONS OF NEW YORK FOR 1916. Pp. 587.

There were 13,537 men and 1,805 women in the New York prisons, reformatories, county penitentiaries, county jails and institutions of the city of New York June 30, 1916, according to the recently published report of the New York State Commission of Prisons for the biennium 1914-1916.

There were 5,369 men and 117 women in the state prisons; 75 women in the State Farm for Women; 1,316 men and 537 women in the reformatories; 2,395 men and 83 women in the county penitentiaries; 1,257 men and 911 women in the New York City institutions.

The number of prisoners in the institutions at the close of the fiscal year 1916 was 1,829 less than at the close of the previous year.

"The state prisons and the State Farm for Women," reads the report, "show a slight increase in population, while the reformatories, penitentiaries, county jails and New York City institutions show a decrease. Various causes are ascribed for the decrease. There have been fewer arrests in New York City and fewer immigrants have reached our shores; opportunities for employment have been great; probation is having its effect; and in no-license counties arrests generally are few."

The report contains a detailed description of every prison, reformatory, penitentiary, jail and lockup with terms of commitments, offenses, cost of maintenance, industries and policies of administration and recommendations for improvements.

Sing Sing, Auburn and Clinton prisons are pronounced insanitary, medieval and barbarous. Great Meadow is said to be the only modern prison in the state.

Sing Sing is to be used only as a receiving and distributing station. On account of its location in the mountains Clinton Prison is to be used for tubercular prisoners. A large modern hospital is being constructed by prison labor. Great Meadow is the honor prison. Prisoners are not committed to it, but are transferred to it for good conduct.

A psychiatric clinic was established at Sing Sing August 1, 1916, under the direction of Dr. Bernard Glueck.

The cost of maintenance of the state prisons for the last fiscal year was approximately \$93,000 a month, an increase over the cost per month the previous year of \$8,000.

The Mutual Welfare League has been continued at Sing Sing, Auburn and Great Meadow. At Clinton Prison, to which are transferred the incorrigibles and tuberculars, the discipline is more strict.

The earnings of the industrial prisons are reported to have shown a marked decrease. The earnings for the year 1915 were approximately \$941,000. In the year 1916 the decrease was approximately \$8,000 a month. Increased cost of supplies and shortage of orders are said to be responsible for the decrease. Great Meadow is not regarded as an industrial prison. The chief income is from agriculture.

Four hundred inmates of state prisons worked on public roads.

Schools are conducted in all four prisons. The average daily attendance for the year 1916 was 1,068. Eighty-seven per cent of the prisoners committed to Clinton Prison and 13 per cent of those committed to Auburn were illiterate. In the women's prison were 19 illiterates; in Great Meadow, 87; in Sing Sing were 252 who could not read or write the English language.

The State Farm for Women was opened for prisoners October 1, 1914. To it are committed women thirty years or older, who have been convicted of misdemeanors five or more times in the preceding two years. The capacity is 52. The average daily population is 71. There is a farm of 319 acres on which the women work.

There are two reformatories for men and two for women. Men between the ages of 16 and 30 convicted of felonies and women between the ages of 16 and 30 convicted of misdemeanors and felonies, first offense, are committed to the reformatories.

Psychopathic laboratories have been established at the men's reformatory at Elmira and at the women's reformatory at Bedford.

"In no other group of institutions," states the Commission, "have the improvements been so marked as in the county penitentiaries." The improvements consist of structural changes, new sanitary facilities and increase in number of prisoners employed in industries and agriculture.

Improvements in the New York City institutions are recorded. New industrial equipment has been installed, farm land has been purchased, an industrial superintendent has been employed and the prisoners have been reclassified and distributed through the institutions.

There appear to be changes for the better in the county jails. Several counties maintain farms in connection with the jails and

prisoners are employed at farm labor. In only six counties are the sheriffs paid per diem fees for the food of the prisoners.

The work of the State Probation Commission is highly commended as a means of decreasing the institution population and assisting offenders to rebuild their lives. The number of persons on probation at the end of the fiscal year was 13,433. Eight years ago the number was 2,378. There are 188 salaried probation officers in 34 counties.

The Board of Parole for State Prisons reports that there have been paroled from October 1, 1901, to July 1, 1916, 8,623 persons and of this number 1,901 have been declared delinquent.

The principal recommendations of the Commission are: Two custodial institutions for defective delinquents, one for men and one for women; the establishment of psychopathic laboratories; a reformatory for male misdemeanants; modern industrial equipment for the prisons; extension of farm work; employment of prisoners on the public roads; reconstruction of Sing Sing Prison; improvement of the dietary of the prisons; extension of the prison school system; co-operation between the State Probation Commission and the Board of Parole; a full indeterminate sentence law.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO PSYCHO-ANALYSIS. By *Dr. S. Ferenczi*. Translated by Dr. Ernest Jones. Boston: Richard G. Badger, 1916. Pp. 288. \$3.00 net.

Dr. Ferenci, the author of this book, is medical adviser to the Hungarian law courts. The greater part of his work has been published in the Hungarian language. The present volume is made up of a group of articles that have been published in the German periodicals, from which the chapters in this book have been selected by the translator with the advice of the author. Dr. Ferenczi has been for many years an exponent of psychoanalysis following Freud. The volume maintains the tradition of Freudianism.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

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MAN'S UNCONSCIOUS CONFLICT. By *Wilfrid Lay*. New York. Dodd, Mead & Co., 1917. Pages 318. \$1.50.

"In this book an attempt is made to show the unconscious operating in every act of our lives not merely in the actions ordinarily known as unconscious or automatic, but in that part of our activities to which we attribute the most vivid consciousness. For in a certain sense, we are most helped or hindered by the unconscious part of ourselves, when we think we are most keenly alive. Our consciousness pervades our conduct in the most minute details just as the air we breath is

forced by our blood through our tissues and it might almost be said that it is as important and as great an extent when compared with the conscious present as the air, so small a part of which we breathe is great in extent in proportion to the minute particles of it that we take into our lungs."

The foregoing paragraph expresses the motive of the author in the present volume. It is a discussion well adapted to the lay reader of that subject matter that has now, for several years, occupied the attention of many indefatigable investigators in the phenomena of the unconscious: phenomena that crop out with a special distinctness in many forms of mental abnormality. The book is not technical. It is not expected to be of service to the specialist. It will fulfill, however, its purpose among students, parents and other general readers. I mention parents, teachers and other general readers in this connection because we find, in this volume, a hundred or more pages devoted to certain phenomena of everyday life among normal folk, to mental hygiene; and to applications of the psychology of the unconscious in the educational profession. These sections deserve to make strong appeal.

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