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THE WORLD'S OLDEST
TRAINING SCHOOL FOR
PRISON OFFICIALS

J. L. GILLIN¹

In an article in the *JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY* for March, 1932, Lieutenant Peter-son, school officer of the New Jersey Reformatory, evidently following the statement of Dr. H. H. Hart in his pamphlet entitled "Training School for Prison Officers," published by the Russell Sage Foundation in 1930, claims that the first prison officers' training school was opened in Wakefield, England, in 1925. Dr. Hart in his pamphlet speaks of this school as the pioneer of this kind of institution. Dr. Hart's pamphlet appeared in 1930. My book entitled *Taming the Criminal* was published in 1931 and therefore Dr. Hart is blameless for not knowing what I published a year later. In my visit to Japan in 1927 and 1928 I learned of the courses given by the Japanese Prison Association for prison officials. There are three such courses in the Japanese system. One is a common course inaugurated in 1908 and intended for all the lower prison officials, the chief warders of lower rank, jailers and women jailers. By 1925 this common course had graduated about 2,000 prison officials. It is carried on for six months annually.

In this course are included such subjects as European and American prison systems and their histories, criminal law, a discussion of both general and special problems necessary for prisons officials, crim-

inal procedure, the parole system, criminal psychology, ethics, principles of jurisprudence, juvenile law, the care of discharged prisoners, the fingerprint system, the history and purpose of prison administration, and general sociology.

A second course intended for the higher prison officials is two months in length each year. These officials are given courses in penal policies, prison systems, prison industries, prison hygiene, welfare work, criminal procedure, comparative prison law, prison architecture, criminal sociology, psychology of labor, factory management, efficiency, prison industries, financial law, psychopathology, social work, principles of moral instruction, and theories of the purchase and sale of products.

The third course is intended for prison physicians. Some of the prison physicians are required to attend a two-months course of instruction in medical work especially for prisoners. The courses offered include internal medicine, surgery, ophthalmology, oto-rhino-laryngology, dermatology, venereal disease, psychology, bacteriology, serum therapy, and labor hygiene.

In addition to all these formal courses in any Japanese prison officials are required to practice *judo* (ju-jitsu) and *kendo* (fencing).

It appears, therefore, that in spite of the progressiveness of the English prison system in starting the Wakefield School for the training of prison officials in 1925, that Japan had anticipated England as the pioneer among Western nations by seventeen years.

While Japan has borrowed extensively from the Western nations certain elements in their prison system. she has adapted these borrowings in some rather remarkable

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