

1915

Notes on Current and Recent Events

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Notes on Current and Recent Events, 5 J. Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology 757 (May 1914 to March 1915)

This Comment is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

NOTES ON CURRENT AND RECENT EVENTS.

ANTHROPOLOGY—PSYCHOLOGY—LEGAL MEDICINE.

Report of the Department of Research in the Jeffersonville Reformatory.—The following is taken from the report of the Jeffersonville (Ind.) Reformatory. It covers the year 1912-1913. The Department of Research in a reformatory is somewhat of an innovation. Such reports as the following deserve attention:

"In the summer of 1912 a plan that had long been in the mind of the general superintendent of the Indiana Reformatory and frequently the topic of conversation among scientists and officials of the state took upon itself a definite form in the establishment of a Department of Research at this institution. It was the thought of the board of trustees and the general superintendent that the new department should not be one merely of investigation, but should, so far as practicable, take such oversight of the affairs of the institution as would make possible the application of the findings of the laboratories to practical administration. To this end the directorship of the Department of Research carried with it the office of associate superintendent. This movement was strictly a new departure in the conduct of the affairs of penal and correctional institutions.

"The psychological laboratory was the first department to be equipped and opened for work. Later the Department of Medical Research and the Department of Sociological Research followed.

"Since a more detailed report of the first year's work is forthcoming shortly, it is our purpose here merely to suggest the lines of work which are being carried out and to make such recommendations as appeal to us as being of the most importance.

Psychological Laboratory.

"It has been recognized for some time by those who have had to do in any intimate capacity with the criminal class that, as a whole, they are of a very low mental order, and yet sufficient data to support this rather widespread belief by results of sufficient investigation have been lacking. The tests applied in the various clinics needed to be thoroughly tested, corrected and adapted through a considerable period of time with a great number of subjects. However, the returns to date are indicative and of very valuable significance. Our investigations have gone to show that at least one-half of the population of the institution are subnormal.

"The range and degree of defectiveness affords an interesting study. There are those of positive psychosis—the insane, including alcoholics, drug fiends, epileptics and feeble-minded—imbeciles, morons, and those of but slight subnormality. As a class, all of these reveal to the institution clinician a long list of symptoms and reactions, which would have led an alienist at once, under any circumstances and surroundings, to a correct diagnosis of their condition. While this group is disposed of comparatively easily, the remaining fifty per cent. of the inmates forms a class which furnishes a problem of the greatest complexity. Anomalies of intellect, emotion and will are everywhere presenting themselves for analysis.

"For the purpose of classification the psychological laboratory has adopted the following outline, which we have, so far, found to provide all the groups necessary for the distribution of our entire population:

"The habitual criminal.

"The born criminal.

"The criminal through passion.

"The criminal of positive psychosis.

"The weak-minded subject of suggestion or the criminal by chance.

"The accidental criminal, or the criminal by mischance.

"The division of the inmates upon the basis of this classification follows the

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH

most careful diagnosis, revealing social, physical and mental pathology. Inquiry is made into the social condition, nativity, occupation, religion and habits of the parents, criminal and medical history of the family, economic conditions and general surroundings of the home. The results of the medical examination are the second factor, while the outcome of the psychological tests and observations constitutes the final element. This diagnosis is made for the purpose of discovering not only the chief cause, but also the contributing causes of the criminal activity of the subject.

"For purposes of immediate action in each case the following symbol outline has been adopted:

"Aa Good mentality with good educational advantages.

"Ab	"	"	"	fair	"	"
"Ac	"	"	"	poor	"	"
"Ba	Fair	"	"	good	"	"
"Bb	"	"	"	fair	"	"
"Bc	"	"	"	poor	"	"
"Ca	Poor	"	"	good	"	"
"Cb	"	"	"	fair	"	"
"Cc	"	"	"	poor	"	"

"D Subnormal

"E Moron

"F Imbecile

"G Specialized Mental Defective

"H Dull from Physical Causes

"I Subject of Psychosis

"U Unclassified

"The investigations which go to make up the mental examination are in the following fields: preception, association, memory, reason, orientation, fatigue, mental activity, motor control, moral appreciation, ability to profit by experience, attention, general information, general interest and ability to plan. Each subject is given the Binet-Simon test, while observations are made as to results of formal educational experience, ability to carry on conversation and the nature of the reaction to natural and artificial environment.

"It will be seen readily that, due to the effects of some peculiar environment before the inmate enters, some temporary condition may make it impossible for the correct diagnosis to be made at the time; while foreigners, because of their lack of ability to handle the English language, and perhaps a few others because of the fact that they will not at once lend themselves to the spirit of the examination, consciously making a correct diagnosis impossible, cannot be classified. The facts obtained from the investigations carried on by the various departments of the laboratory form the basis of the treatment of the individual inmate from the day of his incarceration. His place in the school of letters, his location in the trade school, his recreation and his discipline are all dictated by the diagnosis made in the laboratory.

"Medical Laboratory.

"Besides furnishing for each case a complete medical examination, the Medical Department which has recently opened up its new laboratory, has made a valuable investigation as to the physical measurements, not only of the arrivals during the year, but of the inmates extending back over a considerable period of time. We believe that the report which follows furnishes information of significance:

Murder.

Average age	29 years
Average weight	141 pounds
Average reach	76 inches
Average chest expansion.....	2½ inches
Average height	5 ft. 7½ inches

There are 177 men in this class.

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH

Burglary, Entering a House to Commit a Felony, and Robbery.

Average age	22 years
Average weight	152 pounds
Average reach	76 inches
Average height	5 ft. 7¾ inches

There are 2,665 men in this class.

Grand and Petit Larceny.

Average age	21 years
Average weight	140 pounds
Average reach	71 inches
Average height	5 ft. 4½ inches

There are 2,583 men in this class.

Sexual Crimes.

Average age	23 years
Average weight	142 pounds
Average reach	74 inches
Average height	5 ft. 6¼ inches
Average chest expansion	3¼ inches

There are 255 men in this class.

Recidivists.

Average age	27 years
Average weight	159 pounds
Average reach	76 inches
Average height	5 ft. 8¾ inches
Average chest expansion	2½ inches

These averages are based on 327 men.

Average of All the Men Who Have Been in the Institution.

Average age	23 years
Average weight	143 pounds
Average reach	74 inches
Average height	5 ft. 6¾ inches
Average chest expansion	3¾ inches

There are 5,680 men in this class.

"Compared with college and university classes the above statistics are distinctly suggestive of physical inferiority, but when compared with statistics of general life insurance they are less indictive.

Department of Sociology.

"While the investigations of the past year have led us into a very wide field of research, we believe the following items covering the four hundred sixteen arrivals during the year to be of very great importance:

"The average age of those committed is 21.66 years, twenty-three per cent. of whom had left home for various reasons before sixteen years of age; seventy-six per cent. before the age of twenty-one.

"Sixty per cent. come from disorganized homes—homes broken up because of death or divorce.

"Twenty-one per cent. had suffered previous commitments because of law violations. Forty-two per cent. had been arrested previously, while only thirty-six per cent. confess this present arrest and incarceration to be for the first offense.

"Eight per cent of the four hundred sixteen are illiterate. The greater number who had enjoyed educational advantages left school at the fifth grade; 2.6 per cent had high school education, while only four arrivals claimed to have had advantage of college or university training.

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH

"Thirty-two per cent were idle at the time that the crime was committed.

"An investigation running back through the past six years shows that fifty-nine per cent. of the inmates were users of intoxicating liquors; eighty per cent. used tobacco in one form or another, while fifty per cent. were addicted to the use of cigarettes.

"After the closest study of the situation during the last year, I beg leave to make the following recommendations:

"Analysis of our population shows at once the necessity of careful segregation upon the basis of the nature of the boys committed to this institution. It goes without saying that that kind of equipment which is essential for the education and development of normal boys is in a large measure quite useless in the case of boys of marked defectiveness. This fact entails upon the state an unwarranted waste in the present organization. It is fair to say that probably few more than half of the population of the institution can receive to advantage the ordinary school of letters and trade school training. Specific and peculiar formal educative processes must be furnished. The first step towards such a segregation which commends itself at once is the purchase and equipment of a farm. A very large proportion of the defective boys will not only do well, but will take a lively interest in both agriculture and horticulture. It is a tradition in the institution that the largest percentage of our paroled boys "make good" on the farm. Approximately twenty per cent of the arrivals last year were farmers, and in all probability these will return to the farm upon release. These boys should be given the opportunity to learn to carry on that industry scientifically. Both the boys and the state will be benefited thereby.

"The trades schools of the institution need at once a well-trained superintendent who shall have charge of the organization and general conduct of all schools in which trades are taught. Such a man must needs be a specialist, who has not only the practical training, but the theoretical understanding of the various principles involved in the manufacturing industries. We recommend, too, that where a trade school enrolls twenty-five men or more, the instructor be furnished an assistant. It is particularly true of the class of men who come to the institution that their progress depends very largely upon personal oversight and assistance. If we are to teach habits of industry and mastery of details in the comparatively short time that these men remain with us, it is absolutely necessary that their development and training be made the subject of personal attention on the part of an instructor well versed in the particular trade the school is attempting to teach.

"We recommend further that a well ordered gymnasium be opened to supplement the work in the Military Department. Great good could be accomplished in correcting the physical defects of the inmates through careful, systematic calisthenics. The effect of scientific physical culture upon both the physical and the mental make-up of the subject is too well recognized to need argument.

"In our opinion, at least one more trade school should be added to our list. We have in mind a machine shop. Not only does the peculiar adaptability of a large number of our men argue the desirability of this school, but the industries of the Middle West will at all times furnish opportunity for the practice of the machinist trade to any well-trained apprentice who leaves our institution.

"I recommend further the employment of a larger corps of field agents. There is little doubt that much of the delinquency which follows the release of our men on parole is due to the fact that, with our present force, we are unable to give them such oversight as they need. From six hundred to eight hundred, made up of institution paroles, governor's parole and cases of suspended sentence, are constantly on the lists of the state agent. It is impossible for two or three officers to give these cases adequate attention. It must be remembered, too, that the assistant state agents must give a good deal of time while in the field to the securing of positions for those authorized for parole and awaiting assignments. Until able to do better, we recommended one worker be placed in the field for each one hundred wards of the institution. This recommendation comes from this department because a knowledge of the environ-

STUDY OF JUVENILE OFFENDER

ment from which these inmates come is absolutely necessary for an understanding of the contributing causes of their downfall. The field workers would furnish this information. In a large number of cases a return to the same environment would simply mean a repetition of the violation. A recognition of the social pathology of the inmate would lead to a prognosis of reformation only in a controlled environment. An institution should be known by the result of its work. At present we have little opportunity to check up on these results and less chance to provide for the paroled inmates amidst promising conditions." * * *

The Study of the Juvenile Offender in the Kansas Industrial School.—The following is taken from the seventeenth biennial report of the Industrial School for Boys at Topeka, Kansas. The report covers the two years ending June 30, 1914. The extract below shows the scope of the work that is being done in the Kansas institution in the individual study of boys:

"Reference has been made in former reports of this institution to the importance of an intimate study of individual differences among the boys committed to the school and to the fact that the problem of the juvenile delinquent is the problem, in great measure, of the backward child. An effort has been made to apply this view of the problem, and through the coöperation of the Department of Education of the State University, to introduce a scientific and systematic study of the individual boy as he comes to school. This has been done in connection with the Binet tests which have been conducted during the period. Arrangements have already been made to extend the scope of these studies during the coming year whereby a more extended psychological diagnosis will be made of each boy. During the last few months the experiment has been made of reporting to the parents of each boy the results of our examination with our diagnosis of the causes of the boy's waywardness and suggesting the manner of the parents' coöperation. The results have been fairly satisfactory and it is proposed to give the plan a further trial.

"The study of individual differences of the deviating child will disclose a variety of types. A few are here given for the purpose of illustrating, in briefest outline, the method and scope of these studies.

"A. B.—Fifteen years of age. Mentally this boy is about ten years of age; that is, he has the memory, the imagination and the perception of a boy of this age. He has a good store of common sense, a good power of attention and the motor control that one would expect in a ten-year-old boy. His condition is due almost entirely to pre-natal conditions, being clearly a case of arrested development. His moral status is in keeping with his physical and mental condition. He can never become a normal child and will probably remain a fit subject for institutional care, although there is a possibility of improvement under proper training. Had the boy's condition been discovered and intelligently treated in early life, and had he been given the advantages of the kindergarten, his physical, mental and moral condition would have been greatly benefited.

Some years ago this child was injured about the head in an accident, and the mother, seeking some cause for the child's defectiveness, attributed his shortcomings to this fact, but no evidence of such a source of the boy's retardation could be found.

"C. D.—Fourteen years of age. This case represents the type of a vigorous youth, at the adolescent period, rebelling against the injudicious restraints of an over-zealous mother. The companionship of the father instead of the nagging of the mother would have reclaimed this boy.

Mentally the boy tested normal. The difficulty lay in his lack of normal emotional development. His imagery was good but narrow in its range. He lacked imagination and was careless in his perception and observation. His sense of justice was undeveloped and his moral standard was that of not being found out. In manner he was reserved and seclusive. He had not been allowed to do the things that a boy loves to do. For this reason, when freed from restraint, he went beyond bounds, because his power of inhibition was weak and his moral standard was not high enough to hold him in check. He had not been required to do the things a boy ought to do. His own personality had not been developed because it had been overshadowed by the mother's personality. Inci-

PAROLE RECORD

dentally he was troubled with adenoid growth and diseased tonsils, and was slightly defective in sight and hearing.

"E. F.—*Sixteen years of age.* Father dead, mother and one brother, eleven years old, living. Mother works for a living. The boy lived with his grandfather on a farm, but did not like farming and ran away. Chewed tobacco and smoked a pipe and cigarettes. At first stole money from his home, later from other people.

"Mentally this boy was eight years old. His mind as a whole was dull and stupid. Perception and attention were fair but memory and imagination were undeveloped. His judgments were inaccurate and subject to change with a new suggestion. Utterly unreliable.

"This boy lacked the finer sentiments and refinements of the emotional life. Ethical, esthetic and religious impulses were undeveloped. A case of moral degeneracy.

"The above are but three of many types, each one of which displays some form of arrested or retarded development and confirms the complexity of the problem of delinquency among children."

R. H. G.

PAROLE—PROBATION.

A Parole Record.—The accompanying pages are a portion of a "calendar" or parole record prepared at the Reformatory for Women for the Board of Parole of the institution. It was prepared by Mrs. Jessie Hodder, superintendent of the reformatory, and was presented at the St. Paul meeting of the American Association in October, 1914.

The first page is the index to the entire parole record for the given month; the histories which follow are given as samples of the parole record as a whole.

They are compiled from the institution records (an outline of which will be shown at this meeting) by the Investigating Department of the institution.

A sincere effort is made to bring together all facts having a bearing on the probable causes, mental, physical and social, of the crime committed, and on the future outlook of the woman considered.

Each month a varying number of inmates (women) become eligible for parole under the terms of the indeterminate sentence. These women have earned through their conduct, industry and general development a right to a hearing by the Board of Parole.

The Board of Parole consists of the chairman and two lady members of the Board of Prison Commissioners. It holds its meetings at the reformatory as often as is necessary to give a just and detailed hearing to each applicant. The clerk of the institution is secretary of the Board of Parole.

There are present at the hearings the state parole agent, the resident physician, a field worker of the institution, a stenographer, the superintendent, the secretary, and, when necessary, any other officers of the institution whose experience with a given inmate will be helpful in a just estimate of her. There are invited to the meetings the judges of the committing courts, probation officers and others who have a constructive interest in the work.

Before the woman enters the room her history as given in the accompanying parole record is read aloud. She then appears and presents her case from her own point of view. She is aided by a sympathetic attitude from all present. Questions and answers are recorded by the stenographer. (The stenographic record is especially helpful if a parole is denied, in which case it may be reconsidered in four months; it is also helpful in case parole is granted but is later revoked.)

The woman is urged to speak freely to the board and tell her plans for the future and her belief about the past. She then withdraws from the hearing; the case is discussed and a vote taken; she is later informed of the board's decision.

PAROLE RECORD

Parole Record.

I. Identifying Data:

Name	Age	Color	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
Mary Rice	25	White	Nov. 27, 1889	New York City

II. Reason for Desiring Parole:

"I am anxious to go out because I want to be a manicurist and have a place of my own. I think I have been here long enough."

III. Data from Court, Oct. 25, 1914:

A. Immediate Court History:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Charge | Larceny |
| 2. Plea | Guilty |
| 3. Court | Municipal, Lynn |
| 4. Judge | Roberts |
| 5. Date of Commitment | Jan. 3, 1914 |
| 6. Term of Sentence | Five years indeterminate |
| 7. Expiration of Sentence | Jan. 2, 1919 |

B. Previous Court History:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Aug. 3, 1913 | Fornication | Probation |
| 2. Dec. 2, 1913 | Larceny | R. W. ss |
| 3. Jan. 2, 1914 | Unlawful possession of morphine | On file |

(Verified by Prob. Officer Keefe, Lynn)

IV. Data from Inmate:

A. Family History:

1. Father—Phillip Rice, 30, died 16 yrs. ago, typhoid. Irish, born in N. B., R. C. Education—Common Sch.; owned tea store.
2. Mother—Rose Shea, 42, 3 Ash St., Lynn, Mass. Eng., born in N. B., R. C. Educ.—First yr. high; housekeeper.
3. Stepfather—Bruce F. Williams, 58, above address. Eng., born in N. B., Epis. Educ.—Good, works in city market of Peters & Scott, Lynn, Mass. as salesman (\$25 a wk. in summer, \$22 in winter); hrs.—7 a. m.—6 p. m.; hr. at noon.
4. Fraternity—a. Mary (s), *subject of record*.
5. Relatives—a. Mat. uncle—Daniel Shea, 65 (m.), 14 State St., Wellesley, Mass.
6. Court record—No arrests.
7. Habits—Father alc.

B. Personal History:

1. Infancy—Normal. M.'s mother left her father when M. was 3 yrs. old because he drank and would not support her.
2. Childhood—She lived with grandparents in New York until 5 yrs. old, when they moved to Lynn. Her mother worked in Gleason's corset dept., earning \$9 a wk.; for several years M. attended Pub. Sch. from 7-13, finishing the 9th grade in Pitt's Gram. Sch., Salem St. Miss Lewis—teacher. Liked sch. Used the Pub. Library, enjoying such books as "Little Women." Played games with her girl schoolmates, either at her home or theirs.
3. Adolescence—Menstruation which began at 15, was normal. Attended Lynn High Sch. until 17; wanted to earn money so left in Dec. of 4th year. Prin. Mr. Henry Jones, Miss Louise Ross, English teacher was a special favorite with her. "If I had gotten my diploma, I would have lived a better life." Wanted to go to Wellesley College. Some of Dicken's works were compulsory in sch; enjoyed "Old Curiosity Shop" and "David Copperfield;" considers Thackeray dry "until you get in the middle of it." Worked for a Mr. Stone, contractor, 664 Washington St., Lynn, doing typewriting, at \$7 a wk.; later, \$8.50, from May, 1908 to Aug., 1911. Lived at home and paid \$4 a wk. for board when she could. Left "because I didn't feel good and didn't feel like going back." From the fall of 1911 to Sept. 1913, worked in

PAROLE RECORD

Sampson's factory, Chelsea, doing piece work (binding), averaging about \$11 a wk.; Mr. Hayes, boss; hrs.—8 a. m. to 5 p. m. Attended dancing sch. once a wk. from 14-16. Entertained friends in her home if she wished. Had a few girl friends; was especially fond of Fred Brown, a schoolmate, with whom she was allowed to go out occasionally.

4. Delinquencies—

- a. First Offence—Went with Brown to Haywood hotel for supper. He ordered beer. "I didn't want to admit I didn't know what it was, so drank it." Was introduced to May Smith, who told her she was foolish to take liquor when dope was so much easier. May taught her how to use it.
- b. Arrest and sentence—Went to Steven's hotel in Aug., 1913, to get dope from May Smith. While in her room the hotel was raided and Mary was held for Forn. There was no evidence against her so she was allowed to go on probation. The following Dec. she went into Marsh's dept. store with a Jennie Fiske to buy a waist. Jennie evidently took one, but "I did not see her as she was too clever for me and I am not wise to those tricks." As they were going out the door M. noticed two women following them. When she asked Jennie what the matter was, Jennie dropped the bundle and ran, but the women seized them both. "Of course I was just as bad because I was with her, but I didn't take anything."
- c. History of present commitment—M. first used heroin in Apr. 1913 after meeting May Smith. From Apr. to Aug. went to May's room once a wk. and took dope "because I thought it smart." In Sept. began taking it every day because she had a "contracted habit." Bought it of Patsy Sheehan, who owned a drug store on River St. Used a little cocaine for two mos., but stopped it because she realized that if she got that habit on her she would go to any extent to get the money for it. At one time she even thought she would go on the streets to get money, "but I was never a prostitute." Realizing her danger she broke the habit and has never touched cocaine since. Left home three mos. ago, when she began to use morphine hypodermically. The druggist had been arrested and it was hard to get heroin; morphine, however, was peddled on the streets, and she used about six grains a day. It stimulated her and "made me feel more like a human being." M. visited an uncle in Wellesley, making an excuse to go to the city once a wk. for dope. At the time of her arrest went to Lynn for a couple hrs. to get dope; met a girl; went to her room, staying over night. On her way to breakfast, made arrangements with a man on the street to get morphine. Later, talked with two notorious characters and was arrested by a "plain clothes man." The case was placed on file and she was sent to Sherborn on the former charge of larceny.

5. Attitudes—

- a. Toward the past—Blames this May Smith for her arrest as she taught her to use dope.
- b. Toward family—Is anxious to return to her mother who has always been very good to her.
- c. Toward future rehabilitation—Is very anxious to break her habit and live "a straight life."

V. Data from Officers of Institution:

- A. Report of Receiving Matron, Jan. 3, 1914—Head and body clean; clothing good, rather extravagant, very cool and self-possessed in manner.
- B. Report of Physician—
 1. Medical—1, 4, '14. Cond. on entrance; development fair; nutrition poor; wt.-92 lbs. Has taken heroin, morphine, cocaine for three yrs.; smoked cigarettes for seven yrs.; sight and hearing good; slight vulvo vaginitis; bacteriological smear for gonococci—positive.

PAROLE RECORD

- 1, 18; 14. Wasserman reaction for syphilis—doubtful.
9, 1; 14. General cond. greatly improved; gain in wt. of 44 lbs., present wt.-136 lbs. Vulvo vaginitis cleared up clinically; bacteriological smear for gonococci—negative. No clinical symptoms of syphilis seen while in institution.
2. Mental—9, 1; 14. Educ. advantages good. Attended sch. from 7-17, reaching junior year in High sch. Results of educ. training—good; native ability good.
- C. Industrial Report (Shirt room) 9, 1; 14.—Placed first as grade helper to see if she was capable of hard work. 3, 1; 14.—was changed to shirt room where she was placed on the buttonhole machine, a position requiring efficiency and responsibility. Indifferent toward work. Worked in 20-30 doz. shirts a day, averaging about 2,000 buttonholes; fairly well done. Although suave, externally, she is known to have been a disturbing element breaking down loyalty to the institution of other women.
- D. Educational Report (teacher) 9, 1; 14.—Has taken an active part in current events class, in connection with which she has done constructive reading in histories of foreign countries.
- E. Social Report (deputy) 9, 1; 14.—At first refused to scrub because "it will hurt my hands for typewriting." Her general attitude has remained much the same since entrance. Has been clever enough to slide through the institution with little friction. Has preferred to talk with other girls of the same type, rather than take part in games. Her underlying idea seems to be to carry on successfully outside, the life that she has chosen.
- F. Superintendent's Impressions—Lazy and shiftless; affected in manner where men are around; apparently shocked when told of her defects. Will keep up the method which she has found to pay in world of commercialized vice. Is a prostitute of the individualist type. The institution has failed with her, as she gives no promises of fitting into any community scheme. Is a searcher after friends who will fit her individual needs.

VI. Data from Outside Agencies and Individuals:

A. Family and Relatives—

1. Mother—3 Ash St., Lynn, Aug. 15, 1914. Gives daughter Mary's history as follows:—
- a. Heredity—
Pat. grandfather, sea captain, alc.; killed himself with razor.
Pat. grandmother "peculiar"; lived with another man before husband's death.
Pat. uncle—Edward, immoral; died in delirium tremens.
Pat. uncle—Frank, died of Tb. "Queer, partly deaf and only talked sort of gibberish." Wife left him on account of his immorality.
- b. Parental—Father notorious liar; alc.; immoral. Deserted wife just before Mary's birth.
- c. Birth and Infancy—Mary born in St. John, N. B., Feb. 28, 1890; birth normal; breast fed. Walked and talked at 13 mos. At 3, was dropped down stairs and hurt on head; stunned and unconscious for a short time.
- d. Childhood—Mary came to Lynn with mother to live with mat. grandparents; mother getting divorce from husband on charge of adultery. The former got work in Corset Dept. of R. H. Gleason's and was obliged to give the training of M. over to grandparents, who spoiled her. She was not an affectionate child and punishments had no effect on her; careless and irresponsible. Went to Pub. Sch. at 5; promoted every yr. and showed interest in studies and reading. Used children's room in Pub. Library a good deal and cared for books. Would read by herself for two or three hrs. at

PAROLE RECORD

a time. Grandmother would not let her bring playmates to the house because they made too much noise. When 12, mother remarried and after that was able to give up work.

- e. Adolescence—Menstruation began at 12. Mother had found her reading books on sex hygiene which girl had given her, so talked things over with her. Was confirmed when 14 in St. Ann's Episcopal Church, where she had attended since a child. Mother and stepfather both encouraged her to bring friends to house, and she seemed to go around with a good crowd of young people, until the third year in High Sch. She got in with a bad lot of girls, one of whom—Fannie Taylor, had frequented a bad house on Franklin St. Took M. there with her one afternoon. M. later planned to run away to New York with this girl but was headed off by her mother. Nasty notes from boys were found in her school book. Refused to go back the last year in High Sch. but got work for herself as office girl at \$5 a wk., in the office of Mr. Stone, contractor, Washington St. Allowed to keep half of pay, and no questions were asked as to how she spent it; stepfather buying her clothes. Left work suddenly after being there only a month, and her mother and stepfather searched everywhere for her; did not find her for 2 weeks; when they came upon her with a young fellow at a neighboring beach. They took her back home and she only stayed three weeks; would never give any account of her absence; admitted she had been bad. Got another job but disappeared in the same manner after two wks. Was away two mos. this time. They next heard of her in Ct. on charge of Forn. Took her home again, where she stayed for next 8 mos. Behaved very well, only going out with mother to pictures and theatres. Left suddenly one night after family had gone to bed and was not heard from again until comm. to Sherborn. So called uncle of whom M. speaks is no relation to her.

Impressions of mother—An unemotional literal person, whose affection is determined by her daughter's actions. Very well dressed and a woman evidently of considerable ability.

Character of home—An 8-room comfortably furnished house—excellent locality. A number of good books and magazines lying around; also a piano.

2. Stepfather. City Market, Lynn. Aug. 15, 1914.

Girl has been hard to control although everything has been done for her; unwilling to give her another trial in the home as she is disgracing them.

Impressions of stepfa.—Prosperous looking man, who has been well disposed to the girl and now feels that his patience is at an end.

B. Employers.

1. Mr. H. S. Stone, Contractor, 664 Washington St., Lynn, Mar. 15, 1914. Mary Rice earned \$5 a wk. as office girl. Quality of work—fair. Would have been promoted as efficiency increased. Worked 2 mo., left without notice. Under no condition would she be taken back.

Sampson & Co., Publishers, 35 B'way, Chelsea, Mar. 15, 1914. Have no record of such a party on pay roll.

C. Probation and Police Officers.

1. Probation Officer, Keefe, Lynn, Mass., Jan. 25, 1914. Mary's prob. was unsatisfactory. She reported only twice, and apparently thought it didn't amount to much. Knows little about her. Is willing to co-operate at the time of her parole but has little expectation of her success.

D. Clergymen, Social Workers and Others Interested.

1. Rev. Mr. Thayer, Rector St. Ann's Church, Lynn, Mass., Mar. 15, 1914. Has known Mary for yrs. She is known as untruthful,

PAROLE RECORD

dishonest, and deceitful. Has caused her mother, a woman of fine character, untold sorrow. Every means of helping her has been tried and apparently failed.

2. Miss Lewis, Pitt's Grammar School, Lynn, March. 15, 1914. Mary was a good scholar in all subjects, and gave promise of being an unusually capable girl.
3. Mr. Henry Jones, Prin. Lynn High School, Lynn, Mar. 15, 1914. Mary's work was good the first two yrs., but grew steadily worse after that. She left during her junior yr. Would not have been promoted if she had continued.
4. Miss Louise Ross, English Teacher, High School, Lynn, Mar. 15, 1914. Mary became acquainted with a bad crowd of girls at school and then lost interest in her work at school; she could have done well if she had cared to. Her mother is a fine woman, well known in the community. She did everything possible for Mary, who only is to blame.

VII. Parole Resources.

- A. There is no possibility of her being placed in the home, so she will have to be placed from the institution.

PAROLE RECORD.

I. Identifying Data:

Name, Bessie Field; age, 43; color, white; date of birth, Oct. 12, 1871; place of birth, Machias, Maine.

II. Reason for Desiring Parole, Oct. 30, 1914:

"I want to go out and go to work."

III. Data from Court:

A. Immediate Court History—

1. Charge—Drunk.
2. Plea—Guilty.
3. Court—Middlesex, 3rd Eastern Dist.
4. Judge—Maxwell.
5. Date of Commitment—March 8, 1914.
6. April 30, 1897—Drunk; 4 mos. Deer Island.
7. Expiration of sentence—March 7, 1915.

B. Previous Court History—

1. Oct. 18, 1893—Drunk. Released.
2. Dec. 20, 1893—Drunk; 6 mos. H. of C.
3. Aug. 27, 1894—A. & B.; \$5.00.
4. May 11, 1895—Drunk. Released.
5. May 18, 1897—Drunk; 2 mos. Deer Island.
6. April 30, 1898—Drunk; 4 mos. Deer Island.
7. April 30, 1898—Drunk; 4 mos. Deer Island.
8. Sept. 14, 1898—Drunk; 6 mos. Jail.
9. March 13, 1899—Drunk; 6 mos. Mass. Home.
10. Sept. 23, 1899—Drunk; 6 mos. Jail.
11. April 21, 1900—Drunk; 6 mos. H. of C.
12. Oct. 27, 1900—Drunk; Probation.
13. Dec. 31, 1900—Drunk; Sher.
14. Nov. 15, 1901—Drunk; 6 mos. H. of C.
15. June 5, 1902—Drunk; 6 mos. Deer Island ap.
16. March 25, 1903—Drunk; 1 mo. Deer Island.
17. June 25, 1903—Drunk; 1 mo. H. of C.
18. July 31, 1903—Drunk; 2 mos. H. of C.
19. Nov. 1, 1903—Drunk; 3 mos. H. of C.
20. March 14, 1904—Drunk; 6 mos. H. of C.
21. Sept. 18, 1904—Drunk; 4 mo. H. of C.
22. Feb. 27, 1905—Drunk; State Farm.
23. June 21, 1905—Drunk. On file. Ret'd to State Farm.
24. Oct. 21, 1905—Drunk. On file. Ret'd to State Farm.

PAROLE RECORD

25. March 26, 1906—Drunk; State Farm.
26. July 5, 1906—Drunk. Ref'd to State Farm.
27. May 8, 1907—Drunk; 1 mo. H. of C.
28. June 15, 1907—Drunk; State Farm.
29. Sept. 17, 1907—Drunk. Prob. H. G. S., 6 mos.
30. June 26, 1908—Drunk. On file.
31. July 18, 1908—Drunk; State Farm.
32. Oct. 26, 1908—Drunk; State Farm.
33. March 25, 1909—Drunk. Prob. H. G. S., 1 yr.
34. Jan. 14, 1911—Drunk. Rel. by P. O.
35. Jan. 21, 1911—Drunk; 2 mos. H. of C.
36. July 19, 1911—Drunk; 1 mo. H. of C.
37. Sept. 14, 1911—Drunk. Prob. H. G. S.
38. March 23, 1912—Fornication; \$20.
39. May 15, 1912—Drunk; 1 mo. H. of C.
40. July 6, 1912—Drunk; State Farm.
41. Oct. 14, 1912—Drunk; State Farm.
42. Feb. 27, 1913—Drunk; State Farm.
43. Aug. 4, 1913—Drunk; 1 mo. H. of C.
44. Sept. 24, 1913—Drunk; 1 mo. H. of C.
45. March 8, 1914—Drunk. Dedham Ct. 3 mos. Jail.

IV. Data from Inmate:

A. Family History—

1. Father—Robt. Goodie, Died 16 yrs. ago of Tb., Scotch descent, Born in Maine, Meth., Read and write, Ship's carpenter.
2. Mother—Jane Andrews, Machias, Maine, Scotch descent, Born in P. E. I., R. C., Read and write.
3. Fraternity—
 - a. John, 56, (s), ° Carlton, Ohio, Prot., Cement finisher, Edu.—High Sch.
 - b. Hugh, 52, (m), Machias, Me., Plumber, Edu., Gram. Schl. Prot.
 - c. Phillip, 45, (m), Machias, Me., Prot. Roofer & Slater, Read and write.
 - d. Bessie, (w), Subject of record.
 - e. Alice, 41, (m), Pete Wade, Machias, Me., Prot., Read and write.
 - f. Susie, 36, (m), Robt. Smith, Machias, Me., Prot., Read and write.
 - g. Mary, 35, (m), Jack French, Newark, N. J., Read and write.
4. Husband—Richard Field, 38, Died 10 yrs. ago of complication of diseases, at Tewksbury, Irish-Amer., Born in Boston, R. C., Read and write. Plumber.
5. Children—
 - a. Jane, 16, With Mat. Grandmoth. Left sch. in 4th gr., 13 yrs. old. Did not do well and played truant.
 - b. Criminal abortion 14 yrs. ago.
 - c. Criminal abortion 11 yrs. ago.
6. Relatives—
 - a. Cousin—Mabel Black, (m), St. Johns, N. B.
 - b. Cousin—Mabel Jones, (m), Maine.
 - c. Husband's Sister—Blanche Cross, (m), 1 Fleet St., Boston.
7. Court Record—No arrests.
8. Habits—Fath. mod. alc., husb. excessively alc.
9. Health—Father died of Tb.

B. Personal History—

1. Infancy—When a few yrs. old B. was accidentally hit on the head by an axe which her bro. was swinging. This caused dizzy spells during which dark spots came before her eyes.
2. Childhood—Her home was quite a distance from the town and was not very good. There were four rooms, a kitchen and three bedrooms. B. and her two sisters had one, her moth. and fath. another, and the three bros. the third. They were always allowed to do as they pleased if they did not quarrel. Attended public sch. from 6 to 15, but parents never forced her to go on acct. of her eyes which bothered her constantly. Had difficulty in sch. in learning. "Could never do arith. but

PAROLE RECORD

can read and write pretty good." Attended St. Andrews R. C. Church and Sunday Sch. and was confirmed when 11. Always had plenty of good times with her bros. and sisters.

3. Adolescence—After leaving sch. Bessie lived at home with her moth. and helped her around the house. Her fath. came to Mass. and settled in Cambridge. She was 20 when her moth. and the rest of the fam. joined him. After coming to Mass. never went to confession or attended church service.

4. Adult Life—She met her husb. through her bros. and was marr. to him in Cambridge May 1895 by a priest, after a year's acquaintance. They went to live with her moth. as B. could not bear to be separated from her. The first child was born after 15 mos.

5. Delinquencies—

3. First Offence—A yr. later became pregnant again but did not want to be tied down with children so went to a German doctor whom she had heard of through other women, when she was about 3 mos. along. He gave her treatment and told her to come again in a week. These treatments proved to be successful, bringing on a miscar. for which she paid him \$10. Her husb. did not know anything about it until after it was over with.

b. Subsequent Offences and Reactions—Became pregnant the third time about 2 yrs. later and on this occasion went to Dr. Smith on Race St. He gave her the same treatment and she paid him \$10 also.

c. Arrests and Sentences—Her first arr. was five yrs. ago when she was sentenced to H. G. S. for 6 mos. Since that time she has served 4 other sentences besides being on probation in Cambridge. Cannot remember much about her arrests.

d. History of Present Commitment—B. never did a day's work in her life; after her marriage used to go around visiting her husband's people who lived near Boston. An aunt of his would make "mull" by putting a hot poker into a mug of beer. At first she did not like this drink but finally grew to like it so well that she wanted to go there often. Her husb. died after they had been marr. 7 yrs. and she continued to live with her moth. and bros. who supported her. She would get a few cents from her bro. John and could occasionally sneak beer into the house, never dared to do it openly. Would go to see her bro. Philip and his wife would buy liquor for her. She could also drink with her sister-in-law, Mrs. Cross. B. says that after a few drinks "she is off but always imagines she can find her way home." Went to Norwood with a friend May Dolan, who lived there. They were both "pretty full. I do not know where I lost her but I do not think she was arr." The officer who arr. Bessie said that as the last car had gone he would be obliged to keep her. At that time she was on prob. from the Cambridge Ct. and after being held in Needham Jail for 2 days she was comm. to Sher. Denies being immoral. Takes snuff occasionally but never drank in cafes or bad places, always with her friends.

6. Attitude—Doesn't know why she drinks but is sure if she is given a chance she will never touch it again.

V. Data from Officers of Institution:

A. Report of Receiving Matron, Mar. 8, 1914—Clothes extremely dirty; vermin in head; tried to smuggle in snuff, very sociable, just recovering from a spree.

B. Report of Physician—

1. Medical—

(a) 3-11-'14. On Ent. Wt. 153 lbs. Gen'l con. fair.

3-27-'14. Wasserman reaction for syphilis doubtful.

(b) 7-29-'14. Pres. Cond. Improved. Wt. 165 lbs. The only clinic evidence of syphilis has been vague pains, which have been worse at night.

REPORT OF PAROLE AGENT

2. Mental—Acc. to Binet see in under 10 yrs. Was at Pub. Sch. in Machias, Me. from 10th to 14th yr. Her head was hurt when she was 4 yrs. and she had such bad headaches subsequently that she did not go to sch. until 10; when she went to sch. played truant most of the time. Gen'l infor. poor. Her educational advantages have been very poor; the results are poor. The test shows some irreg. In spite of the fact that she did Dr. Fernald's test quickly and correctly and gave her answers quickly to most of the questions, from the majority of the other tests she would appear to be very dull, prob. subnormal.

C. Industrial Report (Laundry) Sept. 1, 1914—B. was given laundry work because she is a strong woman, capable of hard work and needs an outlet of this kind for her super-abundant energy. In this case there appears to be no indication or necessity of outdoor work in spite of her alcoholism. Work requiring concentration indoors seems preferable.

D. Educational Report. (Teacher) Sept. 1, 1914—Because unable to do active mental work due to age and mentality B. has been given the simplest kinds of reading under instruction, in an endeavor to stimulate her interest and use the small amount of knowledge she gained in sch. Has been partially interested.

E. Social Report (Deputy) Sept. 1, 1914—B. has been faithful in her work and given little trouble.

F. Superintendent's Impression, Sept. 1, 1914—Kindly old soul, vague about herself and her past, convinced that her age entitles her to "shift for herself" in the future. "Always has looked out for herself."

VI. Data from Outside Agencies and Individuals:

A. Family and Relatives—1. Mrs. Blanche Cross, 1 Fleet St., Boston, May 1, 1914. (Sister-in-law.) Has not seen Bessie for yrs. She has good people in Maine and N. B. Has feared B. would look her up and Mr. Cross would not allow her to come to the house. Mrs. C. herself has done wrong and was sent to Bridgewater but is trying to keep away from bad associates. B. would be a bad influence. Denies teaching B. to drink. Wishes she would get a place to work in the country. (Impressions)—A dissipated looking woman apparently incapable of assuming responsibility.

B. Probation and Police Officers—

1. Prob. Officer Jones, Cambridge, March 21, 1914.

Sent a long Ct. rec. with a statement that no further comment is needed.

VII. Parole Resources:

None.

Report of Parole Agent Kansas Industrial School.—The following letter is prefixed to the report of the Parole Agent found in the 1914 report of the Industrial School for Boys at Topeka:

Dr. H. W. Charles, Superintendent:

Sir—"Your parole agent has the following brief report to submit. During the biennial period 282 boys were paroled from the school, of which number 36 were returned for violation of parole. It has been the policy of your parole agent to extend every possible chance to the boy on parole to make good, and return him to the school only as a last resort.

"It has become necessary in rare instances to admonish the local officials where there is a disposition to remove from the community a boy who if properly looked after would respond to the efforts made for his reclamation.

"Since assuming the office of parole agent, on July 1, 1913, 168 boys have been paroled. Of this number four boys have been returned to the institution for violating the parole agreement.

"The duties and opportunities of a parole agent of an institution of this character are many and interesting. He has to do with social and economic conditions that affect the welfare of our country. The delinquent boy, as a rule, is the product of evil social conditions. While he can not solve the problem, he can assist mightily in spreading information on the question and thereby create a public thirst for better things. A parole agent must, in a way, become a

PRISON REFORM

prophet; not one who foretells events, but one who speaks plainly with respect to present home conditions. Out of disordered homes flows our stream of juvenile delinquents. The home has lost its charm for the boy, if it ever had any charm for him. He would rather hobnob with loafers on the street corners or hang around pool halls or wander down back alleys than stay in such a home. To force him to do so makes him incorrigible. In several instances studies have been made of extreme cases of social degeneracy.

"It has been the custom to interest local organizations, such as women's clubs, church committees, welfare leagues, etc., in the boy who is returning home on parole.

"To parole a boy to the home out of which he came is too often like taking him out of a mudhole, cleaning him up, and then throwing him back into the same mudhole."

Respectfully,

H. J. CORWIN, *Parole Agent.*

Applications for Pardon Refused.—The pardon board of the state of Louisiana, through Attorney General Pleasant, announced recently it had refused all applications for pardon presented at the three days' session a short time ago.

It gave as its reason for the wholesale refusal of applications the fact that the board of control of the penitentiary was given the right of parole in a law passed at the last session of the legislature and the board believes this body is best fitted to handle the situation.

"When they are pardoned with too much readiness," states the board in its report, "it is possible that the convict will consider pardons are easy to get through influential friends and will run the chance of committing another crime and being freed again either by the grand jury, the petit jury or the board of pardons."

The report of the Pardon Board says:

"The board of pardons felt that there were many of the cases refused which might commend themselves for parole. The last legislature passed a parole law, making the board of control of the state penitentiary the parole board. This board will soon be ready to receive applications for parole. A person who is liberated under the parole law will be required to make certain periodical reports to the sheriff of his parish, and he must continue to be a good citizen during the remainder of the unexpired term of his sentence, otherwise he may be returned to the penitentiary and be compelled to serve out the remainder of the sentence.

"This parole law will have a beneficial effect because of its restraining influence. A person who is forced to be a good citizen while on parole will find that it is to his best interest to live a life free from crime; he will get the habit of being a good citizen and both he and society will benefit therefrom. When they are pardoned with too much readiness and without a sense of justice to society as well as to the unfortunate convict, it is possible that he will consider that pardons are easy to get through influential friends and will run the chance of committing another crime and being freed again either by the grand jury, the petit jury or the board of pardons. It has also been found that a too free exercise of the pardoning power stimulates those who are viciously inclined to the commission of deeds upon which they are intent, as they feel that influence with the powers that be can either keep them out of prison or get them out of prison."

R. H. G.

PENOLOGY.

Prison Reform in North Dakota.—Progress in the management of the penitentiary of North Dakota has been fairly continuous from the early days of whipping post and repression to the present regime of modern methods. The most conspicuous reform in recent times has been the abolition of the harsh military discipline, and the development of a system based simply on the laws of the state, with as much personal and individual direc-

PRISON REFORM

tion as possible, and with the usual grading and honor features. The present status of the institution, in at least its most salient features, may perhaps be judged from the following brief description, based upon the observations and interviews of a recent visit.

The penitentiary has at present about 225 inmates, of whom only three or four are women. The principal industries are the twine factory and the brickyard, the latter being outside the prison walls. During the summer months the twine plant has been in operation continuously, and has supplied a considerable proportion of the twine sold to the farmers of the state. A limited amount of farming and gardening is also engaged in. Other industries, such as painting, carpentering, blacksmithing, tailoring, etc., are maintained merely to supply the needs of the institution, and do not serve except to a limited extent as a means of specific industrial training. It may be said at the outset that it is in connection with its industries that the penitentiary falls the farthest short of the ideal, and it will doubtless be a long time before any fundamental change can be made. A large amount of money is invested in the present industrial equipment, particularly in the twine plant—a condition that precludes any sudden change. Yet, since the majority of convicts are without any skilled occupation, industrial training in trades that could be engaged in later on the outside of the walls would be an important means of reformation. The needs in this direction are, however, keenly felt by the management, and everything that can be done with the means at command is being done. No fundamental change can be made until the people of the state, including their representatives in the Legislature, come to look upon the penitentiary as an instrument of reformation and not primarily as a possible source of revenue. Unfortunately, in an agricultural state there is little general appreciation of the problem of dealing with the criminal, while there is an abnormal sensitiveness to slight changes in the tax rate; hence it is too much to hope that any great change in the basic industries of the prison will be effected in the near future.

The buildings and equipment, which are fairly modern, are at present more than adequate for the prison population. The latest built cell-house, in which more than half of the men are housed, has cells of approximately 600 cubic feet, each containing lavatory and closet with running water, and with only one occupant to the cell. The ventilation is good except for the upper tier, and here the defect will soon be remedied. In the old cell-house the cells are a little smaller, and are provided with the well-known iron bucket for sanitary purposes. The place is kept clean, though, as is usual, the extermination of vermin constitutes a problem. In cells where the occupants co-operate, however, the problem is readily solved by burning out the crannies in the brick walls with a gasoline torch. Experiments are to be made to see if the cells cannot be rendered practically vermin-proof.

The kitchen has lately been remodeled and is now commodious and well-equipped. Supplies are purchased in large quantities by the Board of Control, the pure food department of the state co-operating in maintaining standards. The writer ate several meals with the men and found the food well cooked and of sufficient variety. The men are not limited as to the

PRISON REFORM

amount eaten. The meals are rendered more pleasurable by the fact that conversation is allowed, as it is also in the shops and cell-house. About the only difference between the food served to the men and that put before laborers in the homes of the better class of farmers is that in the former case butter and sugar are not served at the meals. The cost of the provisions used comes to about eight cents a meal for each man, including officers. The following is a typical bill of fare:

Breakfast—Corn meal mush, milk, boiled eggs, fried potatoes, bread, syrup, coffee.

Dinner—Pea soup, salmon, boiled potatoes, gravy, creamed onions, bread, cottage pudding with lemon sauce, coffee, milk.

Supper—Fried liver gravy, fried potatoes, corn bread, fruit, syrup, tea, milk.

Provision is made for recreation and to some extent for schooling. Baseball is encouraged during the summer months. There is opportunity for practice two evenings a week, and a game is played with an outside team nearly every Sunday afternoon. For winter entertainment there is an ample auditorium, equipped with a moving picture machine installed by the convicts, and with a stage and stage settings. An orchestra is maintained by the men. A debating society also holds regular meetings except during the warm weather. At times visiting singers, actors or other entertainers are induced to appear on the prison stage. Religious instruction is provided for by a service once a week at which attendance is voluntary and without guards. The prison library is well supplied with a good selection of books. About three-quarters of the prisoners avail themselves of its privileges, drawing an average of more than one book a week each, two-thirds of the books drawn being fiction. School instruction has not been given adequate attention of late, owing to the difficulty in getting instructors. The state makes no provision for schooling, but the management organized such classes as are possible under the instruction of inmates. In general, illiterates have availed themselves eagerly of the opportunity thus afforded to learn to read and write.

There is no serious criticism that can be made against the working conditions except the general one already noted. It may be added, however, that greater opportunity for industrial training might be found for the women convicts, who are so few in number that they have been given little attention. There is at present scarcely anything more for them to do than to sweep and clean. Among the men the hours of labor are ten a day, with early closing on Saturday, and, of course, Sundays free, except for a limited amount of necessary labor. It has been very common, however, to work overtime in the twine industry, but the men are paid extra for this at a fair rate. For the regular work they receive an allowance of fifteen cents a day. While this is liberal compared with what is usual elsewhere, it is to be hoped that eventually it may be substantially raised, at least for men who have families dependent upon them. Earnings are credited to the accounts of the men at the office, and may be drawn upon for any ordinary purchases on the monthly order day. The clothing furnished the men is well adapted to their needs, nor is it designed to humiliate them as were the stripes of former days. Suits are of tan khaki for

PRISON REFORM

summer and of gray wool for colder weather. Recently an improvement was made in the shoes furnished, which are now of a pliable leather and very comfortable. Though the three-grade system is in use, a man's rank is not indicated by his clothes, but in accordance with the usual custom it affects the privileges he enjoys.

The sanitary conditions of the work are in general good. A part of the twine factory is objectionable because of noise and dust, but here the men are shifted if their lungs seem to be affected. The factory building is somewhat of a menace from the standpoint of fire, as the material used is oily and the floors have become oil-soaked. If a fire should start it would envelop the entire structure very quickly. The danger to life is not, however, serious; the building is only two stories high and has several exits which are always open during working hours. There has been some talk of removing the danger by installing a safety sprinkling device, which could be paid for by the reduction in the insurance.

A point of criticism well known to the management is the hospital building, which was built some years ago at a considerable expense, but was not well planned. It provides for no adequate isolation of cases, nor has it the necessary equipment for surgical work. As there are usually not more than two or three hospital cases to care for at a time, a smaller building would have met every need. Such a building, equipped in modern style, could have been erected for less than the actual outlay. It is likely that the next Legislature will authorize the tearing down of the present building, as no other use can be found for it, and will provide for the erection of such a hospital as is required. There is also need of a more liberal provision for the expense of surgical operations and for dental work, both of which must ordinarily be paid for by the men. Recently the cost of two difficult operations which restored to health two promising men was generously met by the governor from funds set aside for his own expenses, but the state should not leave such matters to philanthropy.

The burden of discipline has been materially decreased by the reasonable freedom accorded the men, and by the good treatment in general that they receive. Fights among them are now infrequent, occurring on an average not more than once a month, whereas at one time they were of daily occurrence. The only guards now armed with rifles are two in the towers; the guards directly in charge of the men carry only heavy canes. With respect to the salaries paid to these guards and other officers, the state has been niggardly. The task of handling convicts is a difficult one, requiring tact and skill; physique is no longer the sole requisite. While the penitentiary has in general been fortunate in its selection of employes, the future would be safer if the wages paid were such as to insure competence.

To judge from cases that come before the parole board, and from the experiences of the management, it is evident that the state might profitably invest more money in the parole system. This system cannot, however, be carried on successfully without ample supervision of the men on parole. The state has an indeterminate and suspended sentence law, and allows paroles to be granted after the expiration of one year in prison, less some deduction for good behavior. There are inmates who might better

PRISON REFORM

have been spared the humiliation of the prison—whose reformation would have been much surer outside the prison walls under proper supervision than within them.

There is also a crying need for legal officers in the pay of the state to take up in some systematic way the legal aspects of the convict's case from the convict's point of view. The usual perfunctory appointment of an attorney for the defense in case of poverty is often inadequate. Besides, there are legal questions that arise after imprisonment that may materially affect the just treatment of the convict. The state should be as anxious to see that the rights of the convict are safeguarded as to see that society is defended against the criminal; not a maximum of punishment, but exact justice, should be the aim. So far as the men in the penitentiary are concerned, the matter might be solved, as some have suggested, by the appointment of a deputy attorney general whose duty it should be to look after the legal interests of the convicts and to act as their adviser. As to conditions preceding the serving of the sentence, perhaps the appointment of a regular counsel for the defense in the district courts is not feasible as yet, but at least something might be done to prevent state's attorneys from using unfair means to secure convictions, as they sometimes do in an effort to make a showing for re-election. It is said to be a somewhat common practice for a state's attorney to induce an accused man to plead guilty of a charge whose real import has been misrepresented to him, and of which he may not be guilty in the degree charged, or possibly not at all. It is represented to him that by pleading guilty he will receive a light sentence, which will be preferable to awaiting a slow trial in the county jail, with the possible outcome of a heavy sentence. Having pleaded guilty, he suddenly finds himself facing a long term of imprisonment. Later, when he applies for a parole there is no court record from which perhaps extenuating circumstances might have been shown, but only an apparently frank admission of guilt. Such deceitful methods of dealing with the accused are disgraceful, and result in the making of a criminal out of one who might perhaps have easily been reclaimed from his waywardness.

To sum up it may be said that the administration of the penitentiary of North Dakota is at present enlightened and humane, and is in all essentials fully up to modern standards, within the limits set by the public opinion of the state. The warden, Mr. F. S. Talcott, is a man of broad education and experience. His policy of meeting the men individually and listening to their complaints has greatly extended his influence over them. To the writer the reality of this influence was very apparent when, on the occasion of his recent visit, he was given an opportunity to talk freely and confidentially with the prisoners. Personal understanding and sympathy from one who is respected can do more to effect a reformation than the most extreme severity. As has already been said, the possibilities for the future progress of the institution depend primarily upon the enlightenment and liberality of the electorate of the state.

PRISON REFORM

The following statistics are appended. They are taken from the biennial report about to be published:

Convicts received during the two-year period ending June 30, 1914.... 292

Nativity:	Per Cent.
American	72
Canadian	6
Scandinavian	6
German	4
Russian	4
Fifteen other nationalities...	8

Age at time of committal:	
Under 20	10
20 to 30, inclusive.....	50
31 to 45, inclusive.....	29
46 to 66, inclusive.....	11

Sex and race:	
Female white	1
Male white	89
Male negro	6
Male Indian	3
Female Indian	1

Residence:	
Residents of N. Dak.....	56
Non-residents	44

Former occupation:	
Laborers	37
Farmers	34
Engineers	5
Machinists	4
Painters	4
Forty-four other occupations	16

Religious training:	
Protestants	52
Catholics	31½
None	16½
Protestants include:	
Lutherans	18
Methodists	7½
Baptists	6½
Presbyterians	4½
Twelve other sects.....	15½

Habits:	
Temperate	30
Intemperate	70
Non-users of tobacco.....	12
Users of tobacco.....	88

CONVICT LABOR

Summary for two-year period:

	Inmates
Received	292
Pardoned	25
Paroled	33
Deaths	2
Discharged	180
Escaped	10
Recaptured	6

Failure of paroles and suspended sentences, about 4 per cent of all cases so treated.

About one-third of inmates received name no relative or friend for notification in case of death.

The crimes for which sentence is being served are various and difficult to classify. Assault and burglary, in various forms, predominate. Sex crimes, like rape, incest and adultery, are surprisingly numerous, constituting 16 per cent. "Bootlegging" accounts for 15 per cent.

G. R. DAVIES,

Dep't of Sociology, University of N. Dak.

Good Roads and Convict Labor.—The January number of the Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science is devoted to a discussion of this subject. It is of interest to two classes of students, because it is approached from two standpoints—from that of the prison reformer and from that of the people who are endeavoring to secure better roads.

The order of the terms used in the title of the pamphlet indicates that the promotion of the Good Roads movement is the first object sought. But the expense involved in dealing with him. To call this "a form of slavery" is to "foreword" of Mr. Charles Henry Davis, president of the National Highways Commission, is devoted largely to a denunciation of the existing prison system, couched in terms which make no discrimination between the prisons and prison methods of different states and different localities, conveying the idea that the country has one system, and that it deserves an unqualified condemnation, which he deals out in superlatives.

He declares that "Our modern prisons are barbaric. They typify the mediæval prisons, so loathsome to our imagination, and yet we call them modern. They are not. They still hold men in abject slavery, in idleness worse than death. Without sun. Sometimes without light. With foul air and fouler companions. . . . We have abolished negro slavery, a paradise compared to that of criminal slavery. We maintain institutions little better than the torture chambers of ancient times," and much more to the same effect.

Apparently he has never heard of reformatories like Elmira and Great Meadow, New York, Huntingdon, Pa., Rahway, N. J., Concord, Mass., Mansfield, O., St. Cloud, Minn., and many other engaged in definitely reformatory work; of the new Minnesota State prison; of the United States penitentiary at Leavenworth and many others possessing the physical qualifications whose absence he laments or of the large number of other penitentiaries which are run upon the reformatory plan, with the purpose of reforming those who pass through

CONVICT LABOR

them. There are prisons which are unfit for human habitation; there are prisons which make no attempt to improve their inmates physically, morally or mentally. But they are in the minority, and when a man characterizes them all by terms which can properly be applied to comparatively few, those who are interested in prison matters will be inclined to question his authority to teach about his other subject—Good Roads.

This doubt is emphasized when we read his appeal for good roads based upon their relation to illiteracy. Briefly, this is his argument: "In the United States there are 18,000,000 children who endeavor to attend school. There are during much of the school term a considerable part of the 2,000,000 miles of our over 30,000,000 who should attend school. Why don't they? Largely because roads is impassible."

Then he presents a table showing that illiteracy among native whites of native parentage is far more prevalent in rural sections, where roads are poor, than in urban sections, where roads are good. Mr. Davis does not make a direct connection between illiteracy and crime, as he might, but it is to be inferred from the drift of his general argument that he believes that good roads would, by reducing illiteracy, reduce crime. This may be true, and probably is, but one can hardly refrain from calling attention to the fact that the percentage of crime to population is far greater in urban communities which have good roads and a literate population than in rural communities which have poor roads and a more illiterate population.

This fact is not an argument against good roads or in favor of illiteracy. It is stated in order that we may not confound coincidences with sequences; that we may not forget that there are many factors in the problems of both illiteracy and crime, and that we may not expect to find in good roads a panacea for all civic ills.

The principal paper is by Sidney Wilmot, B. S. in C. E., who has the right to speak on good roads, and upon the use of the labor of prisoners for their construction. But in his discussion of the prison question he frequently takes positions which those who are in prison work will not accept. His preliminary assertion that under the present system "convicts are the property of the state, to be used as in its wisdom and sovereign authority sees fit," is not recognized as a statement of the underlying principles of penology, and the employment of prisoners, even under the discredited contract system is not, as he calls it, "legalized slavery." In another place Mr. Wilmot says: "Convicts and roads, both being state property, the maximum of efficiency is possible only through joint operation." Such assertions tend to confuse the general reader. There was a time when men convicted of crime were sold into slavery, but it is not true today. The offender is taken into and kept in custody because he is believed to be unfit to be at large. He is made to labor, partly because it is for his interest, and partly that he may be compelled to reimburse the state for a part of the expense involved in dealing with him. To call this a "form of slavery" is to misuse language.

In the discussion of the use of prisoners in road-building, Mr. Wilmot falls into another error. Speaking of the commutation of sentences of those who work on roads, he says that it should not be so large "as to free the prisoner before he has had a chance to pay his debt to the State." This conception of the relation of the prisoner and the state, as that of debtor and creditor, has

CONVICT LABOR

wrought incalculable mischief. The man who has served his sentence considers that he has "squared the account." He does not recognize any demand for a change of character, but merely endures what is inflicted until the sentence is finished. It is a pity that this unsound conception of penal sentences should find a place in such a paper as this, and that one of the leading features of the system of employing prisoners on road work should, to some extent, be based upon the "debt" theory of punishment.

It is plain that the reduction of the term of imprisonment for those who work on roads is vital to the system. It is one of the rewards for doing this particular kind of work. It appeals to his love of liberty. Laws authorizing the commutation of sentences for good behavior have long been in use as a means of securing discipline. They serve a good purpose in that they develop self-control, and substitute it for officer-control.

But that is all it does. It fails to accomplish the great result which should be the main purpose of imprisonment—the change of the character of the prisoner, so that he may be fit to become a free citizen. The worst man at heart in the prison may secure a large reduction of his sentence by working on the roads. But is the fact that he has so worked a reason for releasing upon the community an unreformed criminal?

Of course, it may be said that he will be so released at the end of his sentence. True, and it is an argument against allowing a court to fix in advance the date of the prisoner's return to free life.

These criticisms are not directed at the main purpose and argument of Mr. Davis and Mr. Wilmot, which is to promote the larger use of prisoners in the building of good roads. The force of their arguments for this would possibly have been greater if they had not misconceived the underlying penological principles of the present day, and if they had recognized the great progress which has been made in securing their more general adoption.

The pamphlet contains more information in regard to the use of prisoners in road-building than is easily obtainable elsewhere, and is a very valuable contribution to a subject which is certain to demand constantly increasing attention. This attention is due, not only from those who have the administration of prisoners, and are under obligation to avail themselves of every opportunity for a better use of prisoners, but also from the public. The necessity for an enlightened public opinion in support of the use of prisoners in road-building is very urgent. Its success, and its extension must depend largely upon the development of a public sentiment which shall support the authorities in their work.

Those who are not familiar with the progress made in recent years in this line will be surprised by the extent to which the experiment has been tried. The facts given by Mr. Wilmot are of great interest. Only a brief summary can be given:

In Washington, road-building by prisoners has been tried very thoroughly, and for several years. The work of preparing road material in the stone quarries, has been carried on on a large scale. The actual work on roads is specially noticeable, because in the earlier days it was conducted upon the old penal method, in which restraint was depended upon for preventing escapes. Armed guards were on duty night and day, and a prison stockade was provided for housing. With this provision it was possible to utilize men who could not be trusted under the honor system.

CONVICT LABOR

The main inducement held out to the men seems to have been the hope of pardon. The pardoning power was exercised with great liberality in behalf of those who worked on the road. Not only in Washington, but everywhere, the fact that the work is more congenial to most of the men than is the work within the prison, is a strong incentive to good behavior and industry. They do not wish to be returned to confinement, and work well to avoid it. The Washington experiment was discontinued because of the failure of the legislature to appropriate money for road-building, but the quarries are still operated, the product being sold to private parties.

In Oregon, the work upon roads has been due largely to the action of Gov. West, whose views of the criminal are well known throughout the country, and whose forceful administrative qualities have been shown in the development of this work, almost without affirmative authority of law. Believing as he does in the manhood of men who have committed crime, he went beyond the limit usually thought to be safe in trusting them. It is claimed that the results have justified this course. There have been very few escapes, (fewer than from the closed prison), and fewer than when men were employed outside under armed guards.

California has done some road-making with prisoners, but not enough to make a test of the plan. The legislature does not seem willing to give the experiment a fair chance.

Nevada, where there would seem to be a good opportunity for carrying out the road-building system, has done very little. Wages are paid to those so employed.

In Arizona there has been a large use of prisoners in the construction of state highways and bridges. Very little reliance is placed upon armed guards to prevent escapes or for disciplinary purposes. Unusual privileges are given, and a genuine effort to promote the best interests of the prisoners is very apparent. A very exceptional reduction of the sentences of the men employed on the roads is made, and the hope of release probably accounts for the rareness of escapes and for the success of the undertaking. The financial results are reported to be excellent. The saving to the state is said to be large.

New Mexico has had a larger experience than any other state in using prisoners in road-building, having begun in 1903. The honor system is in use, and nearly all the men respond to the trust imposed in them. The state is entitled to the credit of working out this system somewhat more scientifically than other states. It has the indeterminate sentence law, and men are released on parole under supervision, instead of being turned loose upon the community.

Utah makes some use of prisoners in this work. Dependence for the prevention of escapes is upon armed guards, and as the number of prisoners is comparatively small and the number of guards is large, the cost is large, and the experiment is not successful financially.

The experience of Colorado is an encouraging one. It has used more men than most states, and long enough to test the system, having tried it since 1908, first with armed guards, and since 1909 under the honor system. Several hundred miles of road have been built, and the quality is said to be good. It has been of great advantage in improving the ways of access to some of the scenic wonders of the state. Men are employed in camps, some of which are 300 miles from

CONVICT LABOR

the penitentiary. There are no stockades, and the largest liberty is allowed the men, with the best of results. Breaches of trust are exceptional.

Montana, also, having need of long stretches of new or improved roads, has been building with prisoners for more than three years. They are housed in tents, in camps of from 50 to 100, with only three unarmed guards—two for day and one for night. Men are trusted more than in most states, yet there are very few escapes. This is due in part to the largely increased commutation of sentence allowed to road-building prisoners. The work done is highly satisfactory, and the method has made it possible to build roads which would not have been constructed with free labor.

Kansas has done some work in a comparatively small way. Plans are under consideration for making it a part of a system under which men can earn the privilege of working on roads, towards the end of their sentences, by good conduct in the prison, and have a share of their earnings for themselves or their families.

Oklahoma has tried the experiment successfully without armed guards. The men lived in tents. The main purpose was to keep them busy, rather than to do scientific road-work.

Iowa has a well-considered statute, under which it is trying to solve the problem systematically. The men live in camps, and do the work under the supervision of the highway commission. It is found that they are reliable, and do not take advantage of the very large liberty which is given them. They are to be allowed a part of their earnings.

Michigan is trying the experiment of using county prisoners in road-building. In most other states only penitentiary prisoners are used. Kalamazoo County has done something with short-term men. It pays them a small sum for good work. One of the results has been a reduction in the number of prisoners, especially of vagrants. The same result was noticed in Onondaga County, N. Y. (It is assumed that this means a reduction of crime, especially of vagrancy. A careful study would probably show that the vagrants merely avoided Onondaga County, and went to others, where they were not required to work so hard. Indeed, the report itself shows that the population of the surrounding counties increased.) The use of county prisoners is beset with difficulties. The terms are short, and there is necessarily a constant shifting of men in the replacing of those whose terms expire. Onondaga County housed the men in portable buildings, used elsewhere to some extent.

Ohio has done something, not in a large way, but quite successfully. The men were employed within a few miles of the penitentiary, and were housed there, being carried back and forth by an auto truck.

New Jersey has a statute authorizing the employment of prisoners in road-building. When Mr. Wilmot's paper was prepared there had not been much use of it, but it is expected that more will be done. The payment of a part of the earnings to the prisoner is a part of the plan proposed.

Undoubtedly there have been other states and other counties not mentioned by Mr. Wilmot, which have used prisoners for this work, but the instances noted by him are sufficient to show that road-building by prisoners is no longer an experiment, and that there will be an increase is not to be doubted.

The last twenty pages of the pamphlet are given to a paper by Dr. E. Stagg Whitin on the prison industries of the State of Wisconsin. The problems of

CONVICT LABOR

that state differ in many ways from those of other states, but their discussion by him brings out many things which are deserving of study elsewhere. Dr. Whitin has the advantage of a thorough knowledge of the prisons and prison systems of the country, and many of the principles he lays down for the solution of the Wisconsin problems are universally applicable. One may not agree with him in all his propositions to recognize that he writes intelligently and earnestly, and to the profit of those who read what he has to say.

A few things deserve careful study in the formulation of plans for future work. Perhaps the most noticeable feature of the new method is the place which commutation of sentence has in securing trustworthiness and good work from the prisoner. It is doubtful if success could have been secured without offering the prisoner a large reduction of his sentence. As a reward for good conduct and for industry, as a stimulus, it is very effective, but is it wise to single out for this favor the men employed in a single industry, while those who work in other occupations do not receive it? On the whole, is it wise to *buy* good conduct and industry at so large a price? The general admission that it is necessary, in order to get good work and to prevent escapes, detracts to some extent, though not materially, from the claims for the "honor system."

The allowance of wages to men employed in this work is also an important feature of the system. Though not yet generally used, there can be no doubt that it is almost essential to the best results. But, as in the matter of commutation of sentence, is it not unfair to allow these men to have a share of their wages, and deny it to those who work equally hard and faithfully, at other things, in the prison? The men who are employed in road-building prefer it, usually, to work inside the walls.

That imprisonment of an offender punishes the wrong person, in many cases, is now generally admitted. A man commits a crime and his wife and children take many of the consequences. Their needs do not depend upon the fact that he is or is not at work on the roads, and the relief of those needs should not depend upon that. The state, for its own purposes, has taken away the bread-winner of the family. If this causes distress, the state should relieve it. It is as much a part of the cost of crime as is the expense of supporting the prisoner, which the state pays whether he works or not. Provision should be made for the relief of distress among the families of all prisoners and the prisoner should be provided with means of re-instatement after his discharge. No partiality should be shown to the road-building prisoner.

It should be noticed that the use of prisoners in road-building is one of the results of the changed conception of the prisoner, and of his treatment. It has been discovered (the discovery is a comparatively recent one), that those who commit crime are men; that the appeal must be to the human side of their natures, rather than to the criminal side; that hope is a stronger motive than fear, and that it is better to direct their attention to the future than to dwell upon the past.

The new conception of the prisoner required a new type of warden. The reports in regard to road-building by prisoners shows that in some cases it has succeeded and in others it has failed. It will probably be found that in most cases the failures have been due to the administration. It frequently happens that the officer in control does not know how to get in touch with the men.

CRIMINOLOGY

The trust system has two sides—not only must he trust the men, but they must trust him, and some officers cannot secure the confidence of their men.

The "honor" system, in some form, is necessary for the accomplishment of the only proper purpose of imprisonment—the reformation and re-adjustment of the offender. His reformation must be tested before he is discharged. If he cannot be trusted with a very large measure of liberty before he is discharged, certainly he is not fit for release. Outside work should be the last stage in imprisonment, the test of fitness for discharge; the preparation for that event. It will be more effective if done without reward.

Finally, if the principles which underlie the use of prisoners for this work are correct, as I believe they are, they should be applied to all prisoners, the application being such as circumstances and the needs of individual prisoners warrant.

It should follow that the public will come to a new view of the criminal, and finding that he is a man, and has proved in prison that he can be trusted, he should be allowed a chance to prove his manhood on the outside.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The "Gun Mob."—A "mob" is not as the name implies, a noisy, violent tempered gathering, but a gang of pickpockets well financed and equipped for the trials of the road. A mob consists of four or five people who travel together to steal. An inquiry into the formation of mobs, their habits, peculiarities, methods, etc., might prove interesting to the reader who loves to delve into the sociological labyrinths of that portion of the human family known as the "underworld." In America mobs are formed in a variety of ways; as children they may be thrown together by accident; perhaps they are neighbors; they may get acquainted with each other in penal institutions, and be released at about the same time. The working and daily routine of the mob continues until broken up by imprisonment of one or more members, by sickness, or because the locality becomes too hot for them on account of the activity of the police. Betrayals of one another to the police are matters of common occurrence; take, for example, a man arrested charged with larceny from the person. The police have no way of finding out what thieves constitute the personnel of the mob, but they find out through other thieves (jealous, malicious, and anxious to secure favors for themselves from the police). Then after a conviction of the first man caught the police round up the "sucker" and complain of and convict each and every member of the mob. This is done by "snitching" (thieves' informing on each other), and it is a common practice among pickpockets. In America a mob will seldom contain more than four or five members; in England from four to twenty. Pocket picking is at a standstill in the northern parts of the United States in the winter time because it is not easy to pick the pockets of people wearing overcoats. This fact accounts for the migrations of thieves southward in the winter time, and the southern climate, being milder, offers a better and more fertile field for depredations. In this respect the "gun" goes southward like the swallow, and the underworld family in its habits resembles those of the feathered tribe. Like the hare, whatever his itinerary, he returns to his home city unless he is prevented and detained by the police authorities. Holding out part of the "swag" is another reason for the splitting up of mobs. Intense rivalry exists between various mobs, and they

CRIMINOLOGY

brag and "knock" one another just the same as the rest of humanity. Before they go out to races and fairs they settle beforehand what each shall take, and the location of their "meets." Time is not considered; three in the morning is as convenient to them as midnight. They are punctual in their "meets" and refuse to work with strangers. A failure to keep a "meet" will result in the discharge of the careless thief, and another man will be selected to fill his place. A strange thief must be vouched for and introduced by some one known to both. Wandering about like Arabs, they change the personnel of the mob to fill up gaps caused by imprisonment, sickness, etc., and upon their return perhaps only one of the original five will appear with the returned mob. On the road they "fill" in with other mobs, discharge one another, get "split out" on account of quarrels, betrayals of each other to the police, etc. Their women, too, gossip, and in this way much valuable information gets to the police. They meet each other in their travels on the "road" and give a quiet parting salute and then pass on.

JOSEPH MATTHEW SULLIVAN, Boston.