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PRISON STAGNATION SINCE 1900

RAY MARS SIMPSON¹

During the past third of a century very few new techniques have been introduced into state or federal prisons in the United States to rectify delinquent tendencies or to improve the character of inmates confined in these institutions.

Recently much emphasis has been placed upon the classification and segregation of prisoners. This in turn has led to the creation of novel housing arrangements in several recently constructed prisons. Trade training, steady employment and educational enlightenment have also been advanced with considerable ardor by many who labor under the naive assumption that it is possible to change prison inmates into upright, respectable citizens by such blanket proposals. In this article certain facts have been collected from the annual reports of various penal institutions, as well as from other sources, to show that many of the so-called prison "reforms" of the present day were strongly in evidence thirty-five years ago. Furthermore, there is very little evidence to prove that the routine procedures mentioned above have done much to alter the deep-seated delinquent tendencies of reformatory and penitentiary inmates. This fact has been reiterated by many observers of American prison administration.

At the Sixth International Prison Congress held in Brussels, Belgium, in 1900, Monsieur Riviere and Madame Dupuy stressed the need for the individual treatment of prisoners in France. Several American delegates were present to participate in those discussions. During recent years many vociferous appeals have been advanced for the "individual treatment" of offenders in this country yet few outstanding practical suggestions have been offered as to how this so-called "individual treatment" is to be applied. Many shallow-pated reformers are available to offer individual diagnoses but few are able to define or administer "individual treatment."

The Classification Rut

Perhaps at the outset it might prove of value to question the significance of various classification schemes as methods for reforming prison inmates. It is assumed that a program of segregation will

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operate to prevent prisons from becoming "schools of crime." This assumption is true in part yet in the main it should be seriously questioned. It should be borne in mind that "birds of a feather flock together" in prison as well as in normal life. Youthful first offenders frequently seek their own kind while "hardboiled nine-minute eggs" often choose to associate with men of similar age and experience. Nature has its own methods for classifying human beings according to age, temperament and past experience. Many so-called first offenders have backgrounds filled with petty violations of the law. In basic habits and outlook upon life many are on a par with the older recidivists. An inmate who has spent over twenty-five years behind prison bars states that "the older offender will frequently discourage the evil-minded youngster by pointing out to him the utter futility of trying to beat the law."

During the past quarter of a century various classification clinics have come into existence throughout the world with the avowed purpose of assisting in the noble work of reform by studying "individual differences" and then separating the "sheep from the goats." Such clinics frequently continue the older tradition of unrelenting diagnoses without giving sufficient attention to the development of techniques for changing anti-social behavior into acceptable social behavior. More attention should be given to what transpires within the prison walls.

As noted above, classification schemes are nothing new. They seem to become more elaborate and complex from year to year. Prior to 1900 Massachusetts had a grading system for prisoners. On July 1, 1903, the classification of prisoners was ordered in a new law designed "to regulate the employment of convicts and prisoners in the penal and reformatory institutions in the state of Illinois." In this law prisoners were to be treated under three different classes, namely, obedient and competent to work, incorrigible yet competent to work, and incorrigible and incompetent to work. In 1904 the Colorado Reformatory classified prisoners in a general way as highest, intermediate and lowest in potential character value. In 1906 the annual report of the prison in Stillwater, Minnesota, showed that prisoners were classified into three groups on the basis of general demeanor. In the same year the annual report of the Western Penitentiary in Pennsylvania, showed that a ward had been set aside for insane prisoners. In 1908 an asylum for the criminal insane was under construction at the Folsom Prison in California. In 1914 Garofalo's text on criminology classified criminals into four classes,

namely, murderers, violent criminals, criminals deficient in honesty and lascivious criminals. These illustrations could be amplified many times. They are presented to show that the idea of classification is not new in this country and to remind the reader that this method is only a questionable preliminary step to the real problem of reclaiming these wastrels of human society.

The most comprehensive classification system yet devised is probably that recently advanced by Wilhelm Sauer, Professor of Law in the University of Konigsburg, in Germany. He first divides all crimes into three classes, namely, attack crimes, pecuniary crimes and weakness crimes. These are again divided into four groupings according to the methods used in perpetrating crimes. Following this division he evaluates each criminal act in terms of its social danger. In final analysis all criminals are classified according to their susceptibility to the three chief influences which he believes cause crime, namely, environment, personality and free will. This is the very latest scheme advanced to promote progress in penal reform! Yet one is at a loss to discover just how this contributes to the rehabilitation of violators of the law.

Since July 1, 1933, all male individuals committed to the Illinois State Penitentiary have been classified by the Criminologist and segregated roughly into five main divisions, namely, the mentally normal first offenders over the age of twenty-one years, the mentally normal first offenders under the age of twenty-one years, the habitual criminals with normal intelligence, the feeble-minded and the insane. Expediency probably plays some part in this classification since only five institutions in the state are available for male felons. Individuals are further classified into about fifteen types according to personality characteristics. The majority of prisoners fall into the following four main personality groupings: the egocentric, the emotionally unstable, the inadequate and the mentally defective. They are again classified according to intellectual level as superior, average, dull, borderline defective and feeble-minded. Routine recommendations are made to wardens on the occupational placement and institutional training of inmates.

It is at this juncture that the weakness of the whole classification system becomes evident. What treatment should be applied to each classified group? Is it essential to segregate these individuals into various groups in order to instill habits of socially acceptable behavior? Is classification conducive to the development of proper attitudes toward law and civic responsibility? Regardless of certain

advantages in prison administration which might be derived from classification systems one great problem still remains—What methods and techniques should be employed to change anti-social individuals into law abiding citizens?

The staff at the State Prison Colony at Norfolk, Massachusetts, has developed a treatment classification which is far in advance of all other classification programs since the emphasis is placed upon treatment. They divide all prisoners in that institution into five groups according to the outstanding factors which led to their downfall, namely, situational (financial, domestic, etc.), medical (syphilis, deformity, etc.), personality (neurotic, insane, etc.), asocial (gangsters, professional criminals, etc.) and the custodial group (hopeless chronic offenders). The plan of treatment is designed to eliminate the factors which lead to violations of the law. This is probably the most intelligent and hopeful plan in operation in any prison in America today regardless of many shortcomings. It seems far superior to the plan being developed at the new Eastern State Penitentiary at Graterford, Pennsylvania, in which prisoners are to be progressively advanced to greater freedom through a series of eight cell houses according to improvement in character. Furthermore, it seems to offer more hope for real progress than the psychiatric diagnoses made in the Psychiatric Clinics at Sing Sing, Joliet and other prisons.

The main point to be stressed here is that during the past third of a century much talk has transpired and an abundance of energy has been expended in devising schemes for the classification and segregation of prisoners while the more essential problem of how to treat prisoners within the prison walls has been sadly neglected. Glib talk about segregation as a cure-all probably appeals to legislators and to the public because it seems so simple to operate. Yet it has failed, and is still failing, to produce the desired results.

It must be admitted, of course, that some simple plan for the segregation of prisoners is necessary. Since the reforms instituted by John Howard a hundred years ago it has been customary to separate male and female prisoners and to show special consideration for youthful offenders. The wardens of prisons in this country have used simple, common sense methods for many years in separating the "cream from the milk." In many instances judges and juries act as classification boards when a worthy offender is allowed to plead guilty to a lesser offense or when known criminals are given maximum sentences.

Is it possible to "re-form" sexual perverts or alter the urges of those addicted to sodomy by placing them in groups by themselves? Of course very few would question the necessity for providing single cells for all inmates. In dealing with this class of men, segregation into groups merely fans the flame of passion as prison officials well know. This was recently demonstrated by the amazing situation which developed in the prison on Welfare Island in New York. The ridicule and censure of the normal group of prisoners frequently proves effective as a deterrent. In many prisons today these men are placed in solitary confinement to "cure" them through punishment. The facts prove that this method also is ineffective. Since most authorities are ignorant concerning methods for treating this class of individuals they resort to segregation as an easy way out of the difficulty. In 1928, Dr. Guy Fernald, resident physician at the Massachusetts Reformatory wrote that "no sex vice victim can reform while his mental conflict remains." Close supervision should be sufficient to prevent the pollution of the great mass of normal prisoners by the few sexual perverts. Treatment of these perverts should become an integral part of the prison routine. Prison programs should be designed to teach self-respect and cater to pride. Human beings must learn to live together in peace and mutual good will inside of prisons as well as outside.

For many years provision has been made for the small per cent (approximately five) of prisoners found to be psychotic or insane.

At the St. Charles School for Boys in Illinois the segregation of youthful first offenders by the cottage system has proved to be a failure in many respects. Recently Mr. Owen C. Connorton showed that a very large proportion of the boys committed to St. Charles continued in crime following release. Before the St. Charles School for Boys was opened the very young delinquents were sent to the Pontiac Reformatory. In 1905 the superintendent at Pontiac reported: "We are steadily pursuing the policy of separating the smaller boys from those of older years. In every way they are kept distinct from each other. They have separate buildings, separate schools, separate library and separate occupations." A Junior Republic was organized in Pontiac in 1903 for about two-hundred inmates between the ages of thirteen and seventeen years. This plan of self government was designed to teach individual responsibility. These youthful offenders operated their own bank; elected their own officers; exercised pride in good table manners; and took an active part in their own welfare. The aim was "to do nothing for them which they could properly and

advantageously do for themselves." When these boys were transferred to the new St. Charles School and were placed in cottages under the supervision of a "house mother and father" great hopes were maintained for the effectiveness of the system. Yet, this worthy experiment in classification failed to produce the desired results. The actual causes for its failure are many. It seems probable that the Junior Republic at Pontiac in 1903 was superior in many respects to the limited degree of responsibility extended to the boys at St. Charles.

In 1895 the George Junior Republic at Freeville, New York, set standards for inmate self-improvement (under the supervision of Thomas Mott Osborne) which many prison officials might profitably follow today. Osborne's work along these same lines while he was warden at Auburn and Sing Sing prisons is probably the outstanding contribution to experimental penological science in America. It will prove most interesting to note the final results of the magnificent experiment now in course of operation at the Norfolk Prison in Massachusetts. In this prison the cottage plan plus segregation is supplemented by detailed "life plans" for each prisoner under the friendly and intelligent supervision of college trained attendants.

It is possible that many experiments in segregation have failed because in actual fact no absolute segregation was established. Furthermore, it is highly probable that no absolute system of segregation is possible. Strictly speaking there are as many classes of prisoners as there are individuals within a prison.

Some blame the failure of classification schemes upon overcrowding in prisons. They claim that such overcrowding interferes with the proper administration of a segregation program in prison. There is some truth in this contention but all the blame for failure cannot be placed upon overcrowding. The problem still remains to be solved—"How are segregation programs to be effectively administered?"

Probably more rapid progress would be made if the emphasis were shifted from present day classification schemes to research projects designed to discover the basic psychological principles underlying learning processes and habit formation. How can penitentiary inmates be taught to be honest, truthful, courteous, ambitious, sincere, just, virtuous, industrious and trustworthy?

Lack of Employment

One of the greatest problems confronting prison administrators is to find suitable employment for each prisoner. In 1935 about one third of the total penal population in Illinois was profitably employed.

In 1900 the situation was not much better while in 1906, according to the annual report, only three-hundred out of a population of fourteen-hundred inmates in the Joliet prison "were employed in the various industries." In the annual report of the warden at Canon City, Colorado, in 1902 he stated that "Under the laws and the opposition of the unions of our state we are unable to provide employment for these men which means that almost the entire body of convicts must remain unemployed." The constant agitation of labor unions against the sale of prison-made goods in the open market is mainly responsible for the great amount of unemployment in the prisons today. Mr. Howard B. Gill reports that "as early as 1823 cabinet makers in New York protested against the competition of prison-made goods." In 1907 over four million grain bags were manufactured in the jute mill at San Quentin Prison in California. Today the same jute mill is in operation. In 1907 over one million two hundred thousand dollars worth of binder twine was manufactured and sold by the Minnesota State Prison at Stillwater. (In 1905 the International Harvester Company opened a binder twine factory at Hazel Park in Minnesota in competition with the prison-made product.) In 1906 each prisoner earned an average of four hundred and forty-seven dollars each year; while it cost only one-hundred and sixty-seven dollars for his care and maintenance. Today the prison at Stillwater "produces twine and farm machinery under public account and proudly reports sufficient profit to pay all prison expenses, support the families of its inmates, and set aside a fair amount in wages for all men released."

In 1903 a state-use law was enacted in Illinois which in effect restricted prisoners from making articles to be sold in the open market. This law allowed them to make articles mainly for the use of state, county and municipal institutions. This was not made really effective until recently when the legislature passed a very strict state-use law. Since that time the amount of unemployment in the prisons of Illinois has reached appalling proportions. The soap factory, auto license plate factory and the new woolen mill at Joliet-Stateville have been substituted in the main for the magnificent furniture and wood-working shops which formerly produced several hundred thousand dollars worth of finished products which were sold through wholesale business houses in Chicago annually. In 1905 an act was passed which permitted the prisons of Illinois to manufacture road machinery, tools and necessary appliances and materials for the building and maintenance of roads in the state. Very little was ever

accomplished under this law due to the subsequent interference of outside labor interests.

The passage of the Hawes-Cooper Act by Congress in 1929 made the prison labor situation even more tense. This law prohibits interstate shipment of prison-made goods. Furthermore, the American Federation of Labor has been working for many years to secure legislation which would provide for the exclusive state-use system in every state in the union.

A comparison of the annual reports for the vast majority of prisons in the United States between 1900 and 1934 will show that working conditions have actually grown worse during this interval of time. Furthermore, very little improvement has been made in trade training in most of these institutions. In an address given before the Seventh International Prison Congress in Budapest, Hungary, in September, 1905, Mr. Z. R. Brockway, who organized the Elmira Reformatory in New York in 1876, reported that thirty-three trades were being taught in that institution. Furthermore, he suggested that the vocational assignment of a prisoner should take into consideration his natural adaptability for any calling, a knowledge of the available industries in the neighborhood in which he was to be released and information relative to the trades followed by his relatives and friends. Very little improvement has been made since Mr. Brockway offered these suggestions.

The whole problem of the value of trade training as a reformatory measure should receive more careful check. Dr. Sheldon Glueck has shown that very few boys released from the Massachusetts Reformatory follow the trades they have been taught in prison. Some claim they never learn the trade well and consequently abandon it upon release. A veil of great uncertainty surrounds the problem.

The author is inclined to believe that if trade training is to prove beneficial as a reformatory measure it should be handled in a manner which would inculcate habits of self-reliance and industry in each inmate. Why not allow the prisoner to arise each morning whenever he desires; to go to breakfast at will; and to punch a time clock in the prison shop as normal industrial employees do on the outside? Why have a uniformed "State Father" walk beside a group of prisoners in double file to make sure that they will not lose their way in going to and from work? Does this develop individual initiative? Does this develop pride? Does this develop self-respect? Treatises have been written about the pampered child as a potential criminal yet pampering and coddling are rampant in a disguised form in penal institutions in America today.

In the main, it costs about as much to operate a prison today as it did over twenty-five years ago. For example, the per capita cost of maintaining eleven thousand four hundred and sixty inmates in the penal and correctional institutions in Illinois in 1930 was 48c per day; while in 1902 the per capita cost at Joliet was 46c per day. It cost 59c per day to maintain a prisoner in the Federal Penitentiary at Atlanta in 1903; while in 1902 the per capita cost at the Federal Prison at Leavenworth was 54c per day. In 1907 the per capita cost at the Folsom Prison in California was 45c per day. In 1905 the per capita cost for maintaining the Massachusetts State Prison was 39c per day; while the annual report shows that it cost \$1.09 per inmate to operate the same prison in 1933.

Neglected Details in Prison Life

Prison libraries in many respects are in worse condition today than they were in 1900. In fact in many institutions the number of good books was greater in proportion to the prison population in 1900 than today. It is interesting to note that in 1904 magazine reading circles existed in the Southern Illinois Penitentiary at Menard. Few prisons today foster such cultural programs. In 1902 two-thousand new volumes were added to the prison library at Joliet. In 1934 about the same number of new volumes were added. In 1906 the Chaplain at Joliet boasted that the Illinois State Penitentiary had the largest prison library in the world with seventeen thousand one hundred and fifteen volumes. In November, 1935, the librarian reported a total of sixteen thousand volumes in the old and new prisons at Joliet. The Pontiac Reformatory library had eleven thousand volumes in 1900. The Norfolk Prison library had two thousand seven hundred books in 1932 for three hundred fifty-eight inmates.

For half a century the smoking and chewing of tobacco has been encouraged in prisons throughout this country. Is this reform or coddling? In 1906 the sum of \$1867.00 was expended upon tobacco for the thirteen-hundred inmates in the State Penitentiary for the Western District of Pennsylvania. In 1907 the sum of \$5202.00 was spent to supply tobacco to the thirteen-hundred prisoners at San Quentin Prison in California. In the prisons in Illinois, as in many other prisons throughout the country, tobacco continues to be distributed to prisoners without funds.

Overcrowding in the Illinois State Penitentiary at Joliet has been prevalent for many years. The report of the three commissioners for the Illinois State Penitentiary in 1898 contains a plea for the elimination of the evils attendant upon placing two men in "antiquated cells

which are only seven feet long, seven feet high and four feet wide." At that time the report shows that they placed twelve-hundred prisoners in nine-hundred cells. In Joliet these same old cells are still in use today with two men occupying each compartment. Furthermore, the same system of insanitary slop buckets has been in use in the old prison at Joliet since Civil War times. In 1898 the prison physician strongly urged that the "undesirable and antiquated system of carrying slop buckets to the cells should be discontinued and that modern plumbing should be installed." In 1931 Warden Lawes stated that Sing Sing Prison was using many of these old type cells. It should be added, however, that both Stateville and Sing Sing prisons have several magnificent modern cell houses with running water and toilet facilities plus improved ventilation in almost every cell. In the annual report of the General Secretary of the Pennsylvania Prison Society for 1904 one finds that the Philadelphia County Prison at Holmesburg was "full to overflowing." It is further "regretted that funds are not provided by the city councils to add more corridors so that all inmates shall be kept absolutely separate as the law requires." As late as February, 1935, groups of five convicts were sharing "tank cells" at San Quentin Prison in California. These cells are eight by seven and one-half by eleven and one-half feet.

Sanitation is essential to physical health and mental vigor. Twenty-five years ago tuberculosis was prevalent in all prisons; while today relatively few die of the disease in American prisons. For most prisoners cleanliness is a luxury. Unfortunately it is more difficult to sterilize the mentality of prisoners to prevent the growth of malignant criminal tendencies than it is to provide fresh air and clean beds. Some feel that they make outstanding contributions to prison reform when they build bigger and more modern prisons. They fail to realize that ingrained habits of criminal indolence are seldom corrected by cleanliness alone.

Educational advantages have remained at about the same level for many years. In 1901 spelling, reading, arithmetic, geometry and composition were taught to illiterates in evening schools at the prisons in Joliet and Trenton. Today the first eight grades of common school subjects are taught at Joliet in regular day sessions with inmate teachers.

In 1908 every cell at Joliet was supplied with a new copy of Laird and Lee's New School Dictionary. One cannot find a dictionary in each cell today. During recent years Directors of Education have been installed in many prisons. This might eventually become a great improvement if the courses of study were revised to make provision

for implanting ethical standards of conduct in each prisoner. Prior to the inauguration of Directors of Education, academic teaching was usually under the supervision of the Chaplain in each institution.

Subscriptions to daily newspapers and various magazines of acceptable character are permitted in most prisons today. The War Cry is still distributed among the prisoners in many institutions as it was a quarter of a century ago. The Union Gospel News and the Volunteer's Gazette were popular in 1905. The Parish Visitor, Zion's Herald, The Christian Advocate, Sunday School Times and the Youth's Companion were supplied as special reading to the inmates in the New Jersey State Prison in 1902. These magazines have been supplanted in recent years by the daily newspapers. The Pioneer is still published at Pontiac by the inmates (in an abbreviated form) as it was twenty-five years ago. The emphasis in its columns has shifted from moral exhortation to baseball scores.

It may prove of interest to some to note that correspondence school courses were offered to inmates of the New Jersey State Prison in 1906. Similar courses of instruction are now offered to inmates at Joliet, Sing Sing, San Quentin and other institutions.

Both Catholic and Protestant religious services are held on Sunday in almost every prison in the country. Provision has also been made in many prisons for other religious groups. Sunday school classes have disappeared during recent years. Shortly after 1900 Mrs. Booth's "Volunteer Prisoners League" was very popular in many prisons. This league imposed a pledge to keep all prison rules, to abstain from all bad language, to read some portion of the bible and to pray every day. This league is now extinct in most prisons. formerly the W.C.T.U. held services in many of the institutions for women. The Y.M.C.A. was also very active in prison reform for over a quarter of a century. The last "Y" card was issued at the Pontiac Reformatory in June, 1931. These cards were issued to men in "A" grade and entitled the bearer to attend certain entertainments and lectures brought in from the outside. The radio and movies have supplanted these features.

So-called "good time" laws first came into existence in New York in 1817. These laws enable a prisoner to shorten his confinement by good behavior. Today such laws are in existence in forty states. In actual operation they have proved to be more or less farcical. Many hardened criminals make excellent behavior records in prison. As reform measures "good time" laws would prove of more value if they were integrated with other improvements in prison administration.

Excellent prison bands and orchestras supplied music to prisoners in most prisons in 1900 as they do today.

The radio has been introduced into many prisons during the past ten years. In some prisons loud speakers are installed in the offices and operate throughout the day. Loud speakers installed in cell houses drive many prisoners almost frantic who are forced to listen in nearby cells regardless of choice. The radio could be of some benefit to prisoners if properly used. A program of good music or some constructive lecture should be adequate each evening. Since radio systems have been installed in many institutions with money taken from profits derived from prison commissaries, to which the prisoners have contributed, they consequently feel that they have a right to demand a variety of programs since they "paid for it." The reform value of the radio as operated in most institutions is insignificant. In the Federal Prison at Atlanta two outlets are available in each cell which permits each prisoner a choice between two different programs at any time. On August 27, 1934, following the riots at Graterford Prison in Pennsylvania the Philadelphia Inquirer stated in an editorial: "The thousands of dollars' worth of damage sustained in the outbreak remains as costly evidence that radios and running water are not insurance against surges of violence on the part of imprisoned men."

Motion pictures are now shown once each week in many state and federal prisons. This form of amusement has no particular contribution to make toward the rehabilitation of prisoners unless great care is exercised in the selection of films.

The radio, motion pictures and daily newspapers serve to place the prisoners in closer contact with the outside world. These innovations violate the basic assumption underlying penal systems throughout the world, namely, that the deprivation of freedom and isolation from the outside world are the chief ingredients of punishment. If it can be proved that the deprivation of freedom in prison acts as a deterrent from further criminal activity upon release, then radios, motion pictures and daily papers should be barred from prisons. Many taxpayers complain bitterly against this extension of freedom to prisoners. Great care must necessarily be exercised by the warden to prevent these luxuries from contributing to criminal lassitude. It is interesting to note that "the radio and daily newspapers are barred from the State Reformatory at Pendleton, Indiana."

For fifty years pleas have been made for "better qualified guards" to handle the inmates of prisons. It is true that intelligent men of experience are needed in prison administration today. Many such outstanding character who possess good educational qualifications and men may be found employed in prisons throughout the country.

Furthermore, as has been stated in a previous article, the majority of prisons in America today are well-managed from the standpoint of economy and restraint. Intelligent prison officials, fired with enthusiasm and manifesting deep desires to serve mankind, are handicapped by the lack of proved psychological and sociological techniques for producing desirable traits of character in penitentiary inmates.

Many other phases of prison activity might be cited to show that very little progress has been made in penal reform during the past thirty-five years yet the foregoing examples should prove adequate to make this fact clear. In the main the so-called reforms have been merely extensions of privileges to the inmates. The following comment was made in a letter recently received from an ex-inmate of Joliet Prison: "So the institution there hasn't changed? Well, show me one that has. The improvements designed for the inmates might include a little more amusement but mere amusements do not do the body much good." He stated further: "My idea of real improvement is plenty of fresh air, well ventilated housing conditions and pure wholesome food. Add to that plenty of trade work and you have a dandy preventive of crime." These last two sentences summarize the prevailing narrow view of the majority of penitentiary inmates. They think mainly of their bellies while neglecting their thinking processes.

The ineffectiveness of prison life was recognized in 1905 by Judge Ben Lindsay in an address before the National Prison Congress in Lincoln, Nebraska. At that time he stated: "Now, my friends, jails will never reform children. Jails may scare children, and they may refrain from unlawful acts because of fear, but in the end, unless some higher and nobler principle comes into the lives of children as a reason for righteousness, their future may never be safe."

What prisons in America need most today is an infusion of Lindsay's "higher and nobler principles." But what are these principles? How are they to be instilled into prison inmates? More extensive psychological research is needed to solve these problems in the field of penology. New methods should be introduced and given fair trials. Why not place more guards on prison walls to protect the public then start some experimentation in developing individual responsibility on the part of the inmates? Many useful inventions have been discovered by trial and error methods.

The note of pessimism which pervades these pages should not be construed as an admission of defeat but rather as a challenge to the moral vigor of every citizen. Prison methods of today are stupid and inadequate. There is urgent need of change.