Death of Two Eminent Scholars—The two outstanding academic teachers of Criminal Law in Germany have died within the last half year. Professor Eduard Kohlrausch was the incumbent of the Chair of Criminal Law at the University of Berlin. Many American scholars have met this genial scholar at the conventions of the International Prison Association in Prague, in London and in Berlin. His pocket commentary on the German Criminal Code reached an unusually great number of editions and is known all over the world.

Shortly before Kohlrausch’s death Professor Franz Exner, incumbent of the Chair of Criminal Law at the University of Munich, passed away. Exner was Editor of the valuable series: *Kriminalistische Abhandlungen* and of an excellent *Kriminalbiologie*, published in 1939.

It will not be easy to fill the famous chairs of Berlin and Munich with successors who measure up to the scientific stature of these two distinguished men.—From Professor Hans von Hentig, University of Kansas City.

Attitudes Toward Euthanasia—In recent years, following in the steps of cremation, birth control, abortion, and sterilization, there have arisen organized groups advocating legalization of euthanasia, such as those in the campaigns in New York (1912), England (1936), and currently in New York again by the Euthanasia Society of America. Current events have tended to bring to the surface the latent but potent interest in the subject. The annual cancer campaign, intensified this year, coincided with the appearance of amidone, a new and cheap synthetic substance alleged to kill pain without addiction, in drawing renewed attention to the lengthening span of life. Recent factors making for overt advocacy or acceptance of euthanasia include the experiences of modern battle and of modern battle surgery, the development of new means for prolonging life in critical and incurable cases, and the relaxation of theological and moral sanctions in many quarters. One ventures to predict that, with the on-rush of atomic bombing and virus bombing, and their sequelae of incurable horrors, the subject of euthanasia will soon be in the public eye for serious attention. If this guess is correct, the sub-stratum of current attitudes on the subject will be an important factor in the effects of such discussion.

The American Institute of Public Opinion reports two polls (November 13, 1936, and January 20, 1939) on the question, “Do you favor mercy deaths under government supervision for hopeless invalids?” for which the results in both cases were 46 per cent yes, 54 per cent no. In the first poll 16 per cent of the sample had no opinion, in the second, only 10 per cent. The British Institute of Public Opinion reports remarkably different results from the American poll in response to similar questions issued a few months after the A. I. P. O. polls: January 14, 1937—“Do you consider that doctors should be given power to end the life of a person incurably ill?” Yes, 60 per cent; no, 31 per cent; 2 per cent of the sample had no opinion. April, 1939—“Should those suffering from an incurable disease be allowed the option, under proper medical
safeguards, of a voluntary death?" Yes, 74 per cent; no, 26 per cent; 16 per cent of the sample had no opinion. Here, however, the questions concerned doctors' rights or patients' wishes, not government supervision; and the "incurably ill" rather than the "hopeless invalid." The results of a questionnaire sent recently to 480 former service men, 31.3 per cent of whom responded before tabulation, were revealing: 46.1 per cent expressed willingness to permit a physician to hasten death, and 45 per cent unwilling, with the remainder doubtful or blank. Of those unwilling, however, 6.1 per cent added that they would give consent only if euthanasia were legalized. The addition to the positive side of those respondents who would give consent only if legalized makes 66.4 per cent consenting, of those who gave definite answers, which is a much higher percentage than that found on either A. I. P. O. poll. The difference is presumably due to the selected group sampled in the present study.—Thomas D. Eliot, Attitudes Toward Euthanasia, Proceedings of the Pacific Sociological Society, 1947, pp. 131-135.

International Congress on Mental Health—The United States will participate in the International Congress on Mental Health, to be held in London, August 11-21, 1948. The occasion will serve to mobilize the efforts of many different professional groups for the study and application of the principles essential to the building of harmonious human relations. It is to be the first phase of a new program of world planning for mental health. The preliminary organization of the Congress is being carried out by the National Association for Mental Health of England. The Congress is to consist of three Conferences. The main one of these, the International Conference on Mental Hygiene, is sponsored by the International Committee for Mental Hygiene, which is now proposing the formation of a "World Federation for Mental Health." At the Congress meetings in London, a permanent Constitution and By-Laws will be adopted by the new Federation, and a Board will be organized consisting of democratically elected delegates from many countries. The World Federation for Mental Health will then apply to UNESCO and the World Health Organization of the United Nations for recognition as the official international voluntary organization in the field of mental health. The forthcoming Congress will provide an opportunity for professional groups from many nations to begin work together towards common mental health goals. Recommendations formulated at the Congress will serve as a base for national and international planning for referral to WHO and UNESCO. Thus, for the first time in history, mental health planning on a world scale is about to begin.

The program of the International Conference on Mental Hygiene is to be built around the reports of numerous small discussion groups, or "Preparatory Commissions," which are being established throughout the various participating countries. An effort is being made to organize the Commissions on a "multi-discipline" basis, with representatives from the various professions concerned, including psychiatrists, psychologists, pediatricians, social workers, anthropologists, nursery school teachers, public health nurses, and others. Experience has shown that often when professional groups with similar interests but different backgrounds come together to discuss the same problem, the views of each are broadened and each is able to approach the problem more constructively. It is anticipated that pooling the experiences of the several disciplines con-
cerned with mental health will provide a broad and stimulating program and an excellent base for future planning. Within the framework of the central theme of the Conference, Mental Health and World Citizenship, the delegation from the United States will focus its effort on the question, What has war done to the children of the world, and what can we do about it? United States Participation in the International Congress of Mental Health, International Committee for Mental Hygiene, New York; U. S. Bulletin No. 1 (International Congress on Mental Health).

Criminality of Women—One European investigator makes a number of interesting observations concerning the ratio of criminality among men and women. He points out that criminality of the two sexes reveals an obvious difference especially from a quantitative point of view, but at the same time, he recommends caution in the total acceptance of a sociological explanation of this phenomenon. Women generally carry on a great part of their life more or less insulated from the disturbances of social organization. In contrast with men, they have less opportunity of coming into collision with the provisions of the penal code. The example is frequently cited of the rise in the criminality of women under war conditions. This investigator, however, is of the opinion that the increase is more apparent than real, and calls attention to the fact that during a war, men are missing in great numbers from the population. The ratio is thus influenced by a rupture of the balance in the normally equal distribution of both sexes in the general population. He is also critical of any close correlation between marital status and criminality. It is assumed by many that the unmarried woman, being alone in the struggles of life, comes more intensively into contact with deviation pressures. Accordingly, the quantity of crimes among women should decrease with matrimony, but in a study of statistical data from thirty-one countries in different parts of the world, this investigator comes to the conclusion that the criminality of women increases with the marriage experience. Similarly, he found that with the general movement toward emancipation of women following World War I, criminality tended to decline in this population group.

Preferring the biological point of view, he is of the opinion that boys and girls do not differ from one another significantly until sexual maturity. Similarly, in later years, the sex differential decreases and women often display certain masculine characteristics. At about the age of fifty, the sex hormone producing function of the woman ceases. At this time, the residua of the originally existing masculine sexual glands most likely continue their function of hormone production. As the female sexual glands cease to function, the masculine hormone production predominates. The natural hormonal balance comes to an end. The woman recedes from her female character and approaches that of a man, a transformation which may manifest itself in increased criminality. It is presumable that the quantity of female criminality increases as long as the life of woman is carried on beyond the biological limits which characterize the female constitution. He ends the discussion with an acknowledgment of the role of factors in the social milieu but concludes that the difference in criminality among men and women is to be explained mainly by the criminal biologist rather than by the criminal sociologist.—Dr. Stephan Schafer, Barrister-at-law, Lecturer on Criminology at the University of Budapest, On the Proportions of the Criminality of Women,
publication of the *Institute of Criminal Law*, University of Budapest, 1947, pp. 88-92.

Handbook for the Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency—When the National Conference on the Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency, called by the Attorney General, met in Washington, D. C., in November 1946, its first recommendation was to use the National Conference as a suggested pattern for State or Community conferences. Among the achievements of the National Conference was the preparation of a Handbook which offers a detailed guide to the general principles which may prove useful in developing such conferences at the State and local levels. Copies may be obtained by addressing The Continuing Committee of the National Conference on Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency, Washington 25, D. C. In addition, the panel reports of the National Conference, heretofore available only in mimeographed form and in limited numbers, are now available in printed form and may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Eighteen in number, they include the following titles: Community Coordination; General Recommendations for State and Community Action; Juvenile Court Laws; Juvenile Court Administration; Juvenile Detention; Institutional Treatment of Delinquent Juveniles; Role of the Police in Juvenile Delinquency; Housing, Community Development, and Juvenile Delinquency; Recreation for Youth; Mental Health and Child Guidance Clinics; Youth Participation; Citizen Participation; Case Work—Group Work; Church Responsibility; School and Teacher Responsibilities; Home Responsibility; Rural Aspects of Juvenile Delinquency, and Statistics.—Release of the Continuing Committee, National Conference on Prevention and Control of Juvenile Delinquency, Washington 25, D. C., 1948.

Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association—Dr. Daniel Blain, formerly Chief of Neuropsychiatric Services for the Veterans Administration, has accepted the newly established position of Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association. The position has been created to provide the full-time services of a medical man who will act for the Association as an authorized source of information and advice. As Medical Director, Dr. Blain will make his services available to the membership, to affiliate societies and to public and private organizations interested in the field of psychiatry. Activating policies approved by the Association, and stimulating appropriate groups and committees to respond to needs and demands, he will serve also to effect liaison with the public on subjects relative to the work of the Association and to the general interests of society. Dr. Blain will continue to reside in Washington. For the present, he may be addressed at the Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, D. C., or at the executive office of the Association, Room 924, 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City 20. Eventually he will have a permanent office in Washington. Mr. Austin M. Davies, who has been with the Association for the past fifteen years, will continue as Executive Secretary, with headquarters in the New York office.—From an announcement by the Committee on Public Education of the American Psychiatric Association, 200 Retreat Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.
New York Approaches the Sex Offender—In its 103d annual report, transmitted to the Legislature at the recent session, the Prison Association of New York urged that the state give scientific attention to the study and treatment as well as the punishment of sex offenders. A program for doing this was submitted in the form of a report from a committee appointed by Governor Dewey to look into the problem. The plan which emerged, and which has been passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, involves the establishment of a special clinic for this type of offender at Sing Sing. From the data provided by this experimental unit, it is hoped that enough can be learned to set up a scientifically sound permanent system for dealing with this form of behavior problem. Excerpts from Senate Bill No. 2954, March 9, 1948, which provides the legal basis for this program, follow: “The sum of thirty-five thousand dollars... is appropriated... and made immediately available to the department of mental hygiene for services and expenses in connection with the study and treatment of persons convicted of crimes involving sexual aberrations... This study shall be conducted at Sing Sing prison under the joint control of the commissioners of correction and mental hygiene. The purpose of such study shall be the development of information as to the underlying causes of sex crimes and the development of treatment for persons committing such crimes. The commissioner of correction shall transfer to Sing Sing prison and make available for such study those prisoners committed to institutions of the department of correction whom he and the commissioner of mental hygiene shall agree will be suitable for such study. Personnel shall be furnished from the departments of correction and mental hygiene as the commissioners shall jointly agree. The study shall include an examination of all aspects of the individual and his relation to society which may be helpful in a solution of the problems involved. Such treatment shall include medical, psychiatric, psychological and other treatments having bearing upon the mental condition of the prisoner. No surgical treatment shall be undertaken except on the written consent of the prisoner.”—Announcement released by The Prison Association of New York, 135 East 15th Street, New York City.

Jobs for Parolees—Finding employment for men who are about to be released from prison poses a most difficult problem. Parole conditions generally require that the candidate for parole shall have a bona fide job before his parole plan is approved. This means that some employer must be willing to commit himself to employing the parolee several weeks, or even months, prior to his release and usually without ever having seen the man. This requirement runs counter to all usual employment procedures and naturally the employer is skeptical about the success of such an approach. Under the pressure of war necessity, the United States Employment Service arranged in many instances, to interview the men in prison before release, thus employing the usual techniques and permitting the man to feel that he was employed because of what he could bring to the job. Employers discovered in this way that the prison is a valuable source of manpower and presumably would be willing to continue to employ men with prison records if this bottleneck of employment procedure could be eliminated. The prospective parolee comes under the category of handicapped persons when seeking employment and the remedy would seem to lie in the State Employment
Service setting up a special department or unit for these persons, similar to the facilities developed during the war.—Editorial, *The Prison Journal*, Pennsylvania Prison Society, October 1947.

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**England and the Death Penalty**—The Criminal Justice Bill being considered by the House of Commons does not propose the abolition of the death penalty and the Government has given no clear indication of its attitude in the matter, but supporters of the movement to outlaw capital punishment in that country were hopeful that an amendment toward that end could be attached to the bill. Attacking unfounded fears concerning the consequences of abolition, more particularly the allegation that an increase in the use of firearms by criminals would follow, they point to a successful experience in the following jurisdictions where the death penalty has been abolished: *Europe*—Denmark, Finland, Holland, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Sweden, Switzerland, U. S. S. R., Belgium and Channel Islands; *America*—States of Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island and Wisconsin, in U. S. A.; Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and New Zealand, Queensland (Australia), Travancore (India). The death penalty has not been used for eighty years in Belgium and the Channel Islands; it was abolished in Holland in 1870; in Denmark, 1930; in Norway, 1905 (last execution 1875); in Sweden, 1921; and in Switzerland, 1942. In the majority of the foregoing jurisdictions, the homicide rate has actually decreased following the abolition of capital punishment.—(See the article by Lee Emerson Deets in the last number of this Journal—Ed.) *Bulletin No. 25*, National Council for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, 34 Victoria Street, London, S. W. 1, November, 1947.

Later, according to a press report from London, dated July 8, the labor government of Britain has added a clause to the Criminal Justice Bill providing for retention of the death penalty for ten types of murder despite the fact that a few weeks earlier the House of Commons had voted to abolish the death sentence for an experimental period of five years.—From the *Chicago Tribune*, July 9, 1948.

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**States Attack the Crime Rate**—Leaders from 133 Georgia communities and thirteen other states attended the fourth annual conference sponsored by the Georgia Citizens Council in Atlanta in November. Fred Ward, southern field consultant of the National Probation and Parole Association, reported that about 700 participated. He states, "There was an intensity of interest I have seen at few conferences in the past. The atmosphere was different from that of a conference of social work where the 'lay person' is in the minority. This whole thing was lay sponsored, planned and supported." A brochure on the work of the Council states that Georgia has nearly twice as many men in prison in proportion to population as other states. Ten per cent of the prison inmates are twelve to eighteen years of age. Only 37 of Georgia’s 159 counties have any type of juvenile court. The other counties have no facilities for special handling of youthful offenders. Two-thirds of Georgia’s boys and girls seven to seventeen years old are not reached by any scout programs, 4-H clubs or other similar youth organizations. The Georgia Citizens Council was established by the general assembly to “stimulate and help local communities to find and solve their own problems as they relate to
improving human resources. The combating of delinquency is one of its major objectives. Similar meetings with corresponding objectives were reported in Ohio, Illinois, South Carolina, Missouri and Oregon, among others. In Texas, the State Probation Association held its second annual institute in September, designed for staff members of juvenile courts, crime prevention bureaus, child care institutions and agencies. As previously, the State Department of Public Welfare, the Hogg Foundation of the University of Texas, and the National Probation and Parole Association, were joint sponsors.—Focus, National Probation and Parole Association, January, 1948.