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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

NEWMAN F. BAKER [ED.]

Activities of Chicago Crime Commission—The Chicago Crime Commission, through its operating director, Henry Barrett Chamberlin, recently has prepared several documents of value to criminologists. One of these is the summary of "Bail Bonds in Criminal Court Cases," prepared by the Commission, in co-operation with the State's Attorney of Cook County. At the annual meeting, held January 15, 1931, the operating director read his report summarizing the campaign waged against the twenty-eight "public enemies," and other activities in the administration of criminal justice. The official journal of the Commission is the publication "Criminal Justice," which has been issued for twelve years and within its covers appear complete statistical information covering the activities of Chicago courts, judges and prosecutors. Copies may be obtained from Mr. Chamberlin at the office of the Commission, 300 West Adams Street, Chicago. Mr. Frank J. Loesch is President of the Chicago Crime Commission, and Mr. Charles R. Napier serves as Secretary. It might be of general interest to note that the Commission has in its offices the only criminal information file of its kind in the world, representing a cost of \$800,000, and that it has an operating staff of forty-three experienced workers, some of whom have been with the Commission since its organization. Mr. Chamberlin is a

member of the Editorial Board of the *JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY*.

Report to Bar Association—Professor James J. Robinson, of the Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington, Indiana, presented to the section of Criminal Law and Criminology, American Bar Association, a most interesting study of "Recent Legislation Concerning Crime," at the Chicago meeting of the Association. Professor Robinson makes a complete summary of the recent legislation of Congress and the legislatures of the several States, arranged under the following headings: (1) new or unusual offenses; (2) police; (3) penalties; (4) prisons; and (5) procedure.

Oregon Survey—An interesting work is being conducted by the University of Oregon School of Law, Charles E. Carpenter, Dean. It consists of a survey of the Administration of Criminal Justice in Oregon. A Preliminary Report of 46 pages recently was submitted to the Governor and Legislature of the State of Oregon by the Survey Director, Associate Professor Wayne L. Morse, and the Assistant Director, Ronald H. Beattie. Part I discusses the aims and methods of the Survey (20 pages) and Part II covers the statistical findings of the Survey, arranged in 16 tables.

Though the Survey in this Preliminary Report confines itself to felony cases in Multnomah County, its content is worthy of wide notice. Among other interesting conclusions is No. 8: "The study shows that the foreign element in Multnomah County was not charged with as many felonies in proportion to their total population as the group designated as U. S. whites."

Probation Officers—The 1931 Directory of Probation Officers was issued in March by the National Probation Association. It shows that there are at present 4,009 probation officers serving the courts of the United States and Canada.

Howard League—The Annual Report of the Howard League for Penal Reform can be secured from the offices at Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, London, S. W. The President of the League is Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, and the chairman of the executive committee is Miss S. Margery Fry, LL.D., J.P. The report states that an international group was formed at the International Prison Conference, Prague, of those interested in the work of the Howard League, and as a result the Howard League is engaged in raising funds to publish and circulate an annual review containing articles from representatives of each country and followed by short summaries in English, French, or German, as might be necessary.

Criminal Justice in North Carolina—Professor Albert Coates, of the University of North Carolina School of Law, Chapel Hill, N. C., has

written an account of the State-wide study of the administration of criminal justice in North Carolina, being conducted by the members of the North Carolina Bar. This appeared under the title "Popular Government." No reports or conclusions are published but the plans formulated and the organization of labor are described.

Communist Activities—House of Representatives Report No. 2290, 71st Congress, 3d. Session, is the report of the special committee to investigate communist activities in the United States. The report covers 99 pages and summarizes the results of hearings held in practically every section of the United States and the testimony of approximately 275 witnesses.

Anti-Gang League—The Secretary of State at Albany, N. Y., recently granted a charter to the newly formed Anti-Gang Rule League of America. Its avowed object is "to control or eliminate gang rule, criminals and racketeering, especially in the larger cities of the country." The principal office will be in New York City, but the League plans to operate throughout the United States.

Medical Aspects of Crime—In the Report of the Sub-Committee of the National Crime Commission on the Medical Aspects of Crime, this statement is made: "The committee, far from desiring to diagnose all or most offenders as mentally deranged, believes nevertheless that a measurable proportion of criminals present abnormalities of sufficient degree to call for special treatment,

this treatment often being in the nature of segregation for an indeterminate period. A recognition of these abnormalities and intelligent disposition based upon such recognition will, in the belief of the committee, result in a greater degree of protection of society than is possible under the prevailing system of prescribed penalties dependent on the nature of the offense rather than the nature of the offender." This report on the Medical Aspects of Crime is an important document containing concrete and specific recommendations and should be widely discussed. The committee was aided in its study by Dr. Frankwood E. Williams of the National Committee for Hygiene, Dr. Sheldon Glueck, Professor of Criminology, Harvard Law School, and Dr. Winifred Overholser, Director of the Division for the Examination of Prisoners of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Diseases.

Indeterminate Sentence—Following prison troubles in the Joliet and Stateville Prisons, a legislative committee of the Illinois State Legislature began an investigation. It is impossible to summarize the testimony given before this committee, but it is of interest to note that the Warden, Henry C. Hill, placed the blame upon the State's parole system. He is reported to have said: "I am opposed to the indeterminate sentence law, although criminologists all over the country believe in it. In theory it is all right, but it ignores human and political elements. The parole board doesn't decide cases on the merits of a man, but on the kind of crime he committed. I can pick 200 men in Joliet and Stateville who ought to be out

on parole now. If you keep a man in prison too long you might as well keep him in for life. After a certain period of imprisonment he is not a good parole risk; he has become too hardened."

New York Board of Parole—The New York State Bar Association Bulletin for January, 1931, contained an article by Hon. Irving I. Goldsmith, 74 Trinity Place, New York City, entitled "The State Board of Parole." He discusses the history of parole machinery and the duties of the newly created full time Board of Parole of New York. New York has taken a progressive step in providing the staff and the equipment necessary to make a scientific selection of prisoners for release on parole and for helpful supervision of the men who have had contact with its penal institutions.

Probation—The National Probation Association, from its publication office at 375 Broadway, Albany, N. Y., issues each month its official bulletin "Probation," edited by Charles L. Chute and Louise Franklin Bache. The leading article in the January issue was "Setting Up a County Probation Department," by Judge George W. Smyth of the Children's Court, Westchester County, N. Y. The February number contained an article entitled "The Community Responsibility of Probation Departments," by Irving W. Halpern, Chief Probation Officer, Court of General Sessions, New York City. The March issue contained an article on "The State and Probation," prepared by Mr. Charles L. Chute, General Secretary of the National Probation As-

sociation. The National Association has been co-operating with a committee of Illinois judges and the State Probation officer, in drafting bills to completely reorganize probation work in that State.

Work of Dr. Gesell—Dr. Arnold Gesell, Director, Yale Psycho-Clinic, and Professor of Child Hygiene, Yale University, and author of "The Mental Growth of the Pre-School Child" and "Infancy and Human Growth," contributed an article to the September (1930) *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, entitled "A Decade of Progress in the Mental Hygiene of the Pre-School Child." The *Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry* recently contained an essay by the same author, "The Early Diagnosis of Mental Defect" (Vol. 22, pp. 522-529).

Cook County Judicial Council—The Judicial Advisory Council of Cook County, Illinois, consisting of Frederic R. De Young, Chairman, Denis E. Sullivan, Vice-Chairman, Amos C. Miller, Secretary, Harry M. Fisher, John J. Healy, and Professor Robert W. Millar, Consultant, has issued its Report to the Board of Cook County Commissioners and the Chicago Bar Association. This group has used its influence to great advantage in the establishment of the felony branch of the Municipal Court, in the recent holding by the Illinois Supreme Court that the accused has the right to waive trial by jury in all criminal cases, in the readjustment of clerk's and sheriff's fees and in the establishment of the office of Public Defender. Within one year of its creation, the Council has done much

to better the administration of criminal justice in Cook County.

The State Judicial Advisory Council also has made a Report of its activities to the Governor of Illinois and the General Assembly. This Report covers the work of both Councils on Terms of Court, Simplification of Indictment and Information, Peremptory Challenges, Juries as Judges of the Law, the Public Defender, Jury Commissioners, Reclassification of Crimes, Readjustment of Penalties, and Legislative Recommendations.

Uniform Crime Reports—The United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., through J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Bureau of Investigation, has begun the publication of the "Uniform Crime Reports." These are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. At the present time the monthly bulletins list the "Offenses Known to the Police" in tables. Table I contains city reports, arranged according to the Uniform Classification of Offenses, Part I. Table I-A contains county reports. Table II shows the supplementary returns of known offenses. Table III shows the known offenses for the month for cities of 100,000 population and over. Table IV lists the total police department employes, showing the number per 1,000 population. If the Department secures local co-operation in extending its statistical studies, the criminologist will find these reports a mine of information.

Utah Study—The January (1931) *Bulletin of the University of Utah*, contains a 120-page study of the Indeterminate Sentence, Probation

and Parole in Utah, by George Thomas, President of the University of Utah, and Adolph Ladru Jensen, Associate Professor of Law, University of Utah. Part I is devoted to Historical Background and Part II discusses Criminal Laws and Their Administration in Utah. The authors recommend that the indeterminate sentence and parole laws be retained as fundamental parts of the penal system of Utah, but they present several modifications and additions to the present system, notably proper segregation, full time parole officers, use of case histories, etc.

Prison Methods in Belgium—The July-August (1930) number of "Sociology and Social Research" contained an article on New Prison Methods in Belgium, written by Professor John L. Gillin, University of Wisconsin. He finds that Belgium has gone far in classifying various prisoners and placing them in separate institutions designed to meet their needs. "This is of the utmost significance for the United States where we have been dallying with the matter. In no State have we gone as far with adults as has Belgium."

Police School—The Junior College at San Jose, California, has issued announcements describing its course in Police Administration, which leads to the Junior College diploma. Assistant Professor Brereton is in charge. The announcement states: "The object of this two-year period of training is to provide a course of study not heretofore offered, for the student planning to make police service his life work. It is not planned to develop

specialists in any one of the more highly technical fields, but rather to instruct the student in the basic elements of this profession. It is believed that at least some of the courses will offer additional or new information to those already in the police profession."

Scientific Crime Detection School
—The Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory of Northwestern University announces its course of instruction in scientific methods of crime detection for law enforcement officers and others. The lectures and laboratory studies will be held at the laboratory, 469 East Ohio Street, Chicago, Illinois. Among those giving instruction are Colonel Calvin Goddard, Captain Seth Wiard, Mr. Leonarde Keeler, Dr. Clarence Muehlberger, Dr. Paul Schroeder, Colonel H. B. Chamberlin, Director of the Chicago Crime Commission, Mr. Jay Fordyce Wood, Mr. Emory J. Smith, Coroner Herman N. Bundesen, Professors Wigmore, Bruce, Crossley, and Baker, of the Northwestern University Law School, and Chief Investigator Pat Roche. The range of topics is surprisingly complete: handwriting identification, uses of ultra-violet rays, toxicology, truth serums, scientific tests for detecting deception, Mouflage methods, photography, fire arm identification, codes and ciphers, bombs and high explosives, etc. Altogether sixty topics are listed and the lectures cover four weeks of instruction, ending May 9. This course represents the most thorough and complete system of education in this field ever attempted in the United States.

Lynching—The Principal of the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, has prepared his information concerning lynchings for the year 1930: "According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 21 persons lynched in 1930. This is 11 more than the number, 10, for 1929, ten more than the number, 11, for 1928, 5 more than the number, 16, for 1927, and 9 less than the number, 30, for 1926. Fourteen of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were killed in jails; 2 of these were shot to death, and 1 was burned to death when a mob burned the jail; 5 of the 11 other persons in the hands of the law were taken from jails and 6 from officers of the law outside the jails. Of the 7 victims who did not come into the hands of the law, 1 was burned to death and 1 was put to death and his body burned. There were 40 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings; 5 of these were in Northern and Western States and 35 in Southern States. In 33 of the cases the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 7 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 60 persons, 6 white men, 52 negro men and 2 negro women were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. Of the 21 persons lynched, 1 was white and 20 were negroes. The offenses were: Rape, 8; murder, 3; attempted rape, 2; killing officers of the law, 2; robbery, 3; being a witness, 1; bombing houses, 1; charge not reported, 1. The States in which lynchings occurred and the number of each State, are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 1; Georgia, 6; Indiana, 2; Mississippi, 4; North

Carolina, 1; Oklahoma, 1; South Carolina, 2; Texas, 3."

Denver Study—The City Club of Denver, Colorado, has published the Report of its Public Safety Committee on "Juvenile Delinquency in Denver." The committee chairman is Dr. Franklin G. Ebaugh. The study presents social, physical, psychological and psychiatric data, gathered from an examination of an unselected group of 100 boys. The committee states "No community can afford to ignore the problem of delinquency." The report presents many of the causal factors of juvenile delinquency, and after discussing them, formulates concrete recommendations.

Ohio Report—The Welfare Advisory Commission, appointed by Governor Myers Y. Cooper of Ohio, to make a "study of the general welfare situation in Ohio," made its report December 22, 1930, through its Chairman, Hon. Julius F. Stone. Of great general importance is its discussion of the problem of overcrowding in the male penal institutions in Ohio. In the decade following 1920, the average daily population of these institutions increased $2\frac{3}{4}$ times. The report is rich in interest, the following being a typical comment: "The paramount object of imprisonment is to protect society. It is well known that upward of 95 per cent of the men committed to penal institutions ultimately return to society. Obviously, the community is protected while the offender is in prison, but it is clear that if the community is to be permanently protected, imprisonment must have as its chief purpose the prevention

of further offenses after release. The Commission favors neither the coddling nor 'hard boiled' treatment of prisoners, but believes in a practical, scientific and humane middle ground."

Articles in United States Daily— The United States Daily, for January (1931), p. 14, contains a short article by Margaret W. Stewart, who is in charge of the State Law Index, Library of Congress, discussing "How States Grant Awards for False Imprisonment." The United States Daily has issued two supplements which contain a great amount of material of interest to criminologists. The supplement of January 5 (1931) gives the complete stenographic record of the Conference on Education held at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The paper of Mr. A. H. MacCormick of the United States Department of Justice, entitled "The Education of Prisoners: Federal Interest," is followed by the address of Warden Oscar Lee, of the Wisconsin State Prison, on "The Education of Prisoners: State Interest." These studies deserve wide publicity. The supplement of February 16 (1931) contains excerpts arranged by topics from the "Messages of the Governors" to the legislatures of forty-three States. There is much that is worth while in the sections on "Crime: Crime Prevention," "Judiciary," "Law Enforcement," "Prison: Pardon: Probation: Parole," and "Public Welfare." There is not sufficient space to reprint this material in the JOURNAL, but it should be made available to more readers in a summary form.

New Executive Officer—Mr. H. Edmund Bullis of Washington, D. C., has been appointed Executive Officer of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene. Under the direction of Dr. C. M. Hincks, General Director, Mr. Bullis will be responsible for the business administration of the National Committee. He will serve in a similar capacity as Executive Officer of the American Foundation for Mental Hygiene and The International Committee for Mental Hygiene.

New Secretary—Mr. Victor M. Tyler of New Haven, has been appointed Associate Secretary of The National Committee for Mental Hygiene. Mr. Tyler will also serve as Associate Secretary of The American Foundation for Mental Hygiene and of The International Committee for Mental Hygiene, affiliated organizations of the National Committee. In these capacities Mr. Tyler will assist Mr. Clifford W. Beers, Founder and Secretary of these agencies, in the discharge of various organization duties, giving special attention to the development of the financial resources of The American Foundation for Mental Hygiene, which functions as custodian and administrator of gifts and bequests for mental hygiene work performed by the National Committee and other organizations in its field.

Vollmer Returns to California—Professor August Vollmer has resigned his position as Professor of Police Administration at the University of Chicago, after serving that institution during the Fall and Winter quarters, and has returned to his former work at Berkeley,

California. During his stay in Chicago, Mr. Vollmer has been active in civic work and has accomplished much for so short a time. Mr. Vollmer will remain on the Board of Editors of the JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY.

Prosecutors Organize—Upon the call of State's Attorney John A. Swanson of Chicago, prosecuting attorneys from all parts of the United States met in Chicago, March 23, 24, and 25. Out of the meeting came a unanimous agreement that prosecutors must cease to deal with crime as a purely local problem, but must unite "to fight their nationally organized foemen on their own terms." An organizing committee perfected the organization of the "National Prosecuting Attorneys' Association," providing for an executive secretary, paid and permanent, who shall conduct a "liaison bureau," or clearing house of information. Members of the organization committee are: Eugene Stanley, district attorney of New Orleans; James R. Page, prosecuting attorney, Kansas City, Mo.; R. M. Burgunder, prosecuting attorney, Seattle; Edward J. Goff, county attorney, Minneapolis; Fred S. Holbrook, assistant district attorney, Rochester, N. Y.; Buron Fitts, district attorney of Los Angeles, and Mr. Swanson. Mr. Swanson was elected President of the new organization and three Vice-Presidents were chosen: prosecutors Fitts of Los Angeles, Stanley of New Orleans, and Joseph L. Smith of Newark, N. J.

Mental Hygiene Publication—The Mental Hygiene Bulletin is edited by Paul O. Komora at 370 Seventh

Avenue, New York City, for the National Committee for Mental Hygiene. The January - February (1931) issue contains as the leading article, "Problems of Mental Health—The Present Status of Mental Hygiene."

A. P. A. Officers—The American Prison Association's officers for 1931, and their addresses, are: President, Leon C. Faulkner; Managing Director, Children's Village, Dobb's Ferry, N. Y.; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Mabel Bassett, Commissioner of Charities and Corrections, Oklahoma City, Okla., Harold E. Donnell, Supt. of Prisons, Baltimore, Md., Mrs. Blanche L. La Du, Chairman, State Board of Control, Minneapolis, Minn., Brigadier General W. S. Hughes, Supt. of Penitentiaries, Otta, Canada, and Dr. Walter N. Thayer, Jr., Commissioner, State Dept. of Correction, Albany, N. Y.; Treasurer, Decatur M. Sawyer, Honorary Secretary, The Prison Association of New York, 135 East 15th St., New York City; and General Secretary, E. R. Cass, The Prison Association of New York, 135 East 15th St., New York City.

A. P. A. Publication—The "Congress Bulletin" is published by the American Prison Association at 135 East 15th Street, New York City. The December (1930) issue contained the message of the President, Leon C. Faulkner, who declared that the executive committee has selected for the next Congress of the Association the general topic "Society's Responsibility for Crime." All papers and discussions will center about this main theme. The 1931 meeting will be held in Balti-

more, Md. A complete list of the officers, directors, and committee members comprising its 1931 organization is given in the December "Congress Bulletin."

Eugenics Publication—The Eugenical News is the official organ of the Eugenics Research Association, and is published monthly at Lancaster, Pa. The publication frequently presents studies in heredity and race problems of interest to the criminologist. The editors are C. B. Davenport and H. H. Laughlin.

Polish Publication—The Polish Review of Penal Sciences, including criminal law, criminal legislation, and penology, is published at Warsaw, under the direction of M. Edward Neymark. It has recently issued its index of leading articles contained in its first six volumes published.

New York Report—The Report of the Commission to Investigate Prison Administration and Construction was presented to the Legislature of New York, February 15, 1931. The Commission consisted of Sam A. Lewisohn, Chairman, Julia K. Jaffray, Secretary, Thomas C. Brown, E. R. Cass, Milan E. Goodrich, Hastings H. Hart, and Walter N. Thayer, Jr. The report covers 107 pages and covers the following topics: Proposals for Classification and Segregation, Housing Requirements for the Prison Population, Experience with Medium and Minimum Security Prisons, Prison Construction and Cost, The Personnel of the Prison, The Care and Training of the Prisoners, followed

by proposed changes in the Executive, Penal, and Correction Laws, and including a lengthy appendix containing several reports of special studies and analyses of questionnaires. Issued separately, but as part of the general report, Dr. V. C. Branham, Deputy Commissioner of the New York Department of Correction, submits to the Commission a study entitled "The Classification of the Prison Inmates of New York State," 69 pages in length, containing useful statistical studies. This supplemental report is listed as Addendum II. Addendum III discusses "Conditions Affecting Safety to Life with Respect to Fire," Addendum IV (to be published) contains the Report on Correctional Institutions for Women, and Addendum V (to be published) contains the Preliminary Report on Prison Industries.

The Preliminary Report makes the following recommendations:

First: That the State build no more prisons of the fortress type with impregnable steel cells surrounded by impregnable walls because when existing prisons are remodelled and the construction contracted for at Attica is completed, the State will have the maximum number of steel cells which will be required for a long period of years.

Second: That there should be two reception prisons: Sing Sing for the Eastern and Attica for the Western part of the State, at which a thorough psychiatric examination should be given to each prisoner immediately after his commitment; that each prisoner's case should be reviewed periodically during the time of his incarceration; and that the classification resulting from such examination should be made the basis for his assignment and training while in prison. To pro-

vide for this classification and psychiatric work your Commission recommend that an appropriation of \$47,000 a year be made for additional psychiatric staff.

Third: That one new medium security prison should be established in 1931 (a detailed description of the proposed medium security prison was contained in this report together with recommendations for the site on which it should be located).

Fourth: That the road camps should be continued and extended in 1931.

Fifth: That an appropriation of \$125,000 should be made to the Department of Correction for experiments in prison housing, such as the development of small pre-parole units.

Sixth: That the practice should be abandoned of employing prisoners on confidential work, such as correspondence, telephone, care of the records of inmates and so forth and that an appropriation of \$57,300 a year should be made for civilian help to substitute for prisoners in such positions."

The Final Report on Personnel recommends:

"1. That until adequate qualifications can be established for the personnel for the new medium security prisons, the staff for such institutions should be placed in the non-competitive class of civil service appointments.

2. That the schools for prison guards should be continued and some type of formal training for staff given in all other correctional institutions.

3. That the Correction Law should be amended so as to make retirement of guards possible after twenty-five years of service.

4. That increases in salaries for guards should be depended not only on length of service but also upon efficiency.

5. That an appropriation of \$57,300 should be made available to the Department of Correction for civilian help to supersede inmates in confidential positions."

The proposed changes in the Executive, Penal, and Correction Laws are:

"1. That the Correction Law be amended to permit the transfer at the discretion of the Commissioner of Correction of inmates of all institutions of the Department of Correction from one institution to another depending upon their need for individual study and treatment.

2. That Sing Sing and Attica be designated as receiving and classification prisons for the Department of Correction and that all commitments to a State prison be made to either of these prisons in accordance with a geographical division to be worked out by the Department of Correction.

3. That all first-offender felons, with the exception of those convicted of murder in the first and second degree and rape and arson in the first degree, receive a uniform minimum sentence and that the maximum sentence be that fixed by the statute each crime.

4. Provided the Division of Parole is able to undertake the additional labor and responsibility involved, it is recommended that the courts continue to give second and third offenders definite sentences; that the second offenders be eligible for parole consideration at the expiration of one-half the sentence fixed by the court and that the third offender be eligible for parole consideration at the expiration of three-

fourths of the sentence fixed by the court and that during the balance of the unexpired portion of the maximum sentence fixed by law for each crime the prisoner be under the supervision of the Division of Parole.

5. That the present fourth-offender act, making mandatory life imprisonment, be amended to provide that the fourth offender shall serve as a minimum sentence the period of time fixed by law as the maximum for the crime which he has committed and as a maximum sentence life imprisonment. The prisoner's release at the expiration of the minimum sentence should be determined by the Division of Parole and subsequent to release the prisoner should be under the control of the Division of Parole for life.

6. That all prisoners serving an indeterminate sentence shall be allowed to earn a reduction on their minimum sentence at the rate of five days per month, such reduction to be known as compensation; if not released at the expiration of the minimum sentence such prisoner shall be allowed to earn an additional reduction of sentence at the rate of five days per month on the unexpired maximum, such reduction to be known as commutation.

7. That all prisoners serving a definite sentence be allowed to earn an additional reduction of sentence at the rate of five days per month, such reduction to be known as commutation.

8. That the Commissioner of correction be permitted to allow prisoners assigned to work or housed at a distance from the prison and serving an indeterminate or a definite sentence an additional reduction of sentence at a rate not exceeding five days per month.

9. That there be established in the Department of Correction a revolving fund to be issued in returning non-resident inmates of prisons to their home States subsequent to release."

The following statement on page 5 [of the Report] is worth noting: "Whither are we tending"—and what is the conception of the Commission as to the end result or the prison of the future are questions which may arise. The answer is very brief: A hard-working community or training camp, which year by year becomes more nearly self-supporting through the efforts of carefully selected, wisely directed inmate workers who are able to do the work assigned to them, who are acquiring physical soundness, and habits of work and skill, and who, in this restricted community are preparing for life in the broader community outside the prison."

Mr. Lewisohn, Chairman, issued to the newspapers an extended explanation of the Commission's findings and recommendations, which was printed throughout the country on February 16, 1931.

Crimino-Biological Research Bureaus in the Prussian Prisons— According to the *Blätter für Gefängniskunde*, a ministerial decree of July 29, 1930, established research laboratories in the prisons of Berlin (the detention jail), Breslau, Munster i. W., Cologne, Wittlich, Frankfurt a. M., Goldnow, Rheinbach, Halle a. S. The prison physicians were placed in charge and the Berlin jail was designated the central bureau where the documentary information gathered should be deposited.

The aim of the crimino-biological examination, according to the de-

cree, is to discover the psycho-physical nature of the prisoner, the causes of his crime, and his inherited and acquired characteristics in order to secure a basis for his penal treatment. The data will also be valuable in the case of later recidivism of those already studied since the court may have access to this information. Finally, the information may have purely scientific value.

The study of the prisoner will be carried out in accordance with section 2 of the decree on the progressive prison system, June 7, 1929, and will be based on questionnaires secured from the central bureau. If possible, additional information shall be secured, such as: documents establishing civil status, reports from judicial aid bureaus, prison aid societies, welfare organizations, hospitals, clinics, correctional institutions, parish offices, schools, city executives' offices, etc.

The investigation should result in 1, the gathering of the personal history of the prisoner with information about relatives, teachers, employers, etc.; 2, the consultation of discharge papers from hospitals and other institutions; 3, the consultation of court dockets concerning the crime; 4, a psychiatric examination; 5, establishment of the personality type according to crimino-biological principles; 6, physical measurements and description. Inquiries should be made judiciously, and the information gathered from the prisoner's family and relatives should be secured through appropriate public and private welfare associations.

The examinations are mandatory in the case of felons or serious misdemeanants against life, property and morals, robbers and extortionists, arsonists, professional or habit-

ual criminals, and incorrigibles. Upon completion of the study, reports must be made to the prison directorate and to the "penal registry." In the prison where the criminal is to serve his sentence, this information is placed in his record file. The institution must also send the research bureau all information concerning the behavior of the prisoner during confinement as well as its reports on pardon applications. In special instances, the psychiatric examination shall be extended to include capillary microscopy and the use of the most recent methods in constitutional biology, blood group research, and graphology.

On April 1, 1932, the presiding officers of the institution shall report on the experiences of these research bureaus.

Apropos of the above decree, which is obviously a result of the important work which in late years has been going on in the crimino-biological laboratories of Saxony, Bavaria, Austria, Belgium, Italy, Esthonia, and Russia, it may be well to refer to a keenly critical article by Professor H. Reiter in the January, 1931, number of the *Monatschrift für Kriminalpsychologie und Strafrechtsreform* in which a warning is sounded against a premature utilization of crimino-biological data while the science is still in its swaddling clothes.

T. S.

Paterson Visits United States—
America recently was honored by a visit from a distinguished prison administrator from abroad in the person of Mr. Alexander Paterson, Royal Commissioner of Prisons for England and Wales. During his stay of several weeks in this country, Mr. Paterson visited some fifty-

five Penal and Reformatory institutions, and proved to be a very painstaking inspector. He was amazed at the condition of overcrowding and idleness found in our institutions and declared that no constructive program for the betterment of prisons could be expected so long as these conditions exist. Mr. Paterson was entertained by leading citizens in this field at New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, San Francisco, Boston and other cities. In Illinois he visited the State Penitentiary at Joliet, the St. Charles School for boys, and was especially interested in the Chicago Juvenile Court and Juvenile Research Institute, where he found more thorough work and better salaries than he has known of elsewhere.

Mr. Paterson addressed the Chicago Forum on the subject "Can Prisons Be Humanized?" and he spoke before a group at the University of Chicago on "The Adolescent Delinquent." He stated that

the thing which impressed him most was the difference in the size of prisons in his country and our own. He stated that for Penal Institutions in England the limit of population was set at one thousand or twelve hundred, whereas we are building some new prisons with a capacity of five thousand or more. In the matter of Juvenile Institutions, four hundred inmates is considered the limit in England, whereas we have no special limit in our Reformatories. As to the severity of treatment of offenders the average sentence to Penal Institutions in England is eighteen months, whereas the practice in the United States is found to be very much higher. Perhaps the greatest lesson America has to learn from the administration of English Prisons is in the higher class of civil service personnel insisted upon in that country, both in the administration of Police Departments and in Penal and Correctional Institutions.

**PAGES 159-160 ARE
INTENTIONALLY OMITTED**

