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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, Editor.

International Congress of Criminology—The date of the next Congress of Criminology has now been definitely fixed for September 7 to 14, inclusive, in Paris.

Survey of the Legal Profession—The first report of basic statistics regarding the estimated 175,000 lawyers in the United States was completed recently in the offices of the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory Company. Prepared for the Survey of the Legal Profession, which is being made under the auspices of the American Bar Association and under the direction of an independent Council composed of both laymen and lawyers, the report covers the number, geographical distribution, age, education, sex, relative professional standing, public service and status in practice of the lawyers listed in the 1949 edition of the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory. This Law Directory contains along with other information a roster, as complete as possible, of the entire Bar of the United States.

The "Statistical Report on the Lawyers of the United States" was compiled with the aid of automatic tabulating card equipment. The statistics are listed by towns and cities and include a summary for each state as well as a recapitulation on a national basis. The \$20,000 cost was paid by the Martindale-Hubbell Company. Its Vice President and General Manager, Edward J. Nofer, acted as consultant for the Survey. "This material will be used by most of the members of the 'Survey team' and by many other scholars and public officials," said Reginald Heber Smith, Boston lawyer and Director of the survey.—*From a release by Survey of the Legal Profession, 60 State Street, Boston 9, Massachusetts.*

Southern States Probation and Parole Conference—A new feature of the Southern States Probation and Parole Conference which met at Little Rock, Arkansas, April 24-26, was a one day institute for juvenile probation officers and others working with juvenile courts. Attended by seventy-five people, the institute was jointly sponsored by the National Probation and Parole Association and Louisiana State University, where Harrison A. Dobbs, who conducted it, is professor of social welfare. Mr. Dobbs also addressed a conference session outlining these five avenues leading to prevention of delinquency and crime: a. promoting and supporting more meaningful research and experimentation; b. protecting the fundamental contributions of successful family living for more children; c. education for greater emotional maturity; d. dealing effectively with early symptoms of unsatisfactory behavior; e. increasing more realistically our civic responsibility for the current patterns of individual and group conduct.

Registration for the conference ran to 160 including, besides each of the twelve member states, representatives from Missouri, Kentucky and Maryland. Meeting with the probation and parole conference was the Southern States Prison Conference. At the joint opening session, E. R. Cass, general secretary of the American Prison Association made a plea for working together, as "the protection of society and treatment of the prisoner go hand in hand." L. B. Stephens of Alabama, president of the probation and parole conference, noted that the south has made great progress and cited some examples: the changing attitude toward parole reflected in the substitution of boards of parole for executive clemency; probation, authorized in most of the southern states; and the tremendous

volume of legislation in the juvenile field. At another joint session, Warden John C. Burke of Wisconsin presented the role of the institution in the correctional process, and Randolph E. Wise, parole director of the NPPA, shared the program, bringing out the role of probation and parole. Warden Burke sees the prison as the center of the process; it cannot do an effective job without a good probation and parole program. Mr. Wise stressed the continuity of the correctional process, the dependence of the separate parts each upon the other and the need for unity. Newly elected officers of the Southern States Probation and Parole Conference are: Roy Russell of Florida, president; William Dunn of North Carolina, vice president; Charles P. Chew of Virginia, secretary; W. P. Ball of Arkansas, treasurer. The next conference will be held in Jacksonville, Florida.—*Focus*, July 1949.

Rehabilitation of the Older Prisoner—The rehabilitation of the thousands who are already in prison, and the preparation for the more adequate handling of the thousands who each year go there, are becoming more and more important. It is clear that the cost of such a program will be far less than the continued and recurring expenditures for our legal penal machinery. If we are unwilling to pay for rehabilitation, we must be ready to pay for the crimes, the convictions, and the social waste of the recidivist. A decision must be made as to whether we are to spend our money in ways which have already proved expensive as well as comparatively unsuccessful, or in attempts—even experiments—aimed at the rehabilitation of the prisoner. The problem is particularly acute in the case of the older offender. In younger men, and especially in the case of first offenders, environmental and other factors play a large part, but in the case of the older, recidivistic prisoner, lack of specific skills, economic maladjustment and personality deviations are of more striking importance. The older offender has only himself to look to; there are usually fewer family influences at work, such as those which in the younger man tend to bring about conformity. In face of the mounting costs of crime we must be prepared to apply new methods for the reduction of recidivism, and among such methods vocational training looms large as does the proper application of the psychiatric clinic to the whole penal program. The parole system as another device for the control of the post-release life of prisoners loses much of its retraining and rehabilitative value in the case of the older man. Where there are few environmental corrective influences, such as those of the family, or of non-criminal friends, and aid from extra-mural mental hygiene clinics, parole is of limited value. Parole depends upon manipulation of the environment, in the recognition that it is friction between the individual and his situation which results in crime. In the case of the older criminal such attempts are much less certain of success, as there are fewer non-criminal influences which may be brought to bear upon personality patterns and experience which is well established. In these cases a most important method for social reclamation is through an education-psychiatric-mental hygiene program which is individually oriented. In the constructive use of such a program the older prisoner as a more understanding individual with practical knowledge and vocational skill may take up a more socially acceptable life.—Harry L. Freedman, Psychiatrist-in-Charge, Clinton Prison Classification Clinic, Dannemora, N. Y., *Rehabilitation of the Older Prisoner*, *Journal of Clinical Psychopathology*, Vol. IX, No. 2, April, 1948.