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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, *Editor*

Prison Journalism—In the 98 federal state prisons and reformatories for male prisoners in the United States, there are 67 prison publications of various types. Thirty-three of the 48 states have prisons with some kind of publication and 15 states have none. All but three of the federal prisons have some publication. There are 31 state institutions without a publication. As near as can be known, the first prison publication in the country was published in 1887 in the Minnesota State Prison. Next year the *Prison Mirror* will celebrate its 65th birthday. About two-thirds of the publications in existence were established between 1941-1950. Sixty-one of the 67 prison magazines or papers have a total circulation of 88,375 copies. The individual circulations vary from 200 to as high as 8,000 copies per issue. About one-third of these have a circulation ranging from 1,000 to 2,000. Of the total or 88,375 copies, 62,035 (or about 70 percent) go to inmate readers and 26,340 (or about 30 percent) to readers outside the prisons. Of the total circulation, state institutions publish 71,600 or 80 percent, and federal prisons the balance or 20 percent. It may be significant to point out that federal institutions have wider outside circulation than state prisons. Only 26 percent of the state publications go outside the prisons, whereas 44 percent of the federal circulation goes to readers on the outside.

The average size of the prison magazine is 26 pages and the newspaper is six. In terms of frequency of publication for magazines, 21 are monthly, seven are bi-monthly, and ten are quarterly; whereas for the newspapers, 13 are weeklies and seven are monthly papers. Thirty-five of the total 61 appear in printed form, 23 are mimeographed, and three are offset publications. All but one of the total are printed within the prisons. Of the same total, 48 are reported as edited and managed by inmates with supervision by wardens, educational directors or chaplains. Only one, or possibly two, are self sustaining, whereas the rest are financed either through prison funds or inmate support (welfare funds or canteen support) of some type. This need for financial aid is due to the fact that prison publications do not carry advertisements and paid subscriptions are rare. Of the total 61 publications, 57 are distributed to inmates gratis and only five charge inmate readers 35 cents to one dollar a year. Thirty-nine of the prisons send their publications to outside readers without cost, while 22 charge the civilian readers with subscription prices varying from 50 cents to \$2.25 per annum.

Penology, whether it be ancient or modern, is not circumscribed by a stone curtain. The prison is not a stockade or a compound cut off from the rest of society. Effective, intelligent and thorough work in prisons must be related to the community on the outside. One of the important means for bringing about better communication and more understanding between the outside and the inside is the prison publication.—Walter A. Lunden, Professor of Sociology, Iowa State College,—Excerpts from a paper on "Social Aspects of Prison Journalism," presented at the 81st Annual Congress of Correction, PRISON WORLD case, November-December, 1951.

Association for Psychiatric Treatment of Offenders, Inc.—The following programs indicate the nature of a portion of the work that is being done by APTO in New York City. All meetings are held at headquarters of the Association, 9 East 97th Street, New York 29.

SOCIAL WORKSHOPS—THE STUDY AND TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS.

Series II. Held every fourth Wednesday at 8:30 PM.

1. *After Prison—What?* February 27th—8:30 PM
A psychoanalyst examines into the dynamics of recidivism and discusses means of achieving a satisfactory adjustment for the ex-inmate.
Dr. Kate Frankenthal, Lecturer
Dr. Milton Gurvitz, Discussant
2. *What are Settlement Houses doing for delinquents?* March 26th—8:30 PM
A supervising psychologist of the mental hygiene program at Madison Street Settlement House and the Executive Director of the James Weldon Johnson Community Center discuss their own roles in coping with delinquency.
Dr. Ross Thalheimer and Miss Mildred Zucker, Speakers
Dr. Melitta Schmideberg, Discussant
3. *'Vocational' psychology of the offender and the attitude of the community regarding employing persons with records.* April 23rd—8:30 PM
Two top practitioners in getting offenders jobs provide us with insight into the psychology of the offender in getting and keeping a job. They discuss various practical methods in breaking down resistance both on the part of the offender and his prospective employer.
Mr. Robert Hannum and Mrs. Betty Falek, Lecturers
Dr. Hector J. Ritey, Discussant
4. *Casework in an authoritative setting.* May 21st—8:30 PM
Two supervising caseworkers explore techniques and describe effectiveness of modern casework in a police and court setting.
Lt. Bernard Berkowitz and Mr. Charles Fastov, Lecturers
Dr. Margaretta Bowers, Discussant

Reservations for these meetings must be made one week in advance of the specific meeting. For information, contact—Executive Committee, 9 East 97th Street. These meetings are free to members of the APTO. A seventy-five cent charge will be made to qualified non-members for individual sessions.

CLINICAL DISCUSSION MEETINGS—For doctors, by personal invitation only.
Held every fourth Monday at 8:30 PM

1. *How do homosexual probationers make out under treatment?* February 25th.
Dr. Wladimir G. Eliasberg, Speaker
Dr. Lionel Goiten, Discussant
2. *Hypnosis as an adjunct in the treatment of offenders.* March 24th.
Dr. Margaretta Bowers, Speaker
Dr. Samuel Kesselman, Discussant
3. *Is the superego of the criminal defective?* April 21st.
Dr. Melitta Schmideberg, Speaker
Dr. George Train, Discussant
4. *The accessibility of the adolescent to psychoanalysis.* May 19th.
Dr. Hector J. Ritey, Speaker
Dr. Ross Thalheimer, Discussant
5. *The acting out of transference by the offender and the counter-transference of society.* June 16th.
Dr. Nathan Roth, Speaker
Dr. Inge Bogner, Discussant

APTO is working toward the development of abbreviated psychiatric interviews with a view to a wider application of psychiatric outside-of-institution treatment of offenders than has hitherto been in vogue. Favorable results are reported. A considerable number of New York psychiatrists have volunteered for regular clinical service. For information write to Dr. Melitta Schmideberg at 9 East 97th Street, 1 D, New York 29.

American Sex Statutes—The following is a copy of a letter from Mr. Albert Morris, Director of the Division of Information and Research of the American League to Abolish Capital Punishment, Brookline, Massachusetts. It was addressed to Professor Robert C. Bensing, of the Western Reserve University Faculty of Law.—Editor.

"I appreciated your sending me a copy of your article on a comparative study of American sex statutes which appeared in the May-June 1951 issue of the *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*. It is an informative piece of writing. I do note in it a misstatement of fact which you might like to correct. On page 58 of your article appears the sentence, 'It is not meant that the death penalty in these states is mandatory, for only the statutes of Louisiana and North Carolina so provide.'

"I think you will find that in 1949 the State of North Carolina eliminated the mandatory feature of its capital punishment law by adding a proviso which amended its existing statute to read, 'Provided, if the jury shall so recommend at the time of rendering its verdict in open court, the punishment shall be imprisonment for life in the state's prison, and the court shall so instruct the jury.'

"Louisiana also has a proviso that whenever the penalty fixed is death for any crime, the jury may qualify its verdict by returning a verdict of, 'Guilty without capital punishment.'

"Because I wanted to be sure that my own files were absolutely correct and up-to-date on these points, I have obtained confirmation of them from the offices of the Attorneys General of the State of North Carolina and the State of Louisiana under dates of October 29, 1951, and November 5, 1951."

Pre-Service Training Recommended for Custodial Officers—Speaking before the 81st Annual Congress of Correction, Professor Peter P. Lejins stated in part, "The entire field of handling the delinquent and the criminal is in a state of rapid transition, and so is the concept of the custodial officer. At one end of the continuum we have the view that the custodial officer is a person who guards the criminal who is being punished by incarceration. At the other end there is the theory which refuses to see a difference between treatment personnel and custodial personnel. Thus, the Federal Bureau of Prisons does not use the name 'custodial officer' any more. It speaks of correctional officers. The preliminary report to the 1951 Congress of Correction, prepared by the committee on personnel standards and training, contains the following sentence: 'The traditional *guard* position is being replaced by the position of *correctional officer in correctional institutions.*'" With these comments concerning the trend toward professionalization in the correctional services, Professor Lejins continued, "Pre-service training and education really refers to two different concepts: (a) Pre-service training in the sense of a training program for the newly hired personnel by the agency itself. One might call this the pre-service training program. It goes without saying that a certain amount of such pre-service training arranged for by the agency itself is a highly desirable practice; (b) Pre-service education in the sense of a course

of study in some educational institution, such as lawyers take in the law school or physicians in the medical school; in other words, professional education. One might call this formal pre-service professional education.

'It is my opinion that the prison guard *per se* is becoming more and more a figure of the past and is being replaced by an attendant who guards the prison but at the same time actively contributes to rehabilitation and has enough training to know how to help the highly skilled experts, such as psychiatrists, group therapists, clinical psychologists, et cetera, within the institutional setting. If we think of education, therefore, we should be thinking of the education of such personnel as we are ultimately aiming for, namely, the education of correctional staff. Thus, our conclusion would be that while one should be working toward correctional service education on a professional and university level, the custodial service should look for improvement of its personnel through: (a) Raised standards for the candidates seeking employment in this capacity; (b) Pre-service training or indoctrination programs by the institution or the state correctional system; (c) In-service training; (d) Gradual transformation of the custodial service into the correctional service.' " Professor Peter P. Lejins, University of Maryland, *Recommended Pre-Service Training and Education to Qualify a Person to Enter Prison Service as a Custodial Officer*—THE PRISON WORLD, November-December 1951.

Notes from Professional Criminology Societies Illinois Academy of Criminology

The Illinois Academy of Criminology held its regular monthly meeting on 10 December 1951 in Hoyne Hall, Northwestern University School of Law. The meeting was called to order by the President of the Academy, Professor Fred E. Inbau, and the following program was presented:

THE COMMITMENT AND TREATMENT OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS, By Mr. Charles W. Leonard, Superintendent, Illinois State Training School for Boys, St. Charles, Ill.

Comments and Discussion, By Mr. Walker Butler, Illinois State Senator, and Dr. Frank T. Flynn, Professor, School of Social Administration, University of Chicago, and

Mr. Lloyd E. Ohlin, Research Sociologist, Illinois Pardon and Parole Board, Moderator.

In his paper, Mr. Leonard stated, "The way we handle juvenile delinquents today reminds me of the way we handled mental patients fifty years ago. In the last generation, mental illness was approached strictly on a legal basis with a legal philosophy. We referred to the insane and called it insanity. We referred to the lunatics and called it lunacy. Years of re-education, however, have converted insane asylums into mental hospitals. The same re-education converted lunatics into sick people called mental patients. Somehow this analogy is very appropriate in my opinion as we meet tonight and talk of juvenile delinquency. We have juvenile courts and juvenile detention homes. All these buildings in themselves are the physical application of a philosophy that was introduced in about 1900 with the establishment of the Juvenile Court in Cook County. It is important that we recognize, however, that these buildings in themselves do not guarantee that the philosophy is being applied or carried out."

"On the State level we have had Youth Commissions for a number of years and the objective of these commissions has been a better program on

the State level for the rehabilitation of delinquent youth. Like the Juvenile Court Buildings, the creation of a commission in itself, is not a guarantee that we have a better rehabilitation program or that we are furthering the scientific knowledge that is available in setting up a program that can be called treatment. In both the cases of the court, the detention home, the youth commission—the police department, or any other agency working with delinquent youth, the basic guarantee of a program is the philosophy and thinking that is a living part of the individual men who make up the staff, the commission, the agency, the department, or whatever the case may be. Tonight's meeting is a very significant one because I think all of us, legislators, court officials, institutional staff, university professors, and others, are struggling to pull ourselves free from a philosophy that might be comparable to the previously mentioned philosophy of the lunatic era and step over the threshold into a new philosophy that recognizes delinquency for what it is: a legal label placed on a boy or girl as a result of problems that that boy or girl is attempting to solve. The solution of course has probably taken the form of acts or attitudes under the heading of misbehavior.

In other words, all delinquent acts could be listed under the heading misbehavior, but not all misbehavior can be listed as delinquent acts.

So far I have attempted to do two things; I have attempted to establish the fact that in approaching this problem we must have a defined basic philosophy that we all agree on. (2) In attempting to define this basic philosophy we can not help but see that our position is analogous to the developments in the mental hygiene field and even before that, in the field of medicine."—ARTHUR V. HUFFMAN, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

The subject for discussion at the meeting of the Illinois Academy of Criminology on February 25th was "*The Selection, Training, and Promotion of Police*." It was a "round table" discussion by:

Walter V. Devereux, Chief Investigator, Chicago Crime Commission.

Robert V. Keleher, Lieutenant, and Director of Training, Chicago Park District Police, and

Kendall I. Lingle, Executive Vice-President, Citizens' Civil Service Association of Illinois.

John Nelligan, Director of Personnel, Chicago Police Department.

The meeting was held at the Northwestern University School of Law, 357 East Chicago Avenue at 8:00 P.M.

SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

At the fifth annual convention of the Society for the Advancement of Criminology held at Berkeley, California during the Christmas holidays, the following officers for the year 1952 were elected:

President: Prof. Frank Boolsen, Fresno State College

Vice-Pres.: Donal E. J. MacNamara, Graduate Division of Public Service, N. Y. U.

Vice-Pres.: David McCandless, Southern Police Institute, University of Louisville

Vice-Pres.: Willard Schmidt, San Jose State College

Secy.-Treas.: John Kenney, School of Public Administration, University of Southern California