

1944

## Current Notes

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## CURRENT NOTES

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The Medical Correctional Association—This Association, an affiliate of the American Prison Association, is an organization of persons interested in the medical and psychological approaches to crime. Its membership includes physicians who recognize the uniqueness of institutional practice and wish to exchange ideas and opinions regarding their work; psychiatrists and psychologists who find in prisons a challenging field for research and study; social workers who appreciate the significance of the modern orientation in criminology; probation, parole and administrative personnel who feel the need for stimulation of contact with the broader and more basic implications of their assignments.

Meetings of the Medical Correctional Association are held concurrently with the conventions of the parent body, and always include at least one independent session devoted solely to the exchange of ideas and research encompassed by the field. Abstracts of such meetings are subsequently circulated among the membership so that permanent individual references to the current thought and work may be had well in advance of their expression in other publication media.

The Medical Correctional Association is now engaged in a drive to increase its membership. Interested parties are urged to communicate with the undersigned for further information. Dues are \$1.00 per year, entitling the payee to voting privileges, all communications and literature.

At the last meeting of the Association papers were read as follows:

The Philosophy of Segregation, by Dr. Marion R. King; The Problem of Alcohol, by Dr. Lawrence Kolb; The Marihuana Problem, by Dr. John D. Reichard; Juvenile Delinquency, by Dr. Robert V. Seliger; Selection of Prisoners for the Armed Forces, by Dr. John W. Cronin; Some Aspects of the Chronic Sex Offender, by Mr. Morris Ploscowe; Unconscious Mechanisms in Crime, by Dr. Gregory Zilboorg.

Mimeographed copies of these addresses have been distributed among members of the Association and others are available at the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Robert M. Lindner, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

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Prisoners in State and Federal Prisons and Reformatories: 1942 — The prison population of the United States has declined by more than one-fifth since 1940, according to estimates released lately by Director J. C. Capt of the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. The number of prisoners in penal institutions at the end of the year decreased from 180,002 in 1940 to 139,588 in 1943, a decrease of 40,414 or 22.5 percent. Statistics on the movement of population in those institutions which report regularly to the Bureau of the Census indicate a similar trend in prison admissions. During 1942 these institutions received only 60,425 prisoners from court, as compared with 73,456 in 1940.

The penal institutions for which statistics on the number of prisoners are now made available comprise all State and Federal institutions for adult civilian offenders. Juvenile training schools and military and naval prisons are not included. The statistics for institutions reporting regularly to the Bureau of the Census are based on complete reports for the years 1940, 1941, and 1942, and are estimated on the basis of reports from all Federal institutions and 27 of the 47 reporting States (including the District of Columbia) for 1943. The institutions which do not regularly report to the Bureau of the Census comprise all State prisons in Georgia and Mississippi and certain institutions in other States, such as State farms which receive

prisoners only on transfer or prisoners committed for misdemeanors. The statistics presented for this latter group of institutions have been estimated on the basis of information obtained from State reports and special inquiries.

The statistics in detail may be found in a bulletin that was issued from the Bureau of the Census on April 12, 1944. (Series PN, No. 1.)

**Crime Prevention Manual**—It was revealed in March that a unique, nation-wide study of juvenile delinquency and crime preventive techniques, is being undertaken under the combined auspices of two long-established, nationally-known criminological organizations with headquarters in New York City.

In a joint statement issued to Associated Press Edward R. Cass, General Secretary of the American Prison Association, and Edwin J. Lukas, Executive Director of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, disclosed the plan and purpose of the study, which has been under consideration for a few years. The statement asserted, in part "perhaps the chief difficulty that this country encounters in combatting juvenile delinquency and adolescent or adult crime, in peace-time as well as during war, is to be found in the utter planlessness of the approach to the problem; a planlessness that intelligent people certainly would not think of tolerating in governmental or commercial enterprises."

Guided by seventeen of the country's most distinguished sociologists, criminologists and penologists who have agreed actively participate as advisers in the project, the American Prison Association and the Society for the Prevention of Crime will collaborate in surveying the methods of private and public agencies that have been utilized most successfully in preventing and treating juvenile delinquency and adolescent crime throughout the country. The sponsors also plan to establish a continuous and permanent clearing-house of pertinent and easily accessible information on crime preventive techniques.

It is planned to publish a handbook of readily effectuated, detailed instructions regarding the establishment of different types of crime preventive organizations, including, but not limited to, school programs, police programs, boys' clubs and recreational programs, child guidance and parental education programs, co-ordinated community programs, etc. This Manual will be distributed to laymen, to school principals, police chiefs, church organizations, boys' club directors, social workers, probation and parole officers, and to many others. It may be useful in creating new preventive and treatment services, and to help them in adjusting and integrating existing enterprises, according to the requirements of an authoritative series of tested standards and principles.