

1943

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Recommended Citation

Robert H. Gault, Honoring Dr. F. Emory Lyon, 33 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 291 (1942-1943)

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EDITORIAL

Honoring Dr. F. Emory Lyon

On Saturday September 26 more than a hundred representative men and women of the Chicago area came together at luncheon to honor Dr. F. Emory Lyon. Forty one years ago he founded the Central Howard Association in Chicago. He did so because he knew that the hardest days and weeks for the law-breaker are those that immediately follow release from gray prison walls. They stand in need of the peculiar assistance that one of Dr. Lyon's type and idealism is qualified to give. Men and women in their comfortable homes and church pews are able to shift for themselves.

Since 1901 Dr. Lyon has continuously been Superintendent of the Association. He has now retired from active duty in that connection. He looks back upon a great army of released prisoners whom he has aided in the difficult process of adjustment to normal community life.

Mr. Barnett Faroll, President of the Central Howard Association, presided at the meeting and spoke briefly. Short addresses were made also by the Hon. John P. McGoorty of the Superior Court, Floyd Thompson, Attorney at Law and former Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court and Robert H. Gault. Following Dr. Lyon's response the principal address was made by Parole Commissioner Sanford Bates of New York City who discussed "The Challenge of Delinquency in War Time." The tenor of the address was appropriate to the occasion. What we commonly describe as the "sympathetic approach" to character rehabilitation was impressively illustrated.

The speaker drew attention to the country wide increase in delinquency due to the War—a situation that has been thoroughly discussed recently in this JOURNAL by Mrs. Eleanor T. Glueck and Mr. Victor H. Evjen. The total picture of adult crime is less dark. The widespread use of parole and the ability of parole administrators to evaluate the personalities of those who may be eligible for release on parole are factors that have improved the picture as far as adults are concerned. Federal authorities have contributed their share for they have provided an effective and wide use of ex-prisoners in the armed forces and in the production of supplies to prosecute the War. The national effort in this connection has far surpassed what obtained in the early part of World War I.

We dare not concentrate upon the tangible factors that are essential to winning the War. There are intangible ones that are important, too, in the long run—among them the protection of the leisure and health of youth. Neglect of these will imperil our future

well-being. It may be said that Dr. Lyon has always honored these factors as no less important because they cannot be weighed. We are under an obligation to men like him who do not let us forget them.

Dr. Lyon has been a member of the Editorial Board of this JOURNAL since March 1917, and he continues useful in that capacity. He regularly attends the monthly meetings of the Board. Since he became one of the Editors he has appeared fifty-nine times as author of leading articles, book reviews, current notes and editorials. He has usually been relied upon, as in the present number, to supply the JOURNAL with an account of the proceedings of the annual Prison Association Congress.

It is the good fortune of the Central Howard Association that Dr. Lyon continues with it in a consultative capacity; and of this JOURNAL that there is no let-up to his services as a member of the Board of Editors. We and his friends generally hope that during many years to come he may continue to be, as in the past, a familiar figure where men and women come together to exchange their views relating to the welfare of the community and the state.

ROBERT H. GAULT

English "As She Is Spoken"

Complaint is made of the use of "padding expense accounts", "kick-backs" from fees and contract payments and commissions, and "slush fund" maintained for political purposes. It is argued and there was testimony that the expressions are not found in some dictionaries and that they were unintelligible to appellant and that some right of appellant was infringed by their use in the indictment and proceedings. They were used to characterize concepts which were conjunctively expressed at the greater length necessitated by literary English. It undoubtedly is a traditional requirement that proceedings in our courts be carried on in the English language. Though we find no federal statute to that effect, there are state statutes. But the English language is very rich and grows richer as the millions who use it multiply and their vitality vents itself through the medium. The courts are not confined to understanding ancient forms of the language, but dealing with living persons in the present they recognize English as it is spoken and written and understood by the English speaking peoples of our own times. *Boehm v. United States*, 123 F. 2d 791. (From *The Docket*, Autumn, 1942.)