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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

Seventy-First Prison Congress — On August 18th over 600 members of the American Prison Association gathered in San Francisco, many of them from across the continent, for their annual discussion of correctional problems. To a regular attendant, many new faces appeared, and numerous strange names were found on the program. Increasingly varied topics were presented for discussion.

The dominant note of custody and discipline, characteristic of former years, was overshadowed by questions of personnel; in-service training; classification; mental and medical treatment; recreation; educational programs; the psychiatric approach in character building; pre-preparation for parole, and adequate after-care supervision. In other words, the burden of discussion was clearly away from equipment of institutions, and toward individual rehabilitation.

It is safe to say that the prison wardens and reformatory superintendents present, were outnumbered by Professors; Psychiatrists; Doctors; Case-workers; Probation, Parole and Welfare Executives; not to mention unofficial citizens interested in correctional problems, and two Governors. California was able to present a considerable revision of its correctional system, in spite of a recent scandal in the State School for Boys, and a drastic shake-up in its personnel.

State Senator James H. Phillips frankly admitted that California had "lagged far behind in caring for her morally ill," due to "a woeful lack of institutions and proper rehabilitation facilities," and this in turn to "the citizenry of the state—and indifferent and uninformed public." Nevertheless a new minimum security prison has just been opened; The Cali-

fornia Prison Association has been organized and in active service under the patronage of the State Legislature, and the first of all Youth Authority Acts has been passed by that body, providing for extra-mural treatment of youthful offenders.

Warden James A. Johnston of Alcatraz and President of the Conference, in his opening address, laid the axe at the root of the tree of crime: "Youth imitates; is restive; is curious; adventuresome and rebellious. Youth is the time of lawlessness. The neglected youth; the unsolved problem child is the genesis of crime." Society, therefore, has the two-fold responsibility of preventing and repeating crimes. This, in turn, is a question of public relations, and involves larger social and economic forces than most people realize.

To this end, Dr. Ralph S. Banay, Sing Sing prison Psychiatrist said: "It is time to depart from suspicions, and the vindictive spirit. Instead of primitive rituals in correctional institutions, a detached scientific spirit and practical methods should be employed to benefit the individual and lessen the damage to society." In his excellent paper: "The Philosophy of Leniency in Crime Treatment," Judge Justin Miller, of Washington, D. C. also stressed the importance of converting the public to a rational view of crime prevention. Hon. G. Howland Shaw, U. S. Assistant Secretary of State, and long interested in correctional problems, was chosen President of the Prison Association for the ensuing year. In a brief but pungent paper Mr. Shaw stated that crime prevention and correction should be a social function, and therefore, social agencies should be brought into the pic-

ture. Case histories and the case-work approach, both in prison and the after-care of prisoners are essential in dealing with the offender intelligently, either as a confirmed, incipient or potential criminal.

Employment as a therapeutic measure was discussed by Dr. L. M. Rogers, of the U. S. Public Health Service, and others. The prevailing idleness in most prisons a few years ago, has been partially remedied in some state prisons, and wholly so in the various Federal prisons, due to the manufacture of materials for the defense program. Notwithstanding the Army restriction as to accepting conditionally released prisoners, and the rejection of discharged prisoners in defense industries, Hon. Sam A. Lewisohn of New York expressed his belief that here is a good place to select and train men for military service. He said: "With all their faults, most prisoners have the patriotic instinct. Most of our prisoners realize they have an important stake in the outcome of the world crisis and will cooperate gladly and cheerfully."

Although it is said that only seven per cent of all convicted offenders are women, the interest of women in crime prevention and rehabilitation was never more graphically represented than at the San Francisco convention. In addition to many leading club women of California, a dozen or more heads of female correctional institutions joined in active discussion of the problems peculiar to female delinquents, including the use of narcotics and other vices. Miss Helen Hironimus, of the Federal Reformatory at Alderson, Virginia, said of her wards: "They are swept by an incredible patriotism. They know what it means to live without liberty. The war may have brought infinite tragedy to millions, but it has been of great help to this country's narcotics. They cannot get the stuff, so they are building new and sturdier lives."

Thus it was evidenced in this program that what is going on in our courts and prisons is an old story to the veterans of the Prison Association, and many promising proposals were made, as usual, for more effective dealing with prison inmates. To the initiated or experienced

observer, however, it becomes more and more obvious that prisons should not be considered an end in themselves. They are not a thing apart, to be separated from the causes of crime, nor from the consequences of penal treatment. Many papers that were presented at the Congress indicated the belief of the authors that great progress may be expected only when there is complete integration with the community and the whole process of parental training; religion and education; recreation; probation; courts; correctional treatment and qualified parole supervision. A paper by Sanford Bates on "Streamlining the Penal Process," and the one by Edwin Gill on "The Return of the Native" were most significant in this direction.

Naturally, therefore, Probation, Parole and the rehabilitation of released prisoners held an important place in the program. Mr. Charles L. Chute, the veteran probation champion said: "The strengthening and implementing of coordinated systems of probation, parole and correction for every type of offender under state supervision is the only final answer to the American crime problem."

It was made clear, however, that the legal devices of probation and parole will never fulfill their intended purpose until they are really practiced and properly staffed. The fact that adult probation was practiced by one man in Boston one hundred years ago, and that the Massachusetts law was passed in 1878, but even at this late date is practiced only in scattered areas in other states, indicates slow progress, to say the least. The fact that the parole law is a statute in nearly every state, but is operative in only five or six, shows deplorable lack of public understanding of its value.

The new note stressed in papers on these subjects emphasized the importance of pre-investigation before probation and preparation for parole during incarceration, and carefully planned provision for employment and supervision. Mr. Austin H. McCormick told the Advertising Club: "We are preparing these men and women for free life. It is up to you to give it to them. The public should think of prison less in terms of disaster, and more

of a fair return for their investment for prison support, and in self-protection by assisting in the rehabilitation of the released prisoner." Conditional release of prisoners, it was pointed out, offered the incentive and helpful guidance so much needed, and protects society better than any other form of treatment yet devised.

The increasing importance of Prisoner's Aid Societies in this connection was made apparent in the discussions of the conference, but Mr. Albert G. Fraser of Philadelphia stated that their responsibility should be shared by a responsive public, and their job placement service is limited by the meager qualifications of many applicants.

The closing session of the conference was given over to a discussion of crime and moving pictures. "Crime Control and the Movie Code" was the theme of Francis S. Harman, Executive Assistant of Motion Picture Producers, and Humphrey Bogart of Warner Brothers followed. Needless to say, these gentlemen disavowed any partisan propaganda, and championed the educational value of the screen.

By amendment of the By-laws of the American Prison Association, the annual meeting which has been called "Prison Congress." will hereafter be known as the "American Congress of Correction," and the session of 1942 will be held at Asheville, North Carolina, in October. The officers elected were, Hon. G. Howland Shaw, Washington, D. C., President, Mr. John C. Burke, Waupun, Wis., Vice President, Mr. George C. Erskine, Connecticut, Treasurer, and Mr. E. R. Cass, New York, Secretary.

—F. EMORY LYON.

The Public Defender—Attorney Benjamin Bachrach is Public Defender in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Before October 1, 1930, when his office began to operate, the Judge of the Criminal Courts, confronted by a defendant who was unable to employ a lawyer to defend him appointed an attorney from the bar to represent him. Under that system occasionally there were grave injustices and unfairness. Mr. Bachrach now has and has had assistants who are fully as well

qualified as the leading assistants of the State's Attorney. The Chicago Bar Association has often commended the quality and integrity of the work of the office of the Public Defender.

The quantity of that work, its character and results are seen in the following tabulation which shows the work done in the month of August 1941 and in another column the cumulative total of work done by this office in almost eleven years. The August work is quoted in full:

CASE DISPOSITION SUMMARY

Itemization

Date	For Month of Aug. 1941	Cumulative Total Since Oct. 1, 1930
<i>Disposition</i>		
Date—September 2, 1941		
Number of defendants Public Defender appointed to represent...	33	16,795
Number of indictments in which Public Defender appointed.....	47	17,702
<i>Disposition</i>		
Number of indictments in which Public Defender given leave to withdraw	7	2,957
Number of indictments disposed of	85	16,980
Number of indictments stricken off with leave to reinstate	10	2,147
Number of indictments in which order of nolle prosequi entered..	18	2,022
Number of indictments tried..	52	11,124
Jury trials	1	1,176
Verdicts not guilty.....	0	426
Verdicts guilty	1	750
Jury waived (contested).....	10	3,273
Findings not guilty	6	1,409
Findings guilty	4	1,864
Jury waived (no contest)	41	4,239
Pleas of guilty	10	4,556
Number of defendants sentenced to:		
Penitentiary	26	7,556
House of Correction	3	2,029
County Jail	6	617
Women's Reformatory (Dwight) .	0	52
State Hospitals (For Insane)....	2	184
Death	0	20
Number of defendants to whom probation granted	6	1,940
Charges in cases disposed of		
Assault	2	703
Burglary	20	3,523
Con Game	11	603
Homicide	0	636
Larceny and embezzlement	7	891
Larceny (auto)	11	1,909
Robbery	2	1,394
Robbery (armed)	25	4,717
Sex offenses	5	845
Miscellaneous	2	1,051
<i>Remarks:</i> 4 defendants sent to Illinois Training School.		

"Unintentional Sabotage"—Judge Harry H. Porter, Chief Justice of the Municipal Court of Evanston, Illinois has been appointed to membership on the Transportation Committee of the Emergency Safety Council that was recently called by President Roosevelt. Judge Porter's article on "The Traffic Court System" that was published in this Journal in November, 1940, attracted favorable attention everywhere. His administration of the Municipal Court in his city has demonstrated most effectively that strict enforcement of laws relating to traffic results in a reduction of accidents.

Lt. Franklin M. Kreml, Director of the Northwestern University Traffic Safety Institute has been appointed to the same committee with Judge Porter.

Under the leadership of the National Safety Council, of which both Porter and Kreml are officials, the newly-formed accident prevention group will seek to stop the sky-rocketing of deaths and casualties on the highways and in factories.

"In the present defense emergency," Judge Porter said, "every accident is unintentional sabotage!

"The inexcusable waste of human and material resources must be stopped. Unless something is done now, 100,000 persons will meet death on the highways this year. We cannot afford to lose these lives at any time—much less, now, when every hand is needed for the defense effort."

Porter and Kreml and other members of the transportation committee are drawing up a specific program for the reduction of street and highway accidents.

Salmon Memorial Lectures—Final dates for the Salmon Memorial Lectures which Dr. Robert D. Gillespie, psychiatric specialist of the British Royal Air Force will deliver in key cities of this country and Canada, have been announced by Dr. C. Charles Burlingame, chairman of the Salmon Committee on Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene.

Dr. Gillespie has received special leave of absence from the RAF from the British government for the express purpose of delivering the Salmon Lectures in this country and Canada. He will fly here to make a first-hand report to mem-

bers of the American medical profession and officers of the United States Army and Navy Morale Division on the psychological effects of "Blitz" warfare on civilian and armed forces.

The schedule for the Salmon Lectures, with their co-sponsors is as follows:

New York, Nov. 17, 18—Sponsored by The Salmon Committee on Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene of the New York Academy of Medicine; Dr. Winfred Overholser, Chairman, Psychiatric Committee on the National Research Council, Dr. James K. Hall, president, American Psychiatric Association, Dr. C. Macfie Campbell, president, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Dr. Louis Pollock, president of American Neurological Society.

Toronto, Nov. 19—Sponsored by The Salmon Committee on Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene, University of Toronto; National Committee for Mental Hygiene of Canada, Toronto Academy of Medicine.

Chicago, Nov. 21—Sponsored by The Salmon Committee on Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene; Chicago Neurological Society; Illinois Psychiatric Society; Chicago Institute of Medicine.

New Orleans, Nov. 22—Sponsored by The Salmon Committee on Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene; Tulane University School of Medicine. The Louisiana State University School of Medicine; Southern Psychiatric Association; New Orleans Society for Neurology and Psychiatry; Louisiana State Medical School; Orleans Parish Medical School.

Washington, Nov. 24, 25—Conferences with U.S. Army and Navy Joint Committee on Recreation and Welfare, Sponsored by The Salmon Committee on Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene in conjunction with Brigadier General Frederick H. Osborn, Chairman of the Joint Army and Navy Committee on Recreation, Chief of Morale Branch of U.S. Army. Not open to the public.

San Francisco, Nov. 27—Sponsored by The Salmon Committee on Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene; Leland Stanford University; University of California; San Francisco Psychiatric Society.

Philadelphia, Nov. 30—Sponsored by The Salmon Committee on Psychiatry and Mental Hygiene; Weir Mitchell Lecture;

University of Pennsylvania; College of Physicians.

Dr. Gillespie's observations made under actual war conditions are expected to be of inestimable value to American psychiatrists in formulating plans for maintaining civilian morale in wartime. He will discuss the problems of psychiatry in relation to national defense under the title "Psychoneuroses in Peace and War and the Future of Human Relationships."

A general invitation to members of the medical profession and their friends to attend the lecture has been issued by the Salmon Committee. Dr. Gillespie will be the ninth lecturer who has been selected from top-ranking psychiatrists and neurologists throughout the world for making the greatest contribution to their field during the preceding year. Selection for the Salmon Lectures has been likened to selection in the Pulitzer prize in letters.

One of England's leading psychiatrists, Dr. Gillespie is also well known in this country. A member of the American Psychiatric Association, he was for several years on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. He is the author of the standard reference work: "Textbook of Psychiatry" in collaboration with Dr. D. K. Henderson of Edinburgh, Scotland. He also wrote a book called "Disorders of Sleep," and is a frequent contributor to British and American psychiatric and medical journals.

Trial by Newspaper—Ordered this 25th day of April, 1939, by the Criminal Court of Baltimore, that in connection with any case which may be pending in this Court, or in connection with any person charged with crime and in the custody of the Police Department of Baltimore City, or other constituted authorities, upon a charge of crime over which this Court has jurisdiction, whether before or after indictment,

THAT any of the following acts shall be subject to punishment as contempt:

- 1) The making of photographs of the accused without his consent.
- 2) The making of any photograph in violation of Rule 48 of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

- 3) The issuance by the Police authorities, the State's Attorney, counsel for the defense, or any other person having official connection with the case, of any statement relative to the conduct of the accused, statements or admissions made by the accused, or other matter bearing upon the issues to be tried.

- 4) The issuance of any statement or forecast as to the future course of action of either the prosecuting authorities or the defense relative to the conduct of the trial.

- 5) The publication of any matter which may prevent a fair trial, improperly influence the Court or the jury, or tending in any manner to interfere with the administration of justice.

- 6) The publication of any matter obtained as a result of a violation of this rule.

Adolescent Crime Decreasing in New York City?—The Society for the Prevention of Crime in New York City has recently issued a pamphlet under the authorship of its Executive Director, Paul Blanshard. Mr. Blanshard was assisted in the preparation of the material by Edwin J. Lukas. In it we find the following encouraging statement: "Absolutely, and proportionately to the numbers of their age group in the estimated population, adolescent criminal arrests in New York City are declining and have steadily declined since 1937." This statement is followed by a table showing that, as the total population 16, 17 and 18 years of age has increased from 364,085 in 1937 to 365,630 in 1940, criminal arrests in these groups have fallen off from 6,506 to 4,119. This indicates a decline in the ratio of arrests per 1,000 in the population from 18 to 11. The statement continues:

"It is important also to compare the criminal arrest *rate* of adolescents with that of the whole population and to compare total adolescent arrests with total population arrests. While adolescents of 16, 17 and 18 comprise about 5% of the population of New York City, they furnish approximately 3 per cent of all the criminal arrests. The trend of all criminal arrests in New York City has been downward for

several years and the proportion of persons so arrested who come from the age group of 16, 17 and 18 has also gone steadily downward. Even when population changes are taken into account, if we use criminal arrests as indices of crime, the crimes of adolescents are decreasing more rapidly than the crimes of the rest of the population.

"The picture is not so favorable to adolescents when certain specific crimes are discussed, particularly burglary and the theft of automobiles. These are the crimes of restlessness and adventure; they are especially appealing to adolescent boys. While the adolescents of 16, 17 and 18 comprise only 5 per cent of the population, they comprise more than 30 per cent of the alleged burglars arrested and approximately one-third of all the alleged auto-thieves arrested. In respect to these crimes the adolescent picture has not changed much from year to year.

"The encouraging feature of these statistics is that the situation is not absolutely worse than it was four years ago, but better. Actually, in spite of the large proportion of certain crimes committed by adolescents and in spite of the city's increase in population, youngsters are not committing as many crimes as they did in 1937." Mr. Blanshard believes that "the present generally competent, honest enforcement of the criminal law in New York City" offers assurance that the number of arrests is a good index of the number of crimes committed.

Directory of Correctional Institutions—The official Directory of State and National Correctional Institutions of the United States of America and Canada as of July 1941, has now been issued by the American Prison Association. Copies may be had from the General Secretary at 135 East 15th Street, New York City.

The Directory lists 344 institutions. Of these 239 are operated by the District of Columbia and the 48 States of the Union; 35 are operated by Federal authority. Four of these are institutions of the Army and Navy Departments and two are under the U. S. Public Health Service. Canadian penal and correctional institutions as listed are forty in number.

Entries in the Directory include such information as the following: location, name of Warden, year opened, Normal capacity (male female), present population, age limits, character of population (felons, misdemeanants), operating budget, per capita maintenance, number employed on farm or otherwise "outside the walls," number, if any, housed outside the institution.

Where institutions are operated by a central administrative body information is supplied on the point.

"Crime in the United States"—The September (1941) number of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science is given over to contributions on the general subject of "Crime in the United States." The issue is edited by Professor J. P. Shaloo of the University of Pennsylvania. It contains eighteen leading articles as follows:

Crime as Social Reality.....	Jerome Hall
Enforcement of the Criminal Law....	Bruce Smith
The Sources of Criminal Statistics.....	
.....	Ronald H. Beattie
The Geography of Crime.....	Joseph Cohen
Crime in City and Country Areas.....	George B. Vold
The Biologist Looks at Crime.....	
.....	M. F. Ashley Montague
The Psychologist Looks at Crime.....	
.....	Lloyd N. Yepsen
The Psychiatrist Looks at Delinquency and Crime	William Healy
The Sociologist Looks at Crime.....	
.....	Walter C. Reckless
The European Immigrant and His Children....	
.....	E. H. Stofflet
The Negro and Crime.....	Guy B. Johnson
Crime In a Competitive Society.....	Morris Ploscowe
Crime and Business.....	Edwin H. Sutherland
Organized Crime.....	Alfred R. Lindsmith
Crime in Wartime England.....	Hermann Mannheim
Criminals' Views on Crime Causation.....	
.....	Albert Morris
Official Agencies and Crime Prevention.....	
.....	Elio D. Monachesi
Organized Efforts in Crime Prevention.....	
.....	Nathaniel Cantor

The Osborne Association—The Annual Report of the Osborne Association has just been distributed. In this the work of the organization is detailed through the reports of the various executive officers. In transmitting the Report, the President, G. Howland Shaw, wrote to the Editor:

"The third volume of our Survey of Institutions for Delinquent Juveniles covering the States of California, Washington and Oregon was published in October last and a volume describing and appraising the institutions for adult offenders in these same States is in preparation and will appear shortly. In close collaboration with the authorities of the Commonwealth of Virginia our field staff has just completed an intensive study of institutions for delinquent juveniles in that Commonwealth, the results of which will be published in due course. In the autumn we plan similar studies in other States.

Our Executive Secretary, Mr. William B. Cox, after sixteen years of devoted and effective service to the Association, in June was granted extended leave to accept an insistent and urgent invitation to become Superintendent of the State School for Boys at Whittier, California. Our keen regret at Mr. Cox's departure is tempered by the thought of the opportunity which has come to him to render an important service in a field in which the Association is particularly interested.

I call your attention to the work of finding employment for ex-prisoners which is being carried on so successfully by our Employment and Relief Secretary, Mr. Graves Moore, and to the encouraging increase in the number of men placed."

The Police and Crime Prevention—Professor O. W. Wilson of the University of California published an essay: "A Policeman's View on Crime Prevention" in the April-June, 1941, issue of Federal Probation. In it he compared the roles of school and police in this field. He concluded:

"It is in dealing with the problem child that the police are called upon for assistance by the school. The police usually are the first agency to whom the individual is referred when the problem develops beyond school control. Breeding spots of crime and neighborhood gangs are specific police responsibilities. In addition, unsatisfactory family relationships are usually investigated by the police.

The suppression and prevention of crime is the responsibility of the police. It is their duty to focus the attention of all social service agencies on the problem. As they succeed in marshalling community resources in an effective program of treatment for the individual delinquent, they succeed in an intelligent prevention of crime. To the police the prevention of crime is a primary task; for the schools and other social agencies it is a secondary duty. The police are interested in the prevention of crime, not alone from the point of view of reducing the amount of crime currently being committed within their jurisdiction, but also from a long-range viewpoint, for, as they succeed in the elimination of improper attitudes in problem children they avoid future problems."

American Orthopsychiatric Association—The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the American Orthopsychiatric Association, an organization for the study and treatment of behavior and its disorders, will be held at the Hotel Statler, Detroit, Michigan, on February 19, 20, and 21, 1942. Copies of the preliminary program will be sent upon request. A registration fee will be charged for non-members.

For particulars address: Helen P. Langner, M. D., Chairman, Publicity Committee, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.