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## Current Notes

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## CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, Editor

**Sex Offenders—New York and Illinois—**(The following comments are from a letter received from Mr. Emory J. Smith, Attorney at Law, 38 South Dearborn Street, Chicago. Mr. Smith is Chairman of a Committee of the Chicago Bar Association that has been devoting very serious study to the need for legislation relating to sex crimes. Mr. Smith's comments are suggested by his reading of a "Report of 102 Offenders at Sing Sing Prison as Submitted to Governor Thomas E. Dewey including the Governor's message in support of recommendations contained in the report and the text of legislation passed by the New York State legislature." The material has been published in 95 pages, and it can be had through the State Offices in Albany on payment of 40 cents.)

New York has taken a progressive step in the matter of curbing sex criminals. But ". . . experience with the new law will, in my opinion, soon bring home to the authors of the statute the necessity of broadening the scope of its provisions.

"For instance, the New York Law requires only convicted persons doing time under sentences from a day to life to undergo physical, psychiatric and other tests before their cases come before the Parole Board. It fails to take cognizance of those sexually dangerous persons who were never convicted—in many cases never even suspected—but who, when it is too late, commit some revolting crime. For example, Heirens, Loeb and Leopold, Bostynak, to mention only a few.

(Conversations with the Judges of the Juvenile and Boy's Courts in Chicago indicate that many of the youngsters who) "appear in those courts, give conclusive evidence of manifestations of dangerous sex deviations. Usually brought before the court on some non-sex charge, there is nothing that can be done with them, except possibly a term at St. Charles, the Bridewell or probation. They are turned loose on the public until the next crime is committed, then possibly to the penitentiary, and later, released.

"Many cases of dangerous sex deviations are brought to the attention of the families or acquaintances of the offender, but because of the lack of sufficient legal evidence to convict, or fear of reprisals, nothing is officially reported. No provision is made in the New York law to take jurisdiction in such cases.

"In Illinois we regard these cases as civil proceedings, and the accused or respondent—without having been convicted for a crime—is required to stand trial as a sexually dangerous person. Upon a finding by a jury that he is such a person, he is detained in a hospital (this law presupposes that the State will provide for the building of suitable hospitals) until he is discharged by a court, after a psychiatric, physical and other examination. Conceivably, a person so confined may remain in custody for the rest of his life.

"It is extremely difficult to present a wholly adequate law at one session and have it passed, but by making the start, it ought to be more simple later to acquire the necessary amendments.

"We in Illinois, didn't have much luck with our proposed law in the last session, but since then, we have some powerful agencies which are doing independent research and giving their support to the plan."

*Emory J. Smith*

**Conference of the National Probation and Parole Association**—The Conference met in St. Louis with The Congress of Correction on October 9, 10 and 12. The agenda for this important three-day session of workers in the correctional field will prove of interest to all readers of the JOURNAL.

Luncheon, October 9: *Chairman*, Judge George W. Smyth, President, National Probation and Parole Association.

**RADIO SPEAKS OUT FOR PAROLE**: Columbia Broadcasting System (A montage of the CBS network program "Up For Parole." Dramatic presentation to millions of listeners of authentic cases heard by state parole boards).

**RADIO, AN ALLY FOR PAROLE**: Sanford Bates, Commissioner, New Jersey State Department of Institutions and Agencies, Trenton.

2:00 p.m.: *Chairman*, Richard A. Chappell, Chief of Probation, U. S. District Courts, Washington, D. C.

**PROBATION AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**: Will C. Turnbladh, Executive Director, NPPA.

**SEPARATE OR COMBINED CASELOADS—MUST THERE BE CONFLICT?**: Gordon S. Jaeck, Chairman, Board of Parole, St. Paul, Minnesota.

*Discussant*: Milton Weiffenbach, Chief Probation Officer, U. S. District Court, St. Louis.

October 10, 1950: Breakfast for Parole Board Members and Executives.

*Chairman*, Francis R. Bridges, Jr., Chairman, National Probation and Parole Association Advisory Council on Parole Joint Session, National Probation and Parole Association and National Conference of Juvenile Agencies.

*Chairmen*, Judge George W. Smyth, President, NPPA; Walter C. Reckless, President, NCJA.

**CONSERVING FAMILY LIFE THROUGH SPECIALIZED COURTS**: Judge Elwood F. Melson, Family Court, Wilmington, Delaware.

**DELINQUENCY FROM THE CHILD'S POINT OF VIEW**: Leontine T. Young, Assistant Professor of Social Work, New York School of Social Work.

Joint Session, National Probation and Parole Association and Committee on Classification and Casework, American Prison Association.

*Chairman*, Frank R. Loveland, Assistant Director, U. S. Bureau of Prisons, Washington, D. C.

**NEW APPROACHES TO THE PREPARATION OF INMATES FOR RELEASE**: John J. Galvin, Associate Warden, Federal Reformatory, Chillicothe, Ohio.

**THE LIFER IS A PAROLE PROSPECT**: Ray Nelson, Institutional Parole Officer, State Prison of Southern Michigan, Jackson.

*Discussant*: Fred Finsley, Chief Parole Officer, Adult Authority, Sacramento.

Annual business meeting of the National Probation and Parole Association.

*Chairman*: Judge George W. Smyth, President.

October 12, 1950: Group I, *Chairman*, H. M. Randall, Director of Parole and Probation, Salem, Oregon.

**PAROLE FIELD PROBLEMS**: *Participants*: Alfred R. Loos, District Supervisor, New York State Board of Parole, New York City.

Richard G. Farrow, Assistant to the Superintendent, Board of Parole, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Robert G. Smith, Director of Probation and Parole, Montpelier, Vermont.

Group II, *Chairman*: Judge O. Q. Claffin, III, Juvenile Court of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas.

1. **TOMORROW'S GOALS IN PROBATION**: Milton Rector, Field Consultant, Western Office, National Probation and Parole Association.

2. STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION OF PROBATION SERVICE: Richard T. Smith, Director of Probation, Concord, New Hampshire.

3. TRAINING NEEDS OF PROBATION PERSONNEL: Ben S. Meeker, Chief Probation Officer, U. S. District Court, Chicago.

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**Von Hentig to teach in Germany**—Society for the Advancement of Criminology member Hans Von Hentig is scheduled to join the faculty of the University of Bonn in Germany upon completion of a writing project which is now engaging his attention.—The Society for the Advancement of Criminology, NEWS BULLETIN, September-October, 1950.

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**S. A. C. Activities**—The Society for the Advancement of Criminology was unanimously elected on June 24th, 1950, an Associate Member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science—the only criminological group to be so honored. The President and Secretary have also taken the preliminary steps to affiliate the Society with the International Criminological Society and with the American Prison Association.

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**New S. A. C. Members**—Samuel Haig Jameson, Lecturer in Law Enforcement, University of Southern California, formerly Professor of Criminology, University of Oregon; Spencer Halverson, Lecturer on Law Enforcement, University of Southern California, deputy city attorney, Los Angeles; Donald Imler, Lecturer on Juvenile Delinquency, University of Southern California, second director of the Delinquency Control Institute, lieutenant, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office; Don L. Kooken, Director, Institute for Criminal Law Administration, University of Indiana; Paul W. Tappan, Professor of Criminology, New York University and supervisor of the joint curriculum in correctional administration offered by the Graduate School and the Graduate Division of Public Service. (*Editor's note*—Inquiries concerning membership in the Society, S. A. C. organization and objectives, may be obtained by addressing D. E. J. MacNamara, Secretary-Treasurer, in care of the Graduate Division of Public Service, New York University, New York City.)

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**American Criminologists Participate in Paris Congress**—Thorsten Sellin, Peter Lejins, Paul Tappan and several other American criminologists were among the participants in the Second International Congress of Criminology held in Paris in September. Professor Donnedieu de Vabres of France was Chairman of the Congress and Professor Etienne de Greeff of the University of Louvain was rapporteur. A committee on criminological science was organized with the hope that it will develop into an International Criminological Institute. Professor Lejins (University of Maryland) was also a participant at the International Penal and Penitentiary Congress—NEWS RELEASE.

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**Governor Breaks Ground for New Massachusetts Prison**—Expressing the hope that in years to come other institutions with varying degrees of security design will be added to the correctional system until Massachusetts returns to its traditionally front-rank position in the nation, Governor Paul A. Dever broke ground on October 16 for the new State Prison which is to be located on the Walpole-Norfolk line about a mile from the State Prison Colony. The work will require more than two years, but at the end of that time the grim granite institution next to the railroad yards in Charlestown will be torn

down and forgotten. It was built in 1805, declared unfit for use in 1875, replaced by a new prison at Concord for nine years, but reoccupied in 1884 when the Concord institution was made a reformatory for young offenders. Elliott E. McDowell, Commissioner of Corrections for Massachusetts, presided at the ground-breaking ceremonies which were witnessed by about fifty state officials, penologists and representatives of the public in general. Commissioner McDowell read letters from Sanford Bates, Francis B. Sayre, and Fred J. Dillon, all former commissioners of correction, expressing their approval of the new project. Dr. A. Warren Stearns and J. Paul Doyle, also former Commissioners, attended the ceremonies as special guests.

Others introduced to the gathering by Commissioner McDowell were: Mrs. Margaret McHugh of the State Parole Board; Judge James Leo O'Connor, chairman of the Franklin Board of Selectmen; Rabbi Benjamin L. Grossman, State Prison Chaplain; State Senator Francis J. O'Neil, chairman of the Recess Commission on Penal Institutions; Franklin B. Coughlin, superintendent of the State Prison Colony in Norfolk; and Leo Wexler, head of the Wexler Construction Company, which holds the contract to build the wall. Dean Lowell S. Nicholson, President of the United Prison Association of Massachusetts, also spoke briefly. He pointed out that Charlestown had long been inadequate to take care of the needs of its inmates. The new State Prison will provide for the needs of the most serious offenders, but there is still need for a modern minimum-security reformatory for the younger prisoners. Governor Dever was the principal speaker. He described the poor living conditions at Charlestown. He said that the present prison was the oldest in the United States and England still in use, and told how the late Warden Lewis E. Lawes of Sing Sing, after a survey of Massachusetts penal conditions a few years ago, called Charlestown one of the three worst prisons in America. Costing \$3,425,000, the new institution will provide maximum security accommodations for 360 men in the State Prison Section, with facilities for another 216 inmates in the Classification Section. The main building is to contain administrative offices together with an auditorium, chapel, library, classrooms, gymnasium, visiting room, and kitchen. It is estimated that an additional \$2,000,000 will be required to cover the cost of constructing the prison industries shops.—FROM A REPORT TO THE EDITOR.

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**British Offer Probation Training Film**—The Home Office in England, which has responsibility for the probation service, plans training courses as part of its program. A film, *The Probation Officer*, produced there last winter, was made with a view to attracting recruits to probation work. It is a case story as seen through the eyes of a young woman trainee. The second objective of the Home Office was to let the public in general and magistrates and social service workers in particular, know "something about the work of the probation officer and the potentialities of the probation system." The film, which runs about half an hour, tells a family story. Two young delinquents, Nellie Mead and Norman Warren, are in trouble because of theft. Nellie's home is wretchedly unhappy because of parental quarreling and her mother's nervous ill temper. The boy has never had a good home background. A major part of the probation officer's job is effecting a reconciliation period between Nellie's parents through an interpretation to the husband of his wife's mental state. The film relates the trial of the two adolescents and the efforts of the probation officers to whom they are assigned. The course of the story and the treatment follow apparently the general pattern of probation work in England. There

is warmth and sympathy throughout the film. Two roles are taken by men probation officers. The rest are professional actors.

This film was shown at the National Conference of Social Work in Atlantic City last spring. Discussion following the showing brought out differences between English practices and our standards and procedures (which are of course far from uniform). The film would provide an excellent basis for discussion in a state or regional conference where comparative interpretation can be a part of the program. One commentator saw it at a New York theatre which proffers chiefly the lurid and sensational in films. Rather surprisingly, it was received with quiet attention and a bit of applause at the end. The film in 16 mm. version can be rented for \$5.00 from the British Information Services, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, New York—Focus, November, 1950.

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**Twelfth Quin-Quennial Meeting of the International Penal and Penitentiary Congress**—The twelfth International Penal and Penitentiary Congress was convened at the Hague, Holland, August 13, 1950. The Congress was organized seventy-five years ago. It seems of more than passing interest to students of criminology that this early attempt at international cooperation should have originated in the correctional field. Existence of the Congress is due in large measure to the efforts of Dr. Enoc Wines, who was secretary of the New York Prison Society at that time. A man imbued with the spirit of cooperation, Dr. Wines after years of patient effort, was able to persuade governments of American and European countries to authorize the calling of a conference in London in 1872. Delegates from the various countries were appointed and about 100 people attended the first congress. Out of this effort grew a permanent Penal and Penitentiary Commission on which there are representatives from the participating governments. This Commission maintains an office and secretariat in Berne, Switzerland. Its purpose is to promote world-wide understanding and the adoption of uniform standards of treatment in the correctional field. One instrumentality used in achieving its purpose has been arrangement for a quinquennial International Penal and Penitentiary Congress. Congresses have convened in London, Stockholm, Rome, St. Petersburg, Paris, Washington, Prague, Berlin and most recently in The Hague. Americans have always played an important role in the affairs of the Congress and of the International Commission. The Hon. Sanford Bates, Commissioner of the Department of Institutions and Agencies, N. J., has been the U. S. representative for some fifteen years and is presently Chairman of the Commission. Mr. Bates was awarded the decoration of Grand Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau by Queen Juliana in recognition of his service to the Congress.

The largest delegation at the recent Hague meeting was from America, consisting of some twenty odd delegates. Three hundred and seventy-five delegates registered. There were no delegates from behind the Iron Curtain. The 1950 Congress marked the end of an era because the Commission, after long and careful consideration, decided to affiliate with the United Nations. The Commission through its Secretariat, prepares well in advance of the Congress an agenda in the form of a series of questions. Questions posed in the 1950 Congress included—advisability of a pre-sentence examination; principles which underline classification; treatment and release of habitual offenders; short term imprisonment and its alternatives; and prison labor. Copies of the proceedings of the 1950 Congress will be available at a later date from the office of the Secretariat.—THE PRISON JOURNAL, October, 1950.

**Bromide Dangers Described**—More persons go to mental institutions in this country because of misuse of sedatives known as bromides than through addiction to any other drug, according to Dr. Theodore Cornbleet of Chicago. Dr. Cornbleet, staff member of Cook County Hospital (Illinois) and a University of Illinois college of medicine faculty member, told those attending the recent 99th annual meeting of the American Medical Association in San Francisco, that compounds containing a chemical known as bromine are found in a number of patent medicines sold as pain killers and nerve tonics. Bromines can be obtained without difficulty by persons formerly resorting to barbiturates to obtain a mental lift, Dr. Cornbleet said. The barbiturates, also known as "goof balls," now are banned from sale in most states without a doctor's prescription. Dr. Cornbleet said psychiatrists are amazed at the variety of mental disturbances which the bromides can induce in persons using them habitually. The drugs accumulate in the body and are excreted slowly, he said. Many persons suffer from bromide intoxication without being aware of the source. Physicians use solutions of salt and a new antidote, "ammonium chloride," to cause elimination of bromide deposits from the body, he explained.—Illinois Department of Public Welfare, *THE WELFARE BULLETIN*, September, 1950.

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**Drug Addiction Among Young People**—The Federal Bureau of Narcotics has noticed during the past few years an alarming increase in the number of young persons, those in their teens and early twenties, arrested for violation of the Federal marihuana and narcotic laws in New York, Chicago and San Francisco. This trend is borne out by figures appearing in the 1949 annual report of the Bureau of Prisons. It is there shown that the median age for all male drug offenders received in Federal prisons in 1945 was 35.5. In 1949 the median age was 31.7. Three hundred and eighty-five or 25.6 percent of the violators of narcotic laws received in Federal prisons in 1949 were under the age of 25 as compared with the previous year's total of 270, or 18.7 percent, under this age. Of the narcotic offenders sent to Federal prisons in 1949, those sentenced for offenses involving marihuana were a younger group than those sentenced for illegal dealings with other narcotics. Of 584 commitments to Federal institutions on marihuana charges, 7.7 percent were under 20 years of age and 38.4 percent were under 25; of the 725 other narcotic offenders, 0.7 percent were under 20 and 13.5 percent under 25. There also has been an increasing number of these young narcotic offenders who admit starting the use of narcotics with marihuana, then after a short while changing to the more powerful narcotics such as heroin, morphine and cocaine.—U. S. Treasury Department, Bureau of Narcotics, *TRAFFIC IN OPIUM AND OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS*, for the year ended December 31, 1949.