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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, Editor

The Criminal Case Load—Crime increased 1.5 per cent across the nation in 1950, with all individual offense classes showing increases except robbery. Murders and negligent manslaughters rose 0.4 and 9.2 per cent, respectively, while rape showed an increase of 1.2 per cent and aggravated assault 2.7 per cent. Other increases were burglary 0.6 per cent; larceny 1.9 per cent; and automobile theft 4.7 per cent. Robbery declined 10.0 per cent from the 1949 figures. A study of the trend in crime from month to month makes it clear that murders, aggravated assaults and rapes are committed with greatest frequency during the summer months, while the general category of crimes against property shows a tendency to increase in frequency during the colder seasons. Negligent manslaughters, consisting largely of traffic fatalities, occur with greatest frequency during the winter. Every five minutes during 1950 someone was feloniously assaulted or killed in the United States. Every day on the average 146 persons were held up and robbed and 468 others had their cars stolen. With the passing of each day, 1,129 places were entered by burglars and in addition, every 30 seconds on the average throughout the year a larceny was recorded. By the year's end the estimated number of serious crimes totaled 1,790,030. While the estimated major crime total includes some larceny offenses involving property of relatively small value, such crimes as arson, embezzlement, carrying concealed weapons and the like are not included. Thus, the estimated total is considered conservative.

Urban crime as a total in 1950 remained practically unchanged as compared with the figures for 1949. Rural crime went up 4.4 per cent over the figures for 1949, with increases registered in five offense categories and decreases in three. Among the various geographic divisions, the West South Central States reported the most pronounced increase in offenses, 12.4 per cent, with increases registered in each offense category except aggravated assault. A study of the 793,671 fingerprint arrest records received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation during 1950 reflected that more than 41 per cent were arrests for major violations and age 21 predominated in the frequency of arrests, followed by ages 22, 23, 24 and 25 in that order. Female arrests accounted for 9.6 per cent of the total, decreasing 2.5 per cent from a total of 78,585 during 1949 to 76,583 during 1950.—UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS, *Annual Bulletin*, Vol. XXI, Number 2, 1950.

Annual Congress of Corrections—Several hundred workers and leaders in the field of corrections representing ten affiliated national groups convened in Biloxi, Mississippi, October 21-26, for the 81st Annual Congress of Corrections. The presidential address was given by Warden Joseph E. Ragen, Illinois State Penitentiary. The Congress is composed of the following organizations: American Prison Association, Warden's Association, Penal Industries Association, National Jail Association, National Probation and Parole Association, International Prisoners' Aid Association, National Conference of Juvenile Agencies, National Chaplains' Association, Medical Correctional Association, Correctional Service Associates and Correctional Educational Association. Among those in attendance were prison wardens, reformatory and juvenile school superintendents, educators, recreation leaders, psychologists, psychiatrists, physicians, chaplains, industrial specialists, probation and parole officers, guidance people, active members of boards and commis-

sions in this field and a number of public spirited citizens. Further comment concerning the Proceedings of the Congress will appear in a subsequent issue of this *Journal*.—THE EDITOR.

British Quarterly Appears—A new quarterly, *The British Journal of Delinquency*, appeared in July 1950, with Edward Glover, Hermann Mannheim, and Emanuel Miller as the editorial board. Its aims: "to enable students of criminology to keep in touch with recent developments of science concerned with the investigation, treatment and prevention of delinquency . . . If we accept as a working definition of delinquency that it is the co-efficient of friction between the individual and his environment, or between man and society (as represented by the law), or again between primitive (infantile) systems of adaptation to life and a more or less adult acceptance of convenient and desirable social regulations, it follows that the methods adopted in the study of delinquency should reflect and apply these generalizations with some fidelity . . . And clearly every specialty deserves and requires a special journal." The quarterly publishes both theoretical and practical articles from such fields as psychiatry, sociology, economics, social and correctional work. Preference is given to papers on research. The issue for January 1951 contains the report of a preliminary survey of 300 female delinquents in Borstal institutions by P. Epps. The writer recommends small institutions of not more than fifty inmates because "the danger of contamination among females is as great as, if not greater than among males of the age group sixteen to twenty-three." A minimum of repressive controls is advised such as exist in the Borstals of the open or semi-open type. A study of unconscious motives for theft reported by Hans Zulliger in January 1951 details a case study of a sixteen year old girl for whom her acts had a symbolic character. Mr. Zulliger makes the broad statement that "In the case of children and adolescents who have stolen, it is fundamentally wrong to mete out punishment as a deterrent . . . If this kind of theft is punished by ordinary methods of retribution or expiation, the delinquent is driven still further into inner isolation and fear of life; the unconscious motive for theft becomes more powerful instead of being subdued or dissolved." Another issue includes a paper by Heinrich Meng and Paul Reiwald on the prevention of delinquency. As a general statement, it can be said that material in the new journal is as significant for American readers as for their British fellow workers. The subscription is \$4.00 per year. Address Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, 7 and 8 Henrietta Street, London, W. C. 2—Focus 1951.

The Prison and Reformatory Population—At the close of the year 1949, prisoners in State and Federal prisons and reformatories numbered 165,127, an increase of approximately eight thousand or five percent over the 157,154 confined at the end of 1948, according to figures released in June 1951 by James V. Bennett, Director of the Bureau of Prisons. Nearly all of this increase occurred in State institutions. In 1949 a larger number of prisoners were received from court. A total of 71,703 were so received this year, which was 5,772 or 8.8 percent, more than in 1948. Most of this increase occurred also in State institutions. The 1949 prisoner figures, although higher than for 1948, are below the figures for the prewar years. Prisoners at the end of 1949 were 5.8 percent fewer than at the end of 1940. The smaller number of State and Federal prisoners in 1949 as compared with 1940, becomes even more significant when it is noted that, according to Census Bureau estimates, the civilian population of the country was approximately twelve percent

greater in 1949 than in 1940. Although there has been a substantial postwar increase in the number of State and Federal prisoners, the increase has been relatively small when related to the population of the country. Prisoners per 100,000 of the estimated civilian population numbered 140 at the end of 1939, dropped to 106 in 1945, and increased to only 112 at the end of 1949. More than eighty percent of those entering the institutions in 1949 were received from court and ten percent were violators of parole and other forms of conditional release who were returned to complete their sentences. About half of the 79,298 prisoners discharged in 1949 were released on parole or some other form of conditional release, while only slightly more than a third were released unconditionally. The remaining discharges included deaths, escapes, and discharges for temporary absences of various types. NATIONAL PRISONER STATISTICS, U. S. Department of Justice, Number 3, June 25, 1951.

California Probation and Parole Officers Convene—The California Probation and Parole Association, 350 strong, held its twenty-first annual conference in Santa Cruz on April 25 to 27. The principal speech at the conference was delivered by Edmund G. Brown, Attorney General of California. He said in part, "Treatment of the criminal is not just your problem and mine. It is the problem of over ten million people now resident in California. It is the problem of over 150,000,000 Americans. You and I in this field of law enforcement and treatment of the criminal know we cannot change public opinion overnight. We know, too, that we cannot do a modern, humane, and intelligent job unless public opinion is with us." After summarizing the development of probation over the last fifty years, Mr. Brown suggested that the press had an obligation to stir the public out of its ignorance and apathy about the nature of the prison process and the role of probation. Karl Holton, director of the California Youth Authority, reported on the Midcentury White House Conference and another principal speaker was Dr. M. E. Porter of the State Department of Mental Hygiene. Three workshop sessions, designed to foster participation in the conference by every segment of the Association, included discussion of adult and juvenile probation and parole, correctional case-work, juvenile halls (detention homes), and community organization and delinquency prevention. Elected to the presidency, succeeding Fred Finsley, was Norton Sanders, chief of the Division of Staff and Community Services in the Los Angeles Probation Department. John Schapps served as program chairman. Focus, July 1951.

New Central Book Distribution Service—The National Publicity Council for Health and Welfare Services has inaugurated a new central distribution service on books and pamphlets useful in public education, public relations and community organization programs, in order to help health, social and recreation workers avoid guesswork and inconvenience in the selection and purchase of printed materials. Under the NPC program, new publications from a wide variety of sources are screened for their usefulness either as reference material for personnel who do community organization and public education jobs, or as material for distribution to the public. Suitable publications are listed and described in announcements sent periodically to interested agencies and individuals. The announcements called "NPC Recommends" are available without charge to any health, social, recreation or education worker. Requests to be placed on the mailing list should be addressed to the National Publicity Council, 257 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

THE WELFARE BULLETIN, Illinois Department of Public Welfare, May-June, 1951.

International Congress on Mental Health—The Fourth International Congress on Mental Health will be held in Mexico City, December 11-19, 1951, under the joint sponsorship of World Federation for Mental Health, Liga Mexicana de Salud Mental and the Regional Office for the Americas of World Health Organization. Dr. Alfonso Millan, President-elect of the World Federation, is Chairman of the Mexican Organizing Committee for the Congress. The four major topics to be discussed at the plenary sessions are: Mental health and children; Occupational mental health—rural and industrial; Mental health problems of transplantation and migration; Community efforts in mental hygiene.

There will be a series of technical meetings with speakers and discussants from the various countries and professions represented at the Congress. In addition to these, there will be fifteen to twenty-five international, inter-disciplinary working groups, each composed of approximately fifteen professional people who will meet daily to exchange ideas, to consider approaches found useful in various countries and to make suggestions for future planning. The Division of World Affairs of the National Association for Mental Health was asked by the Mexican Organizing Committee to gather background materials, reprints of articles, reports of research studies and the like, for the working groups. An appeal is made to the United States Member Societies of the World Federation for Mental Health for assistance in selecting and contributing this material. If single copies are received they will be placed in a reference library where they will be accessible to delegates; fifteen or more copies will be distributed to appropriate working group participants. Materials may be sent directly to Dr. Alfonso Millan, Chairman, Organizing Committee. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated, especially by delegates from overseas.

The Congress registration fee for Members is \$12.00 U. S. currency; a fee of \$6.00 for Associate members (wives or others accompanying members), will entitle them to attend plenary sessions and any social events which may be arranged. Fees may be sent as a U. S. Postal Money Order or a Draft on a Mexican bank, although personal checks will be accepted from United States Members. Checks should be made payable to the Fourth International Congress for Mental Health and sent to Dr. Alfonso Millan, Chairman, Organizing Committee, Gomez Farias 56, Mexico D. F., Mexico. Lona Tours, Inc., Ave., Juarez 56-215, Mexico D. F., Mexico, is the agent handling hotel reservations, transportation to and from Mexico, and tours within the country. Those who plan to attend the Congress should communicate directly with them for information and reservations.—From Mrs. Grace O'Neill, Division of World Affairs, National Association for Mental Health, 1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

Correctional Reform in New York—The following significant recommendations were among those presented to the New York Legislature by the Prison Association of New York as a part of its 106th Annual Report: *Amendment of the youthful offender law concerning determination of arrest.* It was recommended that the Youthful Offender Law, Title VII, Section 913-n of the Code of Criminal Procedure, be amended to provide that offenders so determined may legally deny the element of being taken into custody, in keeping and in harmony with the present legal basis for denial of conviction. It is

the opinion of the Association that the development of the Youthful Offender Law stands out as one of the most notable advances in the treatment process of adolescent youth brought before the courts. Now that the law has had opportunity for experimentation and extensive usage, and has proven to be a sound and useful technique of treatment, certain revisions appear necessary in order to preserve the original intent of the Legislature at the time the law was enacted in 1943. It would seem that the philosophy of the law is vitiated by the very fact that the taking into custody of a youth later adjudged a youthful offender is noted as an arrest. The original legislative intent was that a cloak of security be thrown around the entire proceedings in order to protect the youthful offender in later life from the stigma of a criminal conviction. The law now provides that determination as a youthful offender is not deemed a conviction. Section 913-n of the Code of Criminal Procedure stipulates that such a determination does not require a youth "... be denominated a criminal by reason of such determination . . ." If conviction need not be public information, certainly the taking into custody on the instant offense should not have to be disclosed. The Association therefore, recommended that Section 913-n be amended to read: "... and no youth shall be denominated a criminal by reason of such determination, nor shall such determination be deemed a conviction, nor shall the taking into custody of a youth for an offense for which he is subsequently adjudicated a youthful offender be deemed an arrest."

Re-establishment of Central Guard School. One of the casualties of the pre-war depression days was the former Central Guard School of the State Department of Correction. Ever since its demise as a result of economy measures, the Association has urged its re-establishment. It is, of course, a moot question as to whether it was economical in those days to close this valuable training unit. While funds may have been saved at the moment, more was lost in the failure of the Department of Correction to keep pace with its training of personnel. A competent custodial force can be had only with suitable and adequate professional training. To avoid guards becoming routinized themselves as an inevitable result of institutional life and to encourage alertness it is recommended that intensive refresher courses become available through a central training unit. In view of the all around demand for training facilities and program from within the rank-and-file of correctional personnel, and the proven value of such programs in other areas, it was the opinion of the Association that an appropriation for re-establishment of the Central Guard School would be positive assurance of an interested and qualified personnel.—From the 105th Annual Report of the Prison Association of New York.

Association for Psychiatric Treatment of Offenders Discusses "Dope Fiends"
—Many words are being poured out today concerning the plight of the adolescent addict. The newspapers are having a field day. An official declares the problem is exaggerated. Another terms it a national menace. Hearings are called for. Big hospitals demanded. Figures tossed about. Some are so low that they mock our intelligence; others so high that they are sheer sensationalism. A spokesman for the Association for Psychiatric Treatment of Offenders states: "Despite all the clamor, nothing constructive is being done. While the investigations pursue their windy, leisurely pace, more and more of our youth are being defiled. Those already tainted have few places to turn. One patient had exhausted them all. He had been to the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital at Lexington and left against the advice of the authorities.

He had undergone 'cold turkey' at Rikers Island and took a shot the same day he left to get over the cruel effects. He had been to Bellevue but relapsed soon after.

"Let us not pretend shocked surprise. The disease of drug addiction is not new. It goes back 6,000 years, at least, to the Sumerians. International action against habit forming drugs began in 1909, in a conference in Shanghai. It was followed by the Hague Convention in 1912. The League of Nations did some monumental studies in past years on the problem. There is a bulging literature on treatment but still we hear, 'Let's go slow—let's investigate.' The Association for Psychiatric Treatment of Offenders was cognizant of the narcotic evil long before the present hue and cry. This is no surprise because there is an obviously close linkage between the illness of addiction and delinquent conduct. A weak link in the chain of rehabilitation is psychotherapy. This weakness is partly due to the fact that there are too few therapists who have more than a reading acquaintance with the problem. Many psychotherapists hold that the presence of such an intense physical craving make such patients poor subjects for methods of therapy now current. The majority of these therapists agree with many laymen who feel that the addicts must be institutionalized and receive medical and psychiatric treatment within walls. But ironically enough, psychiatric institutions and hospitals today are not willing to accept narcotic users; they plead addicts are too difficult to handle and will contaminate others. This attitude is both inhuman and unreasonable. The community has the two fold task of educating our youth on the dangers of narcotics and on the other of enlightening the layman and professional about the addicts themselves. The term 'dope fiend' bears scrutiny. It would be interesting to know the origin of this expression. In any event, the narcotic user is still looked upon as a fiend. And this has influenced, and still influences, the attitude of apparently well-meaning people approaching the problem."—From *Bulletin of the Association for Psychiatric Treatment of Offenders*. I, 3, July-Aug. 1951. (We hope to comment further on this report in our next number. EDITOR.)

NOTES FROM PROFESSIONAL CRIMINOLOGY SOCIETIES

The Illinois Academy of Criminology

On 3 December 1949, on invitation of Professor Ernest W. Burgess of the University of Chicago, a group of some thirty persons representing various disciplines in the field of criminology, such as law, sociology, penology, psychology, social work, psychiatry, met to hear M. Piprot D'Alleaume, Secretary-General of the International Society of Criminology, present plans for the International Congress of Criminology to be held in Paris, France in September, 1950. At the conclusion of that meeting, after prolonged discussion, it was voted to create an Illinois Academy of Criminology. An organizing committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws and to submit recommendations for officers and members of the executive committee.

The organizing committee completed its work and presented its recommendations at a meeting held on 16 February 1950 at the Northwestern University, School of Law. The organizing committee was composed of the following members: Mrs. Sarah B. Schaar, Chairman and Hon. Jacob M. Braude, Professor Ernest W. Burgess, Mr. Harvey L. Long, and Mr. Eugene S. Zemans.

The purpose of the Academy, as outlined in the constitution adopted, is three-fold: (1) To stimulate the interest of its members and the public in the

study and understanding of criminology; (2) to promote scientific inquiry, research, and publication in the various fields of criminology; and (3) to present the results of relevant studies, and research by means of lectures, addresses, exhibits and publications.

Seventeen individuals, prominent in fields related to criminology were elected to office in the newly formed Academy. Many of these persons had been active for many years in the defunct Chicago Academy of Criminology. Chicago Municipal Court Judge Jacob M. Braude was chosen president. Vice-presidents named were: Dr. Franz Alexander of the Institute for Psychoanalysis, Professor Frank Flynn of the Department of Social Administration at the University of Chicago, and Mrs. Sarah B. Schaar of the Jewish Family and Community Service. Dr. Henry D. McKay of the Institute for Juvenile Research and the Chicago Area Project was named Librarian. Other officers were: Dr. Albert J. Reiss, Jr., Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, treasurer; Arthur V. Huffman, Supervising Sociologist, Illinois Department of Public Safety, secretary; Dr. Ernest W. Burgess, honorary president. The Executive Committee consisted of the officers and Captain John I. Howe, the Chicago Police Department; Professor Fred E. Inbau, School of Law, Northwestern University; Professor Edward H. Levi, School of Law, the University of Chicago; Mr. Harvey L. Long, Supervisor of Parolees, State Department of Public Safety; Dr. George J. Mohr, Institute of Psychoanalysis; Mr. Virgil W. Peterson, the Chicago Crime Commission; Dr. Edward H. Stullken, principal of Montefiore School; Professor Donald R. Taft, Department of Sociology, University of Illinois; Mr. Eugene S. Zemans, John Howard Association.

During its first year, the Academy heard papers on several phases of criminology and penology; including the following:

- (1) The Economic Factor in Juvenile Delinquency, by Professor E. W. Burgess,
- (2) A Youth Correction Authority for Illinois, by John R. Ellington, American Law Institute,
- (3) Treatment of the Sex Psychopath in Kansas, by Dr. Charles Hawke, Kansas State Training School,
- (4) Trends in Treatment of Adult Offenders, by Lloyd Ohlin, Research Sociologist, Illinois Division of Correction,
- (5) Treatment of Juvenile Offenders, by Dr. Robert M. Gluckman, psychiatrist, St. Charles School for Boys,
- (6) Training for Correctional Work, by Mr. Ben S. Meeker, Chief United States probation officer, Chicago,
- (7) Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency—A review of the book by Professor Donald R. Taft of the University of Illinois,
- (8) A Look at our Parole Experience in Illinois, by Mr. Joseph D. Lohman, chairman Illinois Division of Correction,
- (9) The Research Program of the Rotman Research Laboratory, by Dr. Agnes Sharp,
- (10) The Role of the E.E.G. in the Psychiatric Institute, by Dr. Frank C. Lorimer,
- (11) Developments at the Psychiatric Institute from 1914-1951, by Dr. Edward J. Kelleher, Director.

At the Annual Meeting held on 21 May 1951, the following officers were elected for 1951-52:

President: Professor Fred E. Inbau, School of Law, Northwestern University.

Vice-presidents: Mr. Joseph D. Lohman, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago and Chairman, Illinois Parole Board; John I. Howe, Captain, Chicago Police; Professor Donald R. Taft, Department of Sociology, University of Illinois.

Secretary-Treasurer: Arthur V. Huffman, Supervising Sociologist, Division of the Criminologist, Illinois Department of Public Safety.

Archivist: Dr. Henry D. McKay, the Chicago Area Project.

Elected to the Executive Committee: Hon. Jacob M. Braude, Prof. Frank T. Flynn, Prof. Edward H. Levi, Mr. Harvey L. Long, Mr. Ben S. Meeker, Dr. George J. Mohr, Dr. Edward H. Stullken, Mrs. Sarah B. Schaar, Dr. Agnes Sharp and Mr. Eugene S. Zemans.—From ARTHUR V. HUFFMAN.