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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, Editor

Standards for Prisons—*A Manual of Correctional Standards* prepared by some seventy specialists in correctional services of the United States and Canada, is about to be published by the American Prison Association, 135 East 15th Street, New York City. The highlights of the Manual are presented by H. O. Teets, Warden of the California State Prison at San Quentin, and Associate Warden Walter Dunbar of his staff, in collaboration with the Editorial Committee for the new manual: Richard A. McGee, Chairman; Austin H. MacCormick, A. LaMont Smith and Fred Finsley. Warden Teets and Associate Warden Dunbar are members of the Editorial Committee that prepared the manual, and Mr. Dunbar is its secretary.

In 1946 a committee of the American Prison Association published a pamphlet entitled "A Manual of Suggested Standards for a State Correctional System." While this publication was extremely useful, it was lacking in detail and omitted entirely some very important phases of the subject. The new "Manual of Correctional Standards," to be published in 1954, cannot be called a definitive piece of work, either, but it does cover the field in considerable detail and represents the best combined thought in America's recognized correctional leadership. We believe it will stand as an enduring mile-post on the pathway of progress in modern correctional work. The manual has twenty-seven chapters. Each chapter begins with an introductory statement of the subject matter. Specific standards are listed; the meaning and application of each are discussed. The manual includes definitions, excerpts, footnote references, statistical tables, diagrams, suggested forms, bibliographies and an index.

The first chapter traces the development of

modern correctional concepts from the early ideas of retributive punishment to a modern philosophy of rehabilitation. "Rehabilitation is not a vague, haphazard and loosely defined process," it states. "The essential elements of a well rounded correctional program of individualized training and treatment in an institution for adult offenders are then presented."

The position taken by the proponents of the theory of rehabilitation may be summed up as follows: They do not rule out the necessity of custodial segregation, but consider custody a means to an end in the vast majority of cases, and an end in very few cases. They do not deny the desirability of achieving a deterrent effect if it can be done without impairing the effectiveness of rehabilitative programs that offer more assurance of good results than deterrence does. In short, they believe, all things considered, the prison that is not geared toward rehabilitation as one of its primary aims stands condemned on its own evidence.

The manual's discussion of the scope of a state correctional system may be of special interest to governors, legislators and other state officials. "A state correction system has commonly been thought of in the past as chiefly concerned with the operation of penal and correctional institutions," it says. "In recent years, the continuity of the correctional process from the moment of conviction to the final release from legal control has been increasingly stressed. It is recognized that probation, institutional care, and parole are all parts of the same process; that the same offender may pass successively through each stage of the process, that many of the same techniques and methods are employed in each stage; that essentially the same data are sig-

nificant throughout the process; and that decisions on care, custody, training, treatment, and the time and conditions of release, should all be based upon the offender's prior history and upon detailed knowledge of how the correctional process has been applied to him up to the present."

"The outstanding feature of central administration for correctional systems in the United States today," says the manual, "is the wide diversity of organizational patterns from state to state. This diversity of administrative form may be explained partially by differences in size. It is also affected by the presence, or absence, of competent professional leadership in the state. Differences due to the normal lag of historical administrative development in government behind contemporary need is also a major factor. This is not to say that any final answer has been found to the best possible administrative form for a correctional system which could be installed, with equal success, in every jurisdiction. A study of the types of state administrative organization in the forty-eight states in 1950 revealed that there were nine distinct kinds of state organization in existence, and that there were numerous individual differences within each of these nine groups."

In view of the widespread diversity of organizational pattern, the need for clarification of the essential features required for proper central administration is apparent. The manual maintains that there should be a separate department of state government with an appropriate title, such as "Department of Corrections," under a single administrator. Regarding political interference the manual holds that "the Department of Corrections should be free from improper political influences in the management of personnel, materials, or prisoners." The report continues: "It is important that everyone involved, from the governor down to the rank and file institutional attendant, realize the dangers of appointing unqualified persons in important prison posts, or in giving special privileges to prisoners because of political influences or, indeed, permitting any irregularities in the

management of the department's business because of considerations of political influence or the exchange of political favors."

The pattern of administrative organization of correctional institutions is undergoing widespread study and change at the present time. This attention is due to recognition that there must be a sound organizational structure based upon recognized principles of administration as well as upon the specific peculiarities of correctional management.

A substantial proportion of prison inmates do not need to be retained in guarded enclosures. Instead, those who are carefully selected for the purpose through good classification procedures can be assigned to camps, farm colonies or other outside work with a reasonable degree of safety. Armed guards, chains or other undesirable forms of restraint are not necessary. Supervision by unarmed officers or foremen is adequate. In support of this point of view, the manual cites reduction of prison construction and operating costs and of overcrowding and prisoner idleness as compelling reasons for removing selected inmates from the prison and assigning them to camps, farm colonies and outside work. Moreover, such programs afford opportunities for prisoner self-improvement. Principles to be observed in planning and administering a camp, farm colony or outside work program are presented in the manual.

Because of the interest in prison systems, caused in part by recent unfortunate disorders over the nation, it is felt that the Manual of Standards will be of help in presenting a correct picture to interested people. Its various chapters detail operating and procedural techniques which are considered to be a good cross section of opinion of professional people in the field. It is, of course, recognized that adaptations are necessary to conform with state law, budget policies and the peculiar needs of individual states.—Excerpts from an article *Standards for Prisons* by H. O. Teets and *Walter Dunbar* appearing in *STATE GOVERNMENTS*, March 1954, published by the Council of State Governments, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Correctional Examinations—The following examinations for positions in the federal penal and correctional institutions have been announced by the U. S. Civil Service Commission: Correctional Aid, \$3,175–\$3,655 a year. Social Worker (Parole), \$4,205–\$4,955 a year. Prison Library Assistant, \$3,410–\$4,160 a year. Instructor (Trade Shops, Agriculture, General Education, etc.), \$3,795–\$4,545 a year.

Correctional Aid. This position is new to the federal service. Although the starting salary is relatively low, it is anticipated that through this examination persons may be recruited who present good potentialities for correctional work but lack the training and experience required for some of the specialized positions. Persons recruited will be assigned to duties on a trainee basis. The assignments would be of such nature as to permit the trainee to determine his aptitudes and interests in the various fields of specialized service and would enable professional and technical staff members to evaluate the performance of trainees.

Applicants for positions must have a minimum of two and one-half years of experience in one or a combination of the following: interviewing or counselling, instructing others in various types of training or recreation, enforcing rules and regulations for safety, health or protection of others, taking part in administration of group inter-action programs, performing social case work in a welfare agency maintaining desirable standards. Education in an accredited college or university in the field of social science, agriculture, education, industrial arts, physical education or home economics may be substituted for experience on a year-for-year basis.

Social Worker. Persons appointed to these positions will be assigned to classification-parole departments in federal institutions. The responsibilities of these positions include such activities as the development of social case histories, the preparation of progress reports, assisting inmates in the formulation of release plans and counseling them regarding personal and family problems. The entrance requirements for these positions include two years graduate training in social case work or in

sociology with major emphasis upon criminology, penology, correctional administration or crime control. Case work experience may be substituted for the formal academic requirements on a year-for-year basis, but at least one year of qualifying experience must be in case work in a correctional institution, probation or parole system, or community delinquency or crime prevention agency.

Prison Library Assistant. Applicants for this examination will be required to take a written examination but in order to be eligible for the examination applicants must have had at least three years of progressively responsible library experience or 24 semester hours in library science or any time-equivalent combination of both.

Information concerning the qualifications and duties associated with the position of Instructor, as well as details relative to examinations may be obtained by addressing the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas—*PRISON WORLD*, January–February, 1954.

Crime in London Declines—Information released by the statistical branch of Scotland Yard indicates the number of crimes in London during 1953 was the lowest for ten years, the *Police Chronicle and Constabulary World* (London, England) reports in its January 29th issue. The number of indictable offenses in 1953 was 99,454, compared with 109,392 in 1952, a reduction of 9.1 percent. Practically every form of crime shows a decrease except in the pocket-picking and thefts from unattended cars categories.

The increases in pocket-picking, 16 percent, was attributed to presence of large crowds in London for the Coronation celebrations. Offenses against the person, which includes robbery with violence, murders, etc., however, were up two percent. Breaking offenses were down by more than nine percent. Shop breaking and breaking attempts were down 14 percent. Burglaries and housebreakings were only slightly down—610 burglaries last year compared to 613 in 1952, and 5,910 housebreakings compared to 5,932 the previous year. The

Chronicle adds that police chiefs have noticed a trend in housebreaking crimes which suggests that the favorite time for this offense is while the family is watching television programs—*THE POLICE CHIEF*, February, 1954.

The Nation's Children—All of us can well take alarm at the fact that some 350,000 American boys and girls will have appeared in our juvenile courts by the end of this year. What did these young Americans do? Some were guilty of accidental violations of law. Some, however, represent serious problems. In 1952 young Americans—under 18 years of age—were responsible for: 53 percent of the auto thefts; 48 percent of all burglaries; 4 percent of assault cases; 4 percent of homicide cases. And these are the totals which have been mounting steadily. The number of child delinquents appearing before the courts reporting to the Children's Bureau, for example, increased 29 percent between 1948 and 1952.

For more than a year now, the Children's Bureau of the Federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has been taking a look at the ways in which our social agencies deal with youngsters in trouble with the law. With the help of dozens of organizations, the Bureau has been exploring how treatment methods might be improved. The primary purpose of the study is to unite the efforts of professional social workers, public and private agencies, and individual citizens to work out a better way to handle children who get in trouble with the law. It is a problem both of prevention and treatment, since statistics show that many adult criminals have begun their careers of crime as juvenile delinquents.

The program started with a conference of specialists from many parts of the country who mapped out the main lines of action. Since then, a great variety of people and organizations have been drawn into it. The International Association of Chiefs of Police has been helping us prepare material advising policemen how to handle problem children. Juvenile court judges are helping us revise, and modernize juvenile court procedures. Training school directors are helping to develop improved

standards for their institutions. Two handbooks have been prepared; one is a guide to help citizens obtain the facts of juvenile delinquency in their home towns, the other a description of desirable programs of treatment in handling juvenile delinquents. The support of the American Public Welfare Association has been a real factor in the project's success so far—*Excerpt from an address* by The Honorable Oveta Culp Hobby, U. S. Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare before the Annual Conference of the American Public Welfare Association in Chicago, December 4, 1953. *PUBLIC WELFARE*, the Journal of the American Public Welfare Association, January 1954.

Medical Aspects of Drug Addiction in Canada—The number of drug addicts in the large cities of central Canada has decreased appreciably in recent years. The great majority of addicts in Canada are now concentrated in British Columbia, with Vancouver as the center. No co-ordinated program for treatment exists. Addicts in penitentiary are withdrawn from drugs and participate in rehabilitation programs. This approach, coupled with Addicts Anonymous, portends a brighter picture for the future.

Drug addicts in this country fall into three groups: (1) members of the medical, dental, nursing and veterinary professions, a considerable number of physicians being addicted to opiates. Because of their background, this group has a good motivation for treatment. (2) persons under medical care, suggesting a better appreciation on the part of the medical profession of the addicting properties of narcotic drugs. (3) those of the general public, usually with long histories of social or personal deviations; this group is involved in the illicit drug market.

Three factors are necessary for drug addiction: (1) available drugs, (2) contacts among unstable, maladjusted persons and (3) the individual need to be satisfied by the use of drugs. An adequate program for control of the problem is four-fold: (1) control of legal supplies of drugs; (2) control of illegal supplies, including traffickers and peddlers; (3) treat-

ment and rehabilitation of drug addicts and (4) prevention of contact between susceptible individuals and the supply.

The treatment of drug addicts should stress that addiction is a communicable disease and therefore all addicts must be brought into the treatment program. If we accept the hypothesis that drug addiction is a psycho-social condition, treatment, to be successful, must be rooted in the local community. Early behavior problems should be spotted and treated in the school system. Adequate community programs can eliminate undesirable districts. Community social patterns should be developed that will provide for the emotional needs of the individual.

Essentially, the prevention of drug addiction and other related social deviations as crime, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, et cetera, fall into the scope of community responsibility. The fundamental unit is the home where the necessities of life include emotional factors as well as physical wants. The church and the school, too, play important roles in this overall community challenge, providing the moral and social standards which are the necessary bulwarks for useful citizenship—*From a paper presented at the 83rd Annual Congress of Correction, in Toronto, by C. A. Roberts, M.D., Chief, Mental Health Division, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa, Canada.*

Brazilian Police Officials Visit U. S. Under International Exchange Program—A delegation of Brazilian police officials visited IACP Headquarters in Washington, D. C., on February 28, as one stop in their official tour of the U. S. sponsored by the U. S. State Department international exchange program. The officials, all Commissioners of Police of the Federal Department of Public Security, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, were: Hon. Ivan Vasquez De Freitas, Hon. Jose Rubem Fonseca, Hon.

Marcos Bastos, Hon. Moacyr Hosken Novaes, and Hon. Edgard Delgado Motta. The Commissioners discussed at length police administration and techniques of Brazil as compared with those of the United States, with Executive Secretary Leroy Wike and retiring Executive Secretary Edward J. Kelly.

Chief Wike said in an address to the visitors: "I have always been impressed by many features of Brazilian law enforcement. . . . Your administrative organization, your utilization of science in crime detection, and your intensive education and training program for law enforcement officers are beyond the standards of many of our departments"—**THE POLICE CHIEF, March 1954.**

Out-Patient Psychiatric Clinic—The California Department of Corrections and the Adult Authority have established an out-patient psychiatric clinic for certain types of offenders after their release on parole. The clinic has been operating on a budget of \$40,000 allocated by the legislature. Its purpose, says Walter Gordon, chairman of the Adult Authority, is "to provide a source of psychiatric assistance to parolees who develop the need for this type of attention while on parole, or who require a continuation of such treatment as may have been started in the institution from which they were released. . . . The clinic will more than offset its cost in preventing parole violations and re-commitments to prison. For example, if it annually prevented the return to prison of only thirty-two parolees, it would be self-sustaining, in view of approximate average per capita institutional costs." One of the features of the plan is an in-service training program which enables parole officers and clinic staff members to meet periodically in small seminar groups where questions can be raised and specific problems discussed.—**FOCUS, January 1954.**