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Current Notes

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CURRENT NOTES

V. A. Leonard, *Editor*

To Curb Delinquency of Youth—The Sheriff of Cook County (Chicago) Illinois, Joseph R. Lohman, has launched a plan for coordinating police activities in the county outside of Chicago. It has been endorsed by mayors, village presidents and police chiefs of 102 suburbs of Chicago. The plan will coordinate the efforts of about 11,000 police officers in the County.

The program calls for establishing uniformity in handling juvenile cases. A juvenile officer will be made available to handle court appearances of youthful delinquents so that the police in the areas concerned may be released for their regular duties.

The Sheriff's plan would establish, for the first time, a training program and a central bureau for the county. A laboratory is expected to be provided, also to serve in connection with the program.—Communication to the Editor.

RCMP Booklet Available—"Crime presents a staggering account to Canadians each year. Part of that account is made up of loss of life or damage to property. Another part covers the cost of policing. Still another drain on the public pocketbook is the cost of maintaining prisons, reformatories, and other corrective institutions. No less real, but more difficult to assess, is the moral cost of crime.

"It is our belief that the old adage about an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure has a definite application to the problem of crime. Once a crime has been committed, it is the responsibility of the police to locate the culprit and bring him before the courts, to receive such punishment as he may be judged to deserve—but how much better it would be if the crime could have been prevented . . ."

Thus begins an excellent pamphlet published by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police entitled "Crime in Your Community." Attractively presented, amply illustrated, and clearly written, the pamphlet covers "Security in Your

Store," "Security in Your Office," "Security on the Street," and "Security in Your Home."

The pamphlet, quite naturally has a Canadian flavor, with such words as "gaol," and "cheque," and pictures of His late Majesty, George VI, and Her Majesty, Elizabeth II on the Bank of Canada notes shown, but everything said applies equally in the United States.

Commissioner Leonard H. Nicholson, M.B.E., of the RCMP has made a limited number of copies of "Crime In Your Community" available to IACP members. Single copies may be obtained without cost by addressing a card or letter to IACP State and Provincial Section, 1704 Judson Avenue, Evanston, Illinois.—THE POLICE CHIEF, April 1955.

Project for Treatment of Pre-delinquents in Chicago—Nationwide, according to the Children's Bureau reports, there is a disturbing rise in delinquency. From 1948 through 1952 the reports estimate an increase of 29 percent in the incidence of delinquency, as against a population increase of 6 percent in children of juvenile court age (10 to 17). The Children's Bureau estimates that in 1952 well over a million children were known to the police because of delinquency, and 385,000 passed through our juvenile courts. The Chicago Crime Commission estimates the financial cost of this problem to be about 15 billion dollars annually. Furthermore, the U. S. Census Bureau predicts the population of juvenile court age in the United States to be 42 percent greater by 1960 than it was in 1950.

In Chicago the Juvenile Bureau of the Chicago Police Department deals with a large number of children for alleged acts of delinquency. It refers many of the cases to the Family Court, but settles or adjusts about half of the cases at the police station. The following are the number for the last three years:

Year	Total	Adjusted at Station	Percent	Referred to Family Court (Or petition Filed)	Percent
1951	11,288	5,781	51.2	5,507	48.8
1952	12,077	6,473	53.6	5,604	46.4
1953	12,036	5,251	43.6	6,785	56.4

There are too many qualifying factors affecting these data to determine if delinquency in Chicago is experiencing a current rise, but the more important fact is that delinquency is a large and tragic social phenomenon regardless of the determination of a current upward swing.

Studies of causes of juvenile delinquency all reveal a multiplicity of and great variation of factors. The human personality and the culture in which we live are both exceedingly complex, and only through individualization of cases can a specific method of treatment be related to specific causes. (In discussing causes, it should be noted, however, that there have been sharp rises coinciding with World War II and again with the Korean and present cold war.)

A study of 500 delinquents by Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck revealed that most of the children studied had shown adjustment difficulties before they were eleven years old. The need to reach the child before patterns of anti-social behavior become too deeply entrenched is self evident from this and many other findings. The high rates of recidivism, and the fact that the large majority of adult criminals had delinquency records in childhood, both point to the fact that in a significant number of cases delinquent behavior is a pattern rather than an isolated occurrence.

In Chicago there are serious lacks in the present resources relative to the preventive aspects of the problem. Although the social service agencies, schools, churches, police and courts give help to socially maladjusted children in various ways, there is a question as to: (1) whether services are sufficiently expanded to reach and help many children who need them most, and (2) whether the services which do exist are sufficiently focused to help children who demonstrate antisocial behavior.

In view of the urgent need for more knowl-

edge about effective approaches to prevention, the Chicago Police Department and the Juvenile Protective Association are cooperating on a program of early treatment of children who come to the attention of the police.

Goals of the Project

1. To determine the feasibility of police and social agency cooperation in the prevention of delinquency.
2. To develop a modus vivendi, using case-work skills in working with voluntary referrals from the police.
3. To integrate and focus community resources for the treatment of children with developing patterns of delinquent behavior.

General Plan of Project

By agreement between the Chicago Police Department and the Juvenile Protective Association this project has been established in the Englewood Police District for treatment of pre-delinquent children. A branch office of the Juvenile Protective Association has been opened in the district, and beginning August 16, referrals have been accepted from the juvenile officers and policewomen of the Englewood District. Referrals are limited to children living in the Englewood Police District. (This district was selected by the police as being fairly representative of the city.) The Youth Bureau of the Chicago Park Police will also make referrals of children living in this area.

Referrals to the project will be made from among those cases which are usually adjusted at the police station and will in most instances involve minor or first offenders and younger children. The police will continue to refer the more serious offenses to the Family Court. The project is not intended to be a substitute for the Family Court. Referrals to the project will be voluntary on the part of the child's family. Criteria for accepting referrals are:

1. Referrals made by the police.
2. The family's willingness to use help.
3. The determination of a pattern of anti-social behavior in the child through a casework evaluation of the total family situation.

The police officers and JPA staff members

are cooperatively developing methods of selection and procedure for referral. The casework goals are:

1. A casework program focused on adjustment of anti-social behavior by helping the child to become a more mature and secure individual.

2. Enabling the child and the family to secure and use help from the community.

The project staff upon receiving a referral will either:

1. Treat the child, or parents, or both as indicated; or

2. Refer the case to an appropriate agency.

The Juvenile Protective Association has agreements (either in process or in final form) with several family service agencies and guidance clinics in the city to accept referrals, use the project research forms, and make the records available for study at the close of the project. Acceptance of referrals from the police will be limited to the number the project and cooperating agencies can accommodate. Operation is planned for three years.

Referral and Treatment Methods

The police officer, when dealing with a child who he thinks may get into trouble again, will give the parents a written statement of the services of the project and recommend contact. The JPA Englewood office will be notified. If within a few days the family has not gotten in touch with the office, a staff member takes responsibility to reach the family and to interpret the services. If the family still refuses help, no further approach is made. Treatment will be a casework process with emphasis on the aggressive approach. It will consist of reaching out to the family, counseling, and helping the family to utilize (on the basis of their individual needs) community health, religious, group work, educational, and other social resources.

The Staff

William T. Davies, Field Director and Counselor; George S. Klein, Counselor; Mrs. Anna Kaufman, Casework Supervisor (part-time); Dr. George L. Perkins, Psychiatric Consultant; Charles S. Gershenson, Research Con-

sultant; Dr. M. Henry Pitts, Staff Psychologist; Mrs. LaVergne Harris, Receptionist-Stenographer.

The office is located at 733 West 64th Street, Room 403. A research process is being developed with the cooperation of the Chicago Police Department to help evaluate the effectiveness of the project.

Committees

A technical committee of experts in the fields of casework, social work, administration, community organization, and criminology has been appointed. This committee will advise on the technical aspects of the project and will review the report of the findings.

A community advisory committee is being established, composed of representatives of the JPA Board, the police, and professional and lay people who are active in civic affairs. The function of this committee is to serve as consultants on the community aspects of the project and to help interpret and implement the findings of the report. The Wieboldt Foundation has made the project possible by a grant of funds.—From Lewis Penner, Executive Director of the Juvenile Protective Association, 816 South Halsted Street, Chicago.

International Congress of Criminology—This congress, opened in London on September 14 by the Home Secretary, was the third of its kind, and had more than 400 participants from 44 countries. These were drawn from many sciences, disciplines, and techniques; and, though assiduous in their attendance, they achieved informal and sociable relationships which made the gathering outstandingly successful. Its main topic was Recidivism, but time was found for lectures and communications on a wide range of criminological topics.

In his presidential address Dr. Denis Carroll described the Congress as concerned with the criminal habitus—the tendency that some human beings show of persisting in crime, whether their crimes be detected or not. Preventive programmes, he said, must endeavour to take into account the very real need to lessen the number of crimes that are never brought

to light as well as those whose perpetrators are never discovered and those where the criminal is discovered and properly dealt with. This aspect of the problem has long been apparent to the mental scientist, because, in his ordinary clinical work, he is called upon to deal with a wide variety of potentially delinquent, and pre-delinquent, children as well as adults. He probably knows more accurately than anyone else the number of crimes—detected and undetected—that those whom he examines have committed; and such knowledge is of great value when prescribing treatment and in judging the likelihood of an offender committing another crime.

Yet it must be acknowledged that the psychiatrist and psychologist do not know anything like enough about the significance, for prognosis and treatment, of all the facts they are able to discover. One of the best English studies has shown that only 29 percent of adult recidivists have official records of convictions as juveniles. Similarly, many juvenile recidivists do not apparently develop into adult recidivists. No one has solved as yet the problem of complete records: "we really do not know, for certain, whether the unofficial records of these individuals would show the same story as their official records."

In prediction, Dr. Carroll continued, we are relying on the kinds of facts about a criminal's career and antecedents that can be observed fairly easily and reliably, and we are tending more and more to rely on those accurately observable facts which have been statistically demonstrated to be of significance for this purpose. Correspondingly, we are tending to depend less and less upon the variety of causal factors which we might assume to be at work in the criminal. In the present state of knowledge, the known characteristics of the individual are certainly of more value in prediction than are known causal factors. But this does not hold true in all the field of our endeavour: "when we do research into causes our attitude becomes inevitably reversed."

"The dramatic results that have been achieved by prediction studies have momentarily overshadowed other approaches to the

study of prognosis. Similarly, the great advance that has taken place in the application of statistical mathematics to criminological research, has partially eclipsed the value of qualitative research. But I think it is still necessary to emphasize that, in the last resort, it is the qualitative method that will reveal the true meaning of the probabilities which the statistician reveals," he stated.

To the clinician—whether he be a penologist, a social worker, or a mental scientist—the implication from the use of prediction tables that an individual offender has a high probability of a recidivist career has to be regarded as a therapeutic challenge.

In the forefront of modern treatment is the effort to treat the criminal by an all-round attack on all the known causal factors by all necessary biological, psychological, and social methods, including aftercare, follow-up study, and ambulant treatment. No longer is it enough to think of the term "treatment" as implying medical, or psychological, or social, or penal, treatment alone. Group therapy is used more and more in prisons and in clinics in the treatment of offenders of all ages; and though it is superficial as compared with individual psychological treatment, it is often successful where individual treatment fails. Research into the tensions between the individual members of a group and into the tensions between groups of people have helped us to understand why this is so. These researches have led to new methods in the therapy of psychopaths, and they have also given insight into the extremely difficult problems of morale in prisoners and prison staff.

"I cannot help feeling that, in time, they will also help to solve some of the vexatious problems of short-term prisons. The short-term sentence is so frequently unsatisfactory that it must rank high on any list of necessary researches. Such research would, surely, result in reform; but not in the abolition of the short sentence."

It is a fitting moment (concluded Dr. Carroll) to recall that the trend of modern penology is towards leniency, liberty, and prolonged after-care. "Inevitably mistakes must occur and

avoidable crimes be committed. But such incidents are comparatively few. What is more, they are fewer than they would be in a harsher system. But it is not surprising that public anxiety is aroused from time to time. It is well to have a wise administration that is also capable, when necessary, of withstanding the pressure of such anxiety. Public over-anxiety is the father of excessive preventive action. The remedy for public anxiety is that the public be well informed. There is a need for public education and ever more education in our science and in our practice. Yet we must be ever mindful of the need for social security. We must keep in mind, too, the need to respect human rights.

"Indeed, in all these matters affecting our treatment of antisocial persons we must ensure that our efforts to reform the offender do not offend against humanity. Nor must zeal for reform lead us to outrage our sense of justice."

Professor S. Glueck (Harvard) and Mrs. Glueck produced evidence in favour of their view that criminal tendencies are related to physical type. Compared with controls drawn from the same under-privileged areas of Boston, a group of persistent delinquents showed twice as many mesomorphs.

Professor Marshall B. Clinard said that, as a group, criminals cannot be distinguished from non-criminals solely in terms of sociology or of mental or physical attributes. He advocated studies of the relationships of crime with urbanisation and with class structure, and argued that future criminological research should cover the violation of contracts over a far wider field than the criminal law.—*THE LANCET*, September 24, 1955.

Southwest Arson Institute—The First Annual Southwestern Arson Investigators Institute was held at the University of Oklahoma, Norman on November 2-4, 1955. Total attendance was 170 from seven states in addition to Oklahoma. States represented were Missouri,

Arkansas, Kansas, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado.

Included on the program were such national figures as Brendan P. Battle, Chief Special agent, National Board of Fire Underwriters, New York City; W. G. Burns, Fire Marshal, Dallas, Texas; O. A. Cavanaugh, Underwriters Laboratory, Inc., Chicago; William J. Davis of the National Automobile Theft Bureau, Chicago; Ray L. Straeter, Investigator in charge of the Arson Bureau of the Los Angeles Fire Department, and John Kennedy, Special Agent, Mutual Investigation Bureau, Chicago. In addition there was a spectacular demonstration of the "Chemistry of Fire" by Chief George M. Hankins, Assistant Fire Chief, Tinker Air Force Base, Midwest City, Oklahoma.

Also included on the program as speakers, panelists, and session chairmen, were a number of sheriffs, county attorneys, special investigators, judges and firemen in Oklahoma. These included Ralph Duroy, State Fire Marshal, Andy Lang, Fire Chief, Enid; Ruhl Potts, Fire Warden, Oklahoma City; John Henderson, Fire and Police Commissioner, Tulsa; Dee Sanders, Sheriff, Pittsburg County; Carl Snook, State Highway Patrol and President, Oklahoma Sheriff and Peace Officers Association; Ray Page and Ray Lambert of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation; J. Howard Edmondson, County Attorney, Tulsa County, Hez Bussey, County Attorney, Cleveland County and President, Oklahoma County Attorney's Association; Raymond Burger, County Attorney, Garvin County; Dr. Hayden Donahue, Director, Mental Health Department; L. L. McKenzie, Special Agent, National Board of Fire Underwriters; James R. Sullivan, Special Agent, National Automobile Theft Bureau; Haskel Asken and Walter Hansen, Attorneys, Oklahoma City; and Honorable John Brett, Judge, Oklahoma Criminal Court of Appeals, Oklahoma City.—*NEWS LETTER, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS, INC.*, October-November-December, 1955.