

A CRITICAL STUDY
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TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS
at the
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by
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PREFACE

While the following thesis is somewhat reportorial in nature, and more or less of a departure from the conventional style in which theses are usually written, yet the author believes that before any really efficient steps can be taken toward a scientific treatment of young criminals, the public must be first brought to a realization of the conditions now existing in its penal institutions, and to the necessity of taking certain definite measures along the lines of increased equipment for the various trades taught, the removal of certain classes of criminals from the institution, the classification of all others for whom the reformatory is designed, and, lastly, a higher standard of requirements for the official personnel.

While no attempt has been made to comment on the good features of the institution, it must not be supposed that there are none; for there are many. But the purpose of this thesis is to bring to the attention of society an unbiassed and true account of some of the evils found in the institution in the hopes that such may be speedily remedied in order that the reformatory may give a maximum of service to the state in the momentous task of reforming and rehabilitating its youthful criminals.

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What to do with the criminal still remains one of the unsolved problems with which society has to cope. Ever since the dawn of history his anti-social conduct has been a menace to the well-being of that overwhelming majority of mankind which, according to the generally accepted standards of the time, has been looked upon as peaceful and law-abiding. The passing centuries have seen the rise of a civilization that is slowly but surely driving away the clouds of ignorance and superstition. They have witnessed the marvelous achievements of the human race in its onward and upward climb, and yet in spite of this growing enlightenment, the pages of history still continue to record with ever increasing frequency the life and deeds of that element of society that always leaves in its wake a trail of misery and suffering. With this anti-social element society has waged and unrelenting war but only with partial success. It has tried out many and varied methods, human and inhuman, that the fertile brain of man has been able to devise and still there is revealed a steady increase in the number of both old and new forms of criminality; the past biennium alone showing the alarming increase in the United States of approximately twenty percent, and the general transition of crime as an occupation to crime as an industry, highly organized and directed with extraordinary skill and cunning, producing the inevitable result, that our penal institutions are soon to be perilously near their maximum capacity. That one of two things

will then have to be done is self-evident; the public will have to bear either the additional burden of increasing the physical capacity of its reformatories and penitentiaries or else be willing to accept the premature release of a large number of her criminals, either of which alternatives might have been avoided had society been willing to take more rational measures in eliminating those causes which tend to produce criminality; but since such a course of action has not been taken to any appreciable extent the problem of what to do with the criminal still remains as prima facie evidence of the inefficacy of existing preventive and remedial measures.

Without devoting further time or space to an enumeration of the various preventive methods that might have been employed as a means to the reduction of crime, we shall now turn our attention to that proportion of law violators whose crimes are of such a serious nature as to warrant their imprisonment for a more or less extended period of time; and we respectfully ask, now that society has spent millions in apprehending these criminals, millions more in convicting, sentencing, and committing them to the various penal institutions, and still more millions in attempting to maintain these institutions in accordance with modern ideas of criminology and penology, what else can be done? Having done this much, has not society the right, figuratively speaking, to complacently fold its hands, draw a sigh of relief, and assure itself that it has done everything consistent with

the welfare of mankind in general and the reformation and rehabilitation of the criminal in particular. For has it not placed the criminal in a steel cell behind a twenty foot wall of stone and mortar which precludes all possibility of further commission of crime? Has it not taken in the interest of the public additional precaution in placing at all avenues of escape well armed guards? Has it not in an effort to bring about the reformation of the criminal, gone to all four corners of the globe to secure the services of officials with expert training who have the commanding personality, the adaptability, and the broad human sympathies so essential in leading the wayward back into paths of rectitude? Has it not provided the criminal with wholesome labor and recreation? Has it not sought to give him the rudiments of an education? Has it not endeavored to teach him a trade so that he might earn a decent and honorable livelihood on his release? In short, has it not done everything humanly possible to surround him with all those influences that are so necessary to his reformation if he is, as we confidently hope, to be returned to the ranks of society as a respected and law abiding citizen?

Having assumed that society has done and is now doing all that common sense would seem to warrant in the solution of the problem, we shall now go back and attempt to draw some conclusions as to how far our assumptions appear to approach an actual reality. At this point the reader may question our right

to set up an ideal and then criticise society for falling short by advancing the argument that "Rome was not built in a day!" We will have to admit that Rome was not built in a day, but neither was it necessary that it should be. The two situations to our mind do not present an analogy for the reason that the reformation and rehabilitation of the criminal gives rise to a problem that demands immediate solution and is not one that can be spread out over an indefinite period of time. If this assertion is correct then to that extent to which society is negligent in assuming the full burden of its responsibility, to that extent also does it become a legitimate subject for criticism.

As is known to everyone who is at all conversant with the subject, Kansas has two types of institutions for the incarceration of criminals; the reformatory at Hutchinson and the penitentiary at Lansing, the former admitting, except in the case of murder, all first offenders whose ages lie between sixteen and twenty-six, and the latter admitting murderers, habitual criminals, and all other convicts who have reached their twenty-sixth birthday. These two types of institutions should be treated separately for the reason that the various problems arising in the two institutions can not be subjected to the same solution with as satisfactory results. Accordingly, we shall attempt a study of the reformatory only. In making this study we shall view the problem from various angles but more especially from the angle of the criminal himself, and in doing this we

shall endeavor to draw some conclusions as to his probable reaction to the treatment he is receiving, and to suggest wherein society appears to be negligent in correcting existing evils and wherein it could with high probability institute measures calculated to hasten the process of reformation of the several types of criminals concerned. In order to do this, we propose to meet some of the criminals at the moment of their reception, live with them the institution life, note the numerous influences to which they are subjected and then strive to anticipate what will be their probable status upon their release.

In order to gain some first hand impressions of the character of these delinquents who are filling up our reformatories, let us watch for a more or less extended period of time the various types of new arrivals, observe who they are, and why they have been sentenced to serve their "jolt" as the inmates are pleased to call it. In this way we shall be able to form a clearer idea of the problems that face the institution officials and the responsibilities that rest upon society.

Our first arrival is a clean-cut, young high school boy, who has been sent up for some boyish prank that has terminated in perhaps unexpected but nevertheless serious results. Behind him comes his country cousin, awkward, overgrown, and with all the earmarks of rusticity. Convicted on a statutory charge, he has scarcely been put through the routine of admission when the sheriff arrives with two burly negroes, found guilty of burg-

lary. After an intermission of a day or two, the bell rings announcing the arrival of a nervous, little Mexican who is to be taught that knives are not to be used with criminal intent. The next comer is a lithe and well built young man whose straight, black hair and emotionless face plainly indicate the Indian blood in his veins. Like many of his fellows, he has been sentenced either for assault while under the influence of drink or else for forgery. The Indian is followed by a criminal under whose hat lies all the wisdom of the underworld if his sneering and arrogant countenance is any indication. A bowery tough, a pool hall habitue, and a woman chaser, one need not be surprised to find him sentenced from one to five years for white slavery. Were all of his type the observer would soon lose any feelings of compassion he might have for these young men; but they are not, for already here comes one that moves him to something akin to pity: A full grown young man trotting in the footsteps of the sheriff like a child would those of his father, but a glance at his hanging lip and vacant stare plainly tell the reason. Again it is one to five years for carrying out some scheme that, perhaps, some other planned. But our feelings soon turn to disgust when we witness the arrival of an auto thief to serve from five to fifteen years; not so much on account of the nature of his crime but because of his age: Bald headed except for a fringe of hair rapidly turning gray, deep furrows across his forehead, crows feet around his eyes, and every visible in-

dication that he is old enough to be far above the maximum age limit and yet his commitment papers say he is only twenty-five. How hard the world must have used him! And so they come, from every state in the union, from foreign lands, all nationalities, black and white, rich and poor, young and middle-aged, pygmy and giant, illiterate and educated, church member and non-church member, Catholic and Protestant, guilty of almost every type of criminality, murder alone excepted; a never ending stream of fallen humanity to pass through a massive iron door into that miraculous institution which is supposed to accomplish for them within its walls that which society on the outside has signally failed to do, namely, their reformation.

Let us enter this remarkable institution and observe just what is being done to the heterogeneous mass of law violators. As we pass through the iron gate, we enter a large guard room from which radiate the cell houses, dining room, kitchen, and laundry. Here it is that we first meet that more or less nauseating odor called the institution smell, an odor that is a combination of odors coming from the laundry, the kitchen, the shower bath, the cell toilets, the sweaty clothes, and the fetid exhalations of several hundred men; here it is that the new arrivals mill around in little knotty groups exchanging experiences while awaiting assignment to the prison routine; here it is that the prison population assembles three times a day to line up in long double rows to march two by two to the dining halls or else to pass out

with the detail officer to the various places for the days employment; and here it is on inclement Sundays that most of them while away their time, some scuffling, others dancing to the tune of a fiddle or other instrument, others trying to out do one another in their endeavors to tell the smuttiest story, while the rest of them with bowed heads, hands in their pockets wander aimlessly around always seeming to be going some place but never getting there.

Every morning at seven o'clock the institution whistle blows, the cells are unlocked and all inmates gather out in the guard room, line up in double columns, and to the beat of a triangle, march to the dining halls; a second beat seats them, and a third is the signal to eat. The food consisting of bread, rice, molasses, and coffee without cream or sugar is served to them by other inmates who comprise the dining room detail. The whole scene is characteristic of the cook shack and threshing crew: Long wooden tables stained with splotches of cranberry juice and hacked here and there with the steel knives and forks, tin plates and drinking cups that have long since lost their sheen, and more characteristic still the men themselves as they engage in what, for want of a better word, can best be described as a shoveling contest. Whatever of refinement or table etiquette they have once observed, it is now thrown into the discard; negro, Indian, Mexican, and whiteman, all with heads bowed and shoulders high, dive into their plates with a vigor that

is familiar to everyone who has ever done farm chores. In this position most of them remain until the contest is over; occasionally they straighten up to facilitate the act of swallowing but it is but momentary and lends but little interruption to the unity of purpose. Above the hum of voices, and the scraping of spoons, the coffee cantata can be distinctly heard, the noise dying away at the end of five or six minutes into sighs, hiccoughs, belchings, sucking of teeth, and smacking of lips, that announce to the guard that the meal has been accomplished. Three beats of the triangle and the rows of men on each side of the tables converge into two lines to march back to the central court, leaving undisturbed the myriads of flies that drag themselves over the sticky plates and swarm around the syrup pitchers. Breakfast over, the men, checked out in groups of various sizes, each one in charge of an officer, depart for the mornings employment; some to work in the school, the print shop, the tailor shop, the shoe shop, the tin shop, the machine shop, the barber shop, the manual training shop, the laundry, and the book bindery, while others work out on the farm or perform the many and varied duties incidental to the running of a large institution of this kind. Back they come at noon to receive their fill of beef stew and potatoes or beans, out again for the work of the afternoon, back again in the evening for bread and some kind of fruit, and finally to their cells, thereto be counted, and with the exception of the trustees to be locked up to their

own thoughts and to that sweet repose that Shakespeare tells us "knits up the raveled sleeve of care!" Thus the week passes, its routine monotony being broken now and then by entertainments supplied either by outside or institution talent while on Sunday mornings all gather in the auditorium for Sunday school and to sing such songs as "Blest be the tie that binds," "Onward Christian soldiers," and many other old time hymns that have been donated to the institution by outside organizations. And so the days, the weeks, and the years drag slowly by until that eventful day when each in his own turn passes out into the world to begin life again where he left it.

Such in a graphic way is a general description of what one institution is doing to make men out of what society is pleased to call its incorrigibles.

If one has been a close observer and has spent a considerable length of time in an institution of this kind, many things will have passed before his eyes that will have caused him no small amount of wonderment. He will ask himself, why is this being done, and why is that not being done? These and a thousand and one others will arise in his mind each demanding an answer; but none can be given until all are brought down to the one question, "What is the function of the reformatory? If it is merely a place where law violators can be forced to do time under disagreeable surroundings and conditions, then one need go no farther to seek an answer to his queries, but on the

other hand if the purpose of the institution is to pick young men up out of the muck of moral degradation, put them on a higher moral and intellectual plane, and eventually return them to the ranks of society fired with an ambition to perform a worthy part in the social machinery, then his question will have to be left until he has thoroughly analyzed the cause and effect of the condition he has witnessed. And this we shall attempt to do, relying in part on whatever authority seems to be available and in part on what common sense would seem to dictate.

As we familiarize ourselves with the various types of prisoners in an institution of this kind, we become more and more convinced that whatever methods tending toward the reformation of the inmates have been adopted, the methods are going to be retarded and perhaps in some cases rendered practically useless by the presence of three classes of criminals who are within the prison walls either through a direct violation of the law or else in accordance with a law of which common sense would seem to demand a revision. The classes to which we refer are those who are over twenty-six, those who are addicted to revolting sex practices, and lastly those who are feeble minded.

As we have already stated only first offenders between the ages of sixteen and twenty-six are to be admitted to the reformatory, and according to their commitment papers only such persons are admitted; but what proof have we that they are legally entitled to such commitment? If the criminal has com-

mitted his crime in his home community, and of course a very large majority have, ample proof is usually available as to his age; but on the other hand if he is a stranger in the community in so far as a knowledge of his early life is concerned then what evidence do we have? The criminal may be going under an alias and all efforts to investigate his past life be rendered futile. Anyone of us given our choice of going either to a reformatory or a penitentiary would choose the former for several reasons. The criminal, under the advise of the very ones who are supposed to uphold the law, chooses the lesser of the two evils and gives his age as being within the prescribed limits. The judge may protest but to what avail? The convicted man will swear in the name of all that is high and holy that he is only twenty-four or twenty-five, and his lawyer with perhaps a tear dimmed eye, will explain the reason for the apparent age of his client as being due to a severe fever if he is bald headed, or to a nervous shock if his hair is turning gray; and what can the court do under such circumstances? Nothing, and nothing, will he ever be able to do until the law throws the burden of a reasonable proof upon the defendant. Were such a law on our statute books, every criminal who appeared to be over the age limit and who could furnish no proof as to his age, could then be sent to the institution that his apparent age called for. This would forestall all attempts to lie about his age in order to get into an institution where he could enjoy privileges to which he

is not legally entitled. The present law relative to the ages at which criminals shall be admitted to the reformatory is designed for a specific purpose; that of taking young men at an age in life when there is the greatest hopes of applying remedial and corrective measure with the most satisfactory results. While the percentage of men who get into the institution by a direct evasion of the law is undoubtedly small, yet each one who does not only tends to increase the range of problems the reformatory is forced to meet but at the same time to decrease proportionately its capacity to meet such problems. As the reformatory becomes more and more efficient in meeting the needs of its young men the percentage of older men desiring to gain admittance can confidently be expected to show a marked increase. And the reason is not hard to find; The prospect of spending one to five or five to fifteen years in the penitentiary coal mine or twine plant under rigid discipline is not nearly so attractive as that of puttering around in a reformatory machine shop, print shop, or tailorshop with no minimum limit of work to be done each day. There may be, and probably are, cases of older criminals that could be treated more satisfactorily in the reformatory under present conditions than in the penitentiary, but such cases should first be subjected to a thorough investigation before they are admitted for the reason that youthful criminals have in recent years come to be regarded as ones who should receive entirely separate treatment.

from that of older criminals. This is in recognition of the fact that in its causes, the problems to which it gives rise and the methods by which it may best be treated, youthful criminality differs from the law breaking of the older type of criminal. There is not the same presumption of a wilful violation of the law in the case of the young criminal as in the case of an adult who should have arrived at years of discretion and responsible judgement, the offenses of the younger type of criminals, in fact, have their origin in a very large measure in thoughtlessness, the exuberance of the youthful temperament, or a lack of moral training, and do not contain the same implication of moral obliquity or intentional disregard of the law as those committed by the older type of criminals. If there were no difference between the young and the old in this respect, there would be less reason for maintaining two institutions. But since there is a difference, it makes desirable a distinct difference in the manner of imposing correction for the two classes of criminals. In punishing crime in general one of the predominant ideas is that society must be protected from those who wilfully disregard its laws, this protection being now obtained to a considerable extent by subjecting the offender to confinement within the walls of a prison. It is only in a comparatively few cases that young offenders become so grave a menace to society as to make segregation in prisons the only satisfactory way of dealing with them, and even when the main ob-

ject in view is punishment, it is nevertheless generally recognized that the violations of law committed by young offenders should be dealt with more leniently than the corresponding offenses committed by older men. In most, if not all, cases of youthful delinquency, the primary consideration is, or should be, the education or reformation of the offender, and while this is also an important consideration in dealing with older criminals, the problem is very different when the criminal is still in the formative period of life from what it is when his habits and ways of thinking have become more or less fixed. On this very account, moreover, the tendency at the present time is entirely to separate young from old offenders and to provide distinct instruction for the two classes in cases where it seems necessary to impose institutional restraint, in order that this task of education and reform may not be rendered more difficult by bringing the young criminal into association with depraved and vicious law breakers of more advanced years.

That the spirit of the law is not being adhered to in the Hutchinson reformatory is evident even to the occasional visitor, and is not only deplored by the prison officials, but is bitterly resented by large numbers of the better class inmates who, while at meals, at work, or at leisure, are constantly thrown into association with these older criminals, many of whom, writes former Supt. J. N. Herr in his twelfth biennial report, are vicious, have formerly served terms in other reformatories, and are frequently given the opportunity to be in the company of these older criminals who are not to be

formatories and penitentiaries, and are frequently above the age limit. It is hardly conceivable that these older men because of their wide experience and by their daily contact with the young men will have anything to contribute toward the moral uplift of the prison population, if, indeed, they do not by their sneers and jeers become a serious menace to any reformatory measures the officials may adopt.

The second class of inmates that there is serious objection to in an institution of this kind is the sex perverts, men who practice sodomy and other unnatural sex practices and are usually referred to as "Punks!" Many of these come to the reformatory suffering either from various stages of syphilis or else gonorrhea in its most virulent states, tend to spread the disease to every quarter of the institution, and strive even to the point of physical violence to induce others to become partners in their immoral and unnatural sex habits. That such degenerates are successful in their attempts is readily admitted by the prison guards who, in spite of the precautions taken, frequently find these degenerates in some room or hiding place with a new recruit. Not only that, but many young men, some of them barely sixteen, have come to the institution absolutely free from venereal disease and yet inside of a few months, it has been necessary to treat them for syphilis or gonorrhea. Just why the courts of our state should convict men of the charge of sodomy or its attempt and then commit them to a gen-

eral reformatory is hard to imagine. If they are a menace to society on the outside, they are infinitely more so to the inmates on the inside. Cut off from the vice ring and the channels of prostitution to which they have formerly had recourse, and lacking in both the will power and the desire to discontinue their disgusting practices, they proceed with all the cunning and skill at their command to gratify their desires at the expense of their fellow convicts, and may it be said to the shame of the state, they succeed to a surprising degree. To them their unnatural cravings are a mental obsession; and until they can be cured of their sexual vice there can be but little hopes of reformation along other lines. Complete segregation would seem to be the only solution for them and that in another and separate institution, for they cannot be locked up to any advantage, and neither can they be kept at all times under the watchful eye of the guard if they are permitted to work and associate with their fellow prisoners. Aside from any direct personal influence these degenerates may have on the prison population in general, their mere presence can hardly be calculated to elevate the moral tone of the institution. And nowhere within the prison walls is their demoralizing influence more in evidence than it is within the mess halls. The odor arising from these victims of the social disease, especially when they are warm or perspiring, is extremely offensive. True, they are seated at separate tables, but it will take a wide stretch of the

imagination to conceive of twenty-five or thirty men of this type in each of the two mess halls as contributing anything of good to the environment or anything of purity to the atmosphere. Depraved, debased, little above the animal level in this respect, they have been caught on rare occasions making such use of their eating utensils as to be unprintable. The plates, knives, forks, spoons, and drinking cups of this class of inmates are kept separate from those used by other inmates, at least that is the intention and the supposition of the prison management, but when it comes to absolute assurance, there is none and cannot be until different brands of tableware are used or the guards undertake to do the work themselves which can hardly be expected of them. The possibility of an exchange of plates or other utensils would not be likely to happen were it not for the deliberate intention of a certain element of the inmates, and the new arrival is usually the victim. A bribe of a little tobacco is all that is required to have the desired plate, spoon, fork, or drinking cup placed before the new man. Sometime during the meal the new arrival is casually informed that his plate or drinking cup has not been thoroughly washed; there is a dent in the plate or a rust spot on the cup, and beyond a doubt it is the same identical plate or cup that a "Punk" was observed to have been using only the previous meal. Whether such is really the case or not, the effect on the new inmate is likely to furnish the desired amusement to those in on the deal. If the vic-

tim does not lose his meal, it is extremely likely that he does his appetite, and the experience is not calculated to enhance any enjoyment he might derive from his meals for many days to come. Of course he could register a complaint to the authorities but that would start an investigation and investigations usually end in someone losing good time as well as getting locked up in the dark cell on bread and water for several days; the responsibility for which would be laid to him and he has been apprised on the first or second day of his arrival that a snitch is a traitor, and that if he ever becomes one, he will 'get his' sooner or later. "Take your medicine and keep your mouth shut" is a pretty good slogan for any inmate who does not want to find himself a victim of a frame-up.

These are but a few of the reasons why these sex perverts should be kept out of the reformatory, but if society is not willing to go to the expense of providing a separate institution for their care and treatment, it ought at least to insist on their segregation during meal hours and other leisure periods. Under present conditions it seems little short of criminal to throw young men who offer every encouragement for a complete reformation into daily association and contact with men who have sunk as low as it is possible for men to sink and still be called human.

The third class of criminals for whom there appears to be no just grounds for committing them to a reformatory is the

feeble-minded. Of course, all criminals are for the most part, feeble-minded and morally weak; but the type we have reference to is not the borderline cases but those whose mental feebleness is so marked as to produce the impression of partial imbecility. This weakness as F. H. Wines tells us in his volume on "Punishment and Reformation" shows itself in inattention, lack of imagination or power of representation, defective memory, lack of foresight, and a general aversion to mental exercise. They are like the insane in respect of their immense egoism; this lies at the root of their insensibility to the suffering which they inflict, and it is one reason of their indifference to advice and reproof! While approximately twenty percent of the inmates are regarded as being below normal in mentality, yet their subnormality is more one of kind than degree. A large percent of them are amenable to treatment while others are not. Just where the line should be drawn is a problem for a mental expert to decide, and since the institution has none such, it has to receive all who come and do the best it can with them. Were a competent psychologist and psychiatrist employed to examine thoroughly and to pass upon all men entering the institution, and were his recommendations acted upon, the reformatory could not only be relieved of some of its deadwood, but likewise those found seriously defective could be transferred to institutions specifically designed for their care. At the present time, the institution has some who are so low in men-

tality as to be incapable of receiving instruction and place demands upon the officials that might well be spent on more promising material. If the institution is to be a reformatory in the real sense of the word, it can ill afford to be burdened with a class of inmates that cannot be adapted to the prison treatment. The Kansas penitentiary has recognized this fact and has provided a separate ward for their care. The mentally defective criminals at the reformatory are scarcely ever of the dangerous type and could be treated much more satisfactorily at either the Winfield or Topeka institutions even though it be advisable to isolate them in a separate ward.

Were these three classes of criminals provided for at other and more suitable institutions, the reformatory could then devote its entire time and energies to those young men whose age, morality, and mentality were of such a nature as to offer a fair degree of encouragement for their ultimate reformation.

So far we have confined our studies to a small element of the prison population. Let us now turn our attention to the four hundred or more other inmates who have been sent to this institution, and seek to inquire upon what grounds we can base our hopes for their reform. Let us bear in mind that these young men are first offenders guilty of crimes generally less serious in nature than those committed by the penitentiary convicts. For this reason we shall expect to find the reformatory inmate enjoying certain advantages that might not be accorded

to the hardened criminals of the penitentiary. A few of the advantages which are so strikingly in evidence, it might be well to mention at this point:

Advantage No.1. The cell houses at the penitentiary with one exception run north and south, thus making them accessible to sun light at some time of the day; at the reformatory they run east and west making it impossible for the sun light to ever enter the cells on the north side.

Advantage No.2. The mess hall at the penitentiary is light and cheery; at the reformatory they are dark and dingy.

Advantage No.3. At the penitentiary the convict eats off clean, white chinaware; at the reformatory the criminal has a dirty looking tin plate and a more or less battered tin cup placed before him.

Advantage No.4. At the penitentiary, the horse barn, corral, and manure piles are outside the prison walls; at the reformatory, they are within the prison walls and conveniently located with respect to the kitchen and mess halls.

Advantage No.5 At the penitentiary, the axe murderer can walk up to the commissary department, order a box of matches, a plug of Climax, a sack of smoking tobacco, and then return to his cell and smoke his head off if he so desires; at the reformatory, the young man who has forged a check for perhaps a dollar, must take a pinch of smuggled tobacco, which he has hidden in a rubber glove and stuffed down the toilet or some other un-

likely place, roll it in a piece of newspaper, light it with a tinder box, stand on his cot and blow the smoke up the air shaft while enjoying the prospects of fifteen days additional time with three days in the dark cell on bread and water if he gets caught, and he sometimes does.

These are but a few of the advantages that the reformatory offers but they are of sufficient importance as to puzzle the uninitiated as to why it is that so many of these young men persist in picking quarrels and in attempting to hack one another up with shoe knives when they know beforehand that they stand an excellent chance of being transferred to the penitentiary. On a hasty conclusion, one might attribute this unseemly conduct to their mental abnormality; but the guards, who have seen hundreds of them come and go, attribute it to downright meanness. However, closer inspection of conditions at this institution might reveal some other and more fundamental reasons for this spirit of unrest and discontent; reasons, that if not removed, will be extremely likely to sour the inmates disposition and make him antagonistic toward any influences that under a more agreeable environment might have a strong appeal. The old saying, that one man can lead a horse to water but ten men can not make him drink, is just as applicable on the inside of a prison as on the outside. The morose and sullen inmate can be forced to submit to whatever conditions the institution offers, but he can not be forced to become a better man, and if he is

not a better man at heart when he leaves the institution than he was when he came then the reformatory has done little for him beyond that of depriving him of his liberty. The young man who is discouraged and in low spirits because of conditions that he is powerless to remove can hardly be expected to become enthusiastic over acquiring the rudiments of an education or over learning a trade. It is with his present conditions that he is concerned and not with future prospects. For this reason, it is all the more important that everything should be done to put him in a frame of mind in which he can be reached and appealed to; and the first step in this direction would seem to be to make conditions within the institution as pleasant and home-like as possible.

The fact that the cells get practically no sunlight makes them dark, damp, and gloomy. Of course, they are equipped with artificial lights but no electric light bulb has ever been considered as a very efficacious germ killing agency. When the cell house floors are mopped out the atmosphere becomes laden with moisture that permeates the entire cell block, and the bed clothing, which is usually rolled up when not in use, becomes more or less damp and sour smelling, and conducive to anything but restful slumber. The average American citizen would howl for a month if he had to put up with such conditions even for a single night yet the inmate has to submit to them for at least a year and is expected to come out of the institution with a better developed

sense of what constitutes justice toward his fellowmen than he had when he was committed.

Some of the draw backs of the cell houses can not be changed without remodeling the institution, but they can be improved; A better system of ventilation for the kitchen would prevent its odors from permeating the cell blocks and frequent and thorough airing of the bed clothing would sweeten them up to such an extent that the inmate could retire for the night without the impression that his cot was but a bed of boiled cabbage and stewed onions.

The mess halls are by far the dreariest and gloomiest of all rooms in the prison: not a single thing that is attractive, but what a transformation could be made and at but little cost to the state! Relatives of the inmates if asked would gladly contribute some of the things necessary. A coat of light paint would brighten the rooms fifty percent, a few pictures to break the monotony of bare walls, durable scrim curtains to hide the heavy iron barred windows, and here and there a few ferns or house plants---anything that would help the inmate to forget for a few minutes each day that he is a criminal. And along with this change a decent set of tables covered with table cloths and real dishes should be substituted for the disreputable junk now in use. The reformatory can not make men out of hogs, but it can permit such conditions to exist as to make the reverse of the process easily possible. Watch some of these inmates as they

slyly dip into each others plates or tear off great hunks of "camel dough" and shove it into their mouths with their fingers, and then realize that some day these men are going to carry out into homes of their own just such habits and manners as they have acquired in this institution. Beyond a doubt, many of these inmates were men of refinement, but when one sees his choicest piece of food stabbed out of his own plate and disappear into the mouth of his neighbor, be his neighbor negro, indian, Mexican, or whiteman, he is almost certain to sink to the level of the coarsest in his desire to retaliate. A decent place in which to eat would be a big inducement for most of them to eat with commondecency. Table manners should be taught to these men who do not have any, but it cannot be done to over two hundred men by one guard sitting in a chair at the door. If conditions are such that no officer will preside at the table with the inmates then conditions should be improved. If the officers are to teach these men how to live then their presence is just as necessary at the table as it is in the school or the shop. Under existing conditions where men of all races and classes are mixed indiscriminately, it is difficult to see just how far along the road to reformation any of them have traveled when one inmate tells his neighbor at the table to keep his "d--n" elbows out of his plate. If any department in the institution ever needed a radical change, the mess halls are the ones. The suggested changes might not appeal so strongly to that element of

inmates who have never enjoyed the pleasures of a real home, but to a vast majority the sight of a wholesome and attractive dining hall would not only be as an oasis in a dessert of dreariness but would tend to bring back memories of days when each one could sit down at the old home table, not as a shunned and despised criminal, but as a beloved member of a family group. Young men as a rule do not live in the past, they face the future with its golden opportunities, but when by some misstep they find themselves behind prison walls then their thoughts, like those of the old man awaiting his final summons, turn back to childhood days and childhood scenes and all the little incidents and experiences that have marked the passing years from the dawn of self consciousness to that point where they left the beaten path. To many of them, thoughts of what they might have been and what they now are come as a bitter pill but it is a necessary step in their reformation and fortunate is that institution that can surround them by those influences and conditions that will be a constant reminder of all that has been for the best in their past life. The desire to begin life over again and "go it straight" is the initial step in the convicts reformation and should be encouraged; but no institution can offer its inmates hope and encouragement and at the same time compel them to submit to conditions that are not only disagreeable but degrading.

And right along with the disagreeable surroundings comes

the ban on the use of tobacco. According to the officers of this institution fully fifty percent of the troubles of discipline arise from this cause. Approximately seventy-five percent of the inmates are addicted to its use, and to one who has acquired the habit it takes no great amount of reasoning to figure out the effect that this restriction will have upon the frame of mind of all those inmates who use tobacco in one form or another. If the prohibition on the use of the weed were made absolutely effective, the distracting craving for it would pass away in a few months even to those who had used it for a number of years, but with a barrage of tobacco coming over the walls almost every night and with relatives and friends constantly smuggling it into the institution there is no possibility of any user ever becoming freed from the habit and as a result every inmate who smokes or chews will lie, steal, and resort to every sneaking method he can devise in order to escape punishment. Just what can ever be gained by attempting to prohibit the use of tobacco to those who have already formed the habit and will undoubtedly go back to its use as soon as they are released is seriously to be questioned. It is common knowledge to all inmates that tobacco is permitted to young men of their age at the penitentiary, and it would seem to be a poor administrative policy to attempt to impose such a disagreeable restriction on the reformatory inmates as to lead many of them to commit crimes against the person of other inmates in order that the authorities

at the reformatory will be compelled to transfer them to the penitentiary. It might be advisable to impose penalties as a means of preventing inmates from acquiring the habit in the institution, but when such penalties are imposed on those already addicted the institution becomes a bed of discontent and the officer who has to pussy foot around in order to catch violators not only brands himself in so far as the inmates are concerned as a detested spy, but by his action widens the gap between himself and the inmates. The guard with tobacco on his own chin putting a prisoner in the dark cell on bread and water for several days is but a return to Medievalism when the master punished his slave just because he had the power to do so. The tobacco reformer who can see any good arising from such a situation is possessed of an optimism that surpasseth all understanding in this respect.

Out of one hundred and eighty-three inmates in the Hutchinson reformatory who were interviewed, one hundred and forty-seven said they used tobacco in one form or another previous to coming to the institution, and except in three cases their statements corresponded to those each one had signed in his interview with the superintendent of the prison schools. Of the one hundred and forty-seven, ninety-one smoked, twenty-nine chewed, and twenty-seven both smoked and chewed, but before they had been in the reformatory thirty days all but eleven of the smokers said they had switched to the chewing habit for the reason

that they could chew in their cells at night with practically no danger of detection. The dread, however, of being caught with tobacco on their persons or in their cells was sufficient to cause most of them to live in constant fear of detection. Of course the statements of inmates are always open to question, but one thing in this connection is fairly certain; enough tobacco is finding its way into the institution through one channel or another as to make it extremely unlikely that any user will ever become freed from the habit unless he voluntarily makes up his mind to quit; and the only conclusion that can be arrived at under the present ineffectual prohibition on tobacco is, that the institution is striving to accomplish a task that it cannot do, smokers are being made chewers, inmates are being made confirmed sneaks and liars in order to escape punishment, the gap between officers and inmates is widened, and apparently nothing along the line of reformation is being gained.

The difference between the attitude of the young men at the reformatory and those at the penitentiary is plainly noticeable even to the casual visitor. While the greater attitude of contentment at the penitentiary may be attributable to a certain extent to the more advanced years of the penitentiary convict, yet the fact must not be overlooked, that no matter what the age of the reformatory inmate it is just as necessary that he be made as contented as possible during his term of imprisonment. Little hope for the inmate can be entertained along

the lines of reformation when he wastes his breath in fuming and cursing the conditions under which he has to live. Let the institution remove the conditions that cause so much resentment, let it first prove to the inmate that its whole object is not to make him as miserable and wretched as it possibly can but that its purpose is to give him an opportunity to develop his mental and physical powers to such a degree as better to fit him by reason of this added training and education for a normal life beyond the prison walls. When the institution can show to the inmate that this is its sole purpose then it has removed one of its most serious stumbling blocks to reformation, and is ready for the purpose for which it was largely designed: namely, the education and training of its criminals.

In the education and technical training of its inmates, we find the reformatory laboring under other and perhaps equally serious handicaps. Aside from the brief statement of the judge or of the prosecuting attorney and a similar one from the inmate himself, the institution officials have practically no information about the heredity, environment and early training of the criminal that will aid them in prescribing an intelligent course of treatment. The average length of time served in the institution is only a little over a year which is too short a period to accomplish very much, the equipment of the various shops are in most cases not only inadequate but too limited in range to meet the demands of the various types of prisoners re-

ceived, and lastly low salaries and the political spoils system contribute little toward the selection and permanent retention of men best qualified to be on the official force.

In January, 1922, there were in the reformatory approximately four hundred and sixty inmates. This means that in a little over a years time the institution officials will have between three and four hundred problems to solve, no two of which are identically alike, and it is a stupendous task to take several hundred convicts and in so short a period turn them back into the ranks of society as law abiding citizens. For its own future welfare if for no other reason society ought to provide these officials with every aid within its power to give, but as a matter of fact it contributes practically nothing beyond the payment of taxes for the support of the institution. The sheriff brings the criminal to the institution, turns him over to the superintendent with the remark, "Here he is, see what you can do with him!" Beyond the fact that the criminal has been convicted on a certain charge and a few rambling remarks about the convicts life that are attached to the commitment papers, the superintendent has no information that would be of help to him in prescribing just what is best for each new arrival; and as a result a whole year may be wasted in experimentation and observation before the real needs of the inmates are discovered and then it may be too late. As these men come to the institution total strangers, it is extremely unlikely that the prison of-

officials will ever be able to give an immediate and intelligent analysis of the character of the criminals on their arrival. Along with the criminals commitment papers, there should be placed in the hands of the superintendent in so far as is possible a complete history of his past life including the character of his parents, the nature of his home life, the character of his associates, a transcript of his school grades, written statements from neighbors and employers, if any, and a complete transcript of the court records of his trial and conviction. In order to get this much desired information, each county should have a specially trained case worker to make investigations and to procure every item of information available, and with this in his possession the superintendent could avoid some of the errors he is almost certain to make. Two illustrations will serve to make clear the point which we wish to make:

A country boy, seventeen years of age, and a graduate of the common schools is sent to the reformatory for one year for destruction of property. The information that the superintendent has relative to his past life and the causes that led up to the crime are practically nil. What can be done with him that will do him any good? Under the present limitations, the prison school has nothing to offer him. From the economic standpoint he will be of the greatest service to the state out on the prison farm. Never having had any opportunity to investigate the possibilities of other lines of work, and realizing that it will

give him a chance to work out in the open at labor with which he is familiar, there is a ten to one chance that the criminal would ask to be assigned to the farm detail. Had the superintendent been apprised of the fact that this particular criminal detested farm work, had rebelled against parental authority because of the monotony of farm life and its wearisome routine, then an attempt could have been made to have interested him in some other department at the very beginning of his sentence. As it is some of these farm boys are spending their time doing chore work and learning practically nothing that will ever help them when they leave the institution. If the reformatory is to teach these boys anything that they can turn to practical use, it is extremely urgent that the superintendent have as much advance information as possible in order that he may know beforehand just what trade or profession is to be avoided. Of course it cannot be hoped that in all cases this much desired information can be obtainable but wherever statements can be gotten from parents, friends, and employers of the criminal, it is almost certain that information relative to his character, ability and aptitudes will be brought out that might be of inestimable value in bringing about a better understanding on the part of the prison officials as to just what prison training will be likely to produce the most satisfactory results in each individual case. If much of this information is not furnished in advance, it can be determined only by the process of trial and

error and under such a procedure time is lost to both the officials and the criminal himself.

Another example is that of an eighteen year old boy of practically no education who by reason of circumstances at home has been forced to spend the last eight years of his life as a mechanic's helper in a garage. Naturally, this young man would be likely to show an inclination to go into the prison garage, and other things being favorable he would probably be assigned to that detail. Had the superintendent known that this boys environment had been anything but desirable, he could have made an attempt to get the young criminal interested in some other line of work. As it is the convict will be almost compelled to go back to his old environment and associates just as soon as he is released. Time of course will tell but the prison officials need not be surprised if they hear of his landing in the penitentiary for the same kind of an offense. Clearly in this case the reformatory ought to give him an education that would tend to interest him in work outside of the circle of his former associates, but instead of doing this they are at present training him to become a more efficient tool than ever when he returns to his auto-thieving associates. If it is his associates that are responsible for the criminals downfall, the prison officials should be apprised of the fact; they cannot get it by intuition and the criminal himself is not likely to advance the information.

Many other examples could perhaps be found of misapplied effort on the part of the officials for which no other reason can be given than that of an inadequate knowledge of the criminal and his past life. The information they need can best be gathered by some one in the criminals home county. With the authority of the law behind him, the special case worker could make investigations and secure data relative to the criminal's heredity, environment and training that would be more likely to be reliable than that which could be gathered by any other individual. As a temporary measure, or until a trained case worker were employed to secure data, it could be made the business of the county attorney to procure this much desired information. Even though this would add further duties to the work of the county's legal advisor, we believe that no reasonable argument can be advanced for neglecting to furnish the prison authorities with any information that would be of assistance to them in making a careful diagnosis of the criminal and his needs. This information is not only needed at the beginning of the criminals term of sentence but also at the time when he goes out on parole. Without this knowledge neither the superintendent of the parole board can act with the necessary caution. Since the nature of the community and the character of the person to whom the prisoner is to be paroled have much to do with the probabilities of his making good every item of information having a bearing on these two factors should be available in

order that any influences that might tend to make the criminal a recidivist could be guarded against.

About the second day after their arrival all inmates are required to go before the superintendent of the prison school and his assistants for the purpose of giving personal data and of taking an examination to determine their scholastic qualifications. These examinations are held in a large room which contains the office of the school superintendent, the prison library, and the post office. On the morning of December 29th. 1921 there were nine new arrivals to be quizzed. Inmates had made all preparations necessary for the examination: the long table had been cleared of all unnecessary books and magazines; pens, ink, and required blanks were all in place, swivel chairs on one side of the table for the examiners and a backless one on the other side for the criminal were in readiness when at nine thirteen o'clock the three who were to conduct the examination entered the room and took their seats with all the dignity of members of the supreme court bench. But something evidently was wrong; the three "professors" appeared worried and irritated. One of their number beckoned to an inmate who was examining a package of parcel post, and in a choky voice mumbled something that had an electrical effect: in an instant the inmate cleared the railed enclosure and was gone like a flash; his rapidly retreating footsteps down the long corridor would have convinced anyone that he was out to break a record. How he got down the stairs can

only be imagined, but his arrival at the bottom was accompanied with such noise as to bring out a string of oaths from a guard in some other part of the building. In less than a minute his heavy footsteps and deep breathing announced that he would soon return. As the breathless inmate entered the room another inmate relieved him of part of his burden, and the two together deposited at the right of the three swivel chairs with all possible haste, three large, shiny, brass receptacles into each of which was discharged approximately a quart of tobacco juice with great sighs of relief.

Everything now being in readiness, an inmate was ordered to go down stairs and tell another inmate who had the key to the guard room to inform the officer of the cell house that the "professors" were now ready to begin the examination, and to send up the nine new arrivals at once. During the interval, the "professors" argued upon the relative merits of Star, Horse-shoe, and Piper Heidseick, and in order to prove their contentions, each one exchanged chews as the officer arrived with the nine criminals and seated them around another table in the center of the room. As the nine inmates came into the room in single file, they presented such a ludicrous appearance that the "professors" were barely able to suppress their amusement and to maintain the required air of solemnity.

One strapping big six-footer who looked athletic enough to have whipped the whole gang single handed was wearing a pair

of prison made overalls that evidently had not been made to his measure, for the trousers barely reached below his knees, lacked four inches, in front, of meeting at the belt, and having had nothing to use as an extension to his suspenders, he had left them dangling behind him. The fact that they were skin tight was all that prevented him from losing them altogether. Behind him in the line was a young stripling of perhaps sixteen or seventeen who to all appearances was struggling with a pair of overalls that the first named individual ought to have been wearing. The trousers were a foot too long, and the waist had such an enormous girth and height for one of his build that had it not been for his long, scrawny neck, he might have had some difficulty in seeing over the waist band. Across the back of his trousers some wag had written in chalk the word, "Eureka" which in plain English means "I have found it!" He evidently had, and from all appearances eight more of his fellows had been equally successful.

After the "professors" had regained their composure one of them asked the officer in charge if he could not find more suitable clothing for the men; that visitors might be coming through the institution at any time and such outlandishly ill-fitting garments might create unfavorable comment. To which the officer replied:

"Sure I can professor; all they need is a redistribution, but you sent down in such a devil of a hurry that I had to send

them up either this way or a la natural."

This remark created an outburst of amusement from the nine inmates that brought forth a stern reproof from the presiding chair, and all subsided into a death like silence that was broken only by the ticking of the clock on the prison wall. The inmate with the lowest number was then called to take his place before the examiners and the examination began. The questions and answers given in the examination of this particular inmate were taken down verbatim, and extracts are here given for the purpose of throwing light on the initial step in the process of reformation in this reformatory.

The examination started out with the following harangue which sounds very much like a paraphrase on a lodge ritual:

"Young man, for the first time in your life, perhaps, -- you will note I say perhaps, -- this is the first time you have ever been in an institution of this kind; let it be your last. You will be asked and required to conform to certain rules and regulations, printed copies of which will be supplied you. Study them diligently, and govern yourself accordingly" Having delivered himself of this admonition, the "professor" creaked around in his chair and took a shot at the bright and shiny brass receptacle, and a noise similar to that of a frog diving into a pool gave ample evidence of the skill of his marksmanship.

"What's your name?" one "professor" asked while the others filled in the blank forms.

"Henry Blank"

"Is that the name your father gave you?"

"Yes Sir"

"Ever have an alias?"

"I don't know what that is"

"It's a name that crooks give themselves"

"No Sir, I aint had no other name"

"You are sure of that are you?"

"Yes Sir"

"Got any education?"

"Not much"

"How much?"

"Well I went to school until I was twelve years old"

"Know what a noun is?"

"I ain't sure, but I think I do"

"What's a fraction?"

"It's a piece of something"

"Well, here's a piece of paper, is that a fraction?"

"Maybe"

"What's nine-fifths times two-thirds?"

Here the prisoner was given a piece of paper and a pencil and told to figure it out; but after many attempts he gave it up saying that he had forgotten how to find the least common denominator.

"Well, we don't use such things here when we multiply frac-

tions. Where'd you go to school?"

"In the country"

"I thought so. What direction is Australia?"

"Southeast, I guess"

"Learn that, too, in the country?"

"Yes Sir"

"Well we'll show you before you graduate from our school that Australia is considered Southwest"

"When did Columbus discover America?"

"In 1492"

"Remember dates pretty well?"

"I guess so, I was pretty good in history"

"What year did Washington spend at Valley Forge?"

"Can't remember"

"Where's the Amazon river?"

"In Africa I think, but I might be wrong"

"Learn that in the country?"

"I think so"

"Did your teacher tell you who moved it?"

To which question the prisoner gave no reply beyond that of a sickly smile, and the "professor" terminated this phase of the examination with the remark to his assistants: "A little education won't hurt him; try him out in the third grade"

"Now Mr. Blank, on just what charge were you sent here?"

"Statutory"

"Suffering Cats! You're the fourth one on that charge inside of a month,"-and the "professor" swung violently around in his chair and took another shot at the one time bright and shiny brass receptacle---and missed! Swinging back and drawing his chair a little closer, he instructed the prisoner to give him the details. While the criminal was reciting his sordid story, an inmate who was transcribing data on a typewriter a few feet to the rear of the swivel chairs, arose, mopped up from the floor and his shoe the evidence of the "professor's" poor marksmanship, moved his machine out of range, and resumed his work, all without any orders from his superiors. Just why he did this on his own initiative can perhaps be accounted for by the fact that he had had over thirteen months training in the institution, and by this time was probably pretty well along the road to complete reformation.

At this juncture, a recess had to be called in the examination by the arrival of an officer with two white men and a negro in tow. The white men had told the officer that the negro had called him a vile name. The officer who was referred to as a "Shave-tail" by some of the ex-service inmates, demanded an immediate trial. Furious, his face livid with rage, fists clenched, and an endless stream of oaths flowing from his mouth, he paced the floor like an enraged lion. There were "Niggers" in the institution that he would like to put a head on; there were others whose blocks he would like to knock off; in short, there

was nothing that would please him better than to see the whole black-faced and black-hearted tribe sizzling in H--1.

The trial, if such it can be called, consisted of a highly pitched medley of accusations, denials, oaths, and threats, that lasted until the noon whistle blew when the "Professor" who had presided as judge, announced that he would take the case under advisement, but before adjourning he expressed himself as being of the opinion that whoever had called the officer such a vile name was nothing less than a low-down, dirty skunk. And thus ended for the nine new inmates who had been eye and ear witnesses to all that had transpired, the first real step in the direction of their supposed reformation; and we will leave it to the reader to draw his own conclusions if anything was said or done that would lead these new arrivals to believe that here each one would be given a square deal and an opportunity under wise and friendly counsel to develop the best that was in him.

While the prison school undoubtedly performs a great service to those young men who have not acquired a common school education, yet there is a great need for more advanced instruction. Many boys have had considerable high school work which they could continue while in the institution if such courses were offered. If there is anything in an education, and few would deny it, then the reformatory should consider the needs of those young men who have already gone beyond the eighth grade. No more valuable training could be given those boys who show a

desire for further knowledge than the opportunity to continue their high school studies. Other young men who show a preference for office work should be offered courses in shorthand, typewriting, bookkeeping, and accountancy. Farm boys who desire to return to the farm should be offered strong courses in agriculture and animal husbandry. But at present the institution seems to be run on the theory that all these young men need to learn a trade, and while it can not be denied that a knowledge of some trade would be a big advantage to perhaps a majority of the inmates, yet an attempt to teach a trade to those whose interests lie in other directions is largely wasted effort and probably accounts for much of the contrariness of this element in the institution. Even in the trades taught, inadequate and often out-of-date equipment, over crowding, and an effort to run everything as economically and efficiently as possible from the standpoint of the institution rather than the individual needs of the inmate, make it extremely doubtful if very many of the inmates ever have an opportunity to learn by actual practice enough about any one trade that he can turn it to any practical use. The policy of keeping those inmates constantly at a line of work because of their previous training in order to save money to the state works alright from the standpoint of economy, but from the standpoint of the individual needs of the inmate there is little to be said in its favor. It cannot be denied that the country boy is of more value than the city boy

out on the prison farm, but unless he learns something about soil testing, rotation of crops, breeding and care of live stock, etc., he will have no chance to learn anything that he does not already know; and as a matter of fact he probably does not. The knowledge that he has of general farm work makes him more valuable on the farm than anyone else, but if the needs of the individual are to be taken into consideration, and the institution is of little value if they are not, then he should be offered some thing along the line of the short courses given at the agricultural college in order that other boys who want to learn something about farm work, may have the opportunity of learning how to run all kinds of machinery instead of spending their time in doing odd jobs while the country boy because of his previous experience does all the work that entails any responsibility. This is not only true on the farm but in every other department of the reformatory. The individual needs of each criminal are sacrificed in order that the institution may run like an oiled machine. An illustration of this can be found in the prison print shop where Willie runs the linotype, Jack makes up the forms, Pete feeds the press, while Tom, Dick, and Harry do the work of the printer's devil. This system enables the shop to meet the printing demands made upon it which it probably could not do if each man were given a chance to learn all departments of the business. But if the reformatory is to teach a trade to all the men in each department, it will have

to subordinate output to the needs of the inmates. The institution should not be expected to do this work for other state institutions; its first purpose should be to meet the needs of the inmates and not to be running a money saving institution. So far this is not being done and cannot be done so long as the output of each department is considered of greater importance than the individual training of the prisoner. Of course men doing nothing but general work in any department will acquire a general idea of the trade, but a superficial knowledge of a business will not get him a job in the outside world or enable him to hold it if he were lucky enough to get one. However, these men are learning something which if they are interested at all they may be able to turn to some use which is more than can be said of many other inmates who to all appearances are doing nothing but serving time in so far as they are concerned. A few illustrations of individuals whom we shall designate by alphabetical letters will serve to make this point clear:

Mr. "A" who was a store clerk previous to coming to the institution spends all his time sweeping and mopping out the officer's quarters. He could have been taught something about salesmanship during his stay in the institution which would have been of more value to him when he returns to the grocery store than his skill in making beds will ever be.

Mr. "B" who formerly was a general roust-about now spends his time in running backward and forward opening gates. He will

perhaps develop a sturdy pair of legs. but just where he will ever be able to find a demand for this commodity is rather doubtful. In his case, it would appear that the reformation and training he is receiving is being applied at the wrong end.

Mr. "C" who previously was a railroad brakeman, is now busily employed in shunting a flat iron backward and forward in the prison laundry. There are many books published on how to rise in the train service that might be a help to him if the reformatory supplied them, but since it does not, he will have to apply for his old job back with no other recommendation than that he has been trained for a year in the ironing department of the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory.

MR. "D" however has been a little more fortunate than some of his fellows; He is being made to feel right at home. Having formerly subsisted on back door reprisals, he has now been made superintendent of the garbage wagon. Every day, "Old Putrid," as he is called, issues from the prison wall, atop of a load of refuse, singing his favorite darky song. If the institution could do nothing else than to create in him a desire to rise to a position of some respectability in his own race, it would have done something; but being a "nigger" he is probably getting all the consideration out of the institution that he can ever expect.

It would be possible to go on with a tiresome account of a few score others who are just mere cogs in a machine. All

their activities limited to pure routine work, can have nothing but a deadening effect. if they do not lose any ambitions that they may once have had, they are certainly doing nothing or learning anything that will encourage them to take a new grip on life. The work of the institution must, of course, be done, but because Jim is more efficient in cleaning spittoons or in turning a crank on some machine than Bill, that is no reason why he should be kept constantly at it. The labor of the institution should be passed around to such an extent as to allow each one ample opportunity to acquire some skill and training in lines of work that will later be of value to him. In the winter time there are always forty or fifty young men moiling around in the guard room with nothing to do. With practically every department now full, these men spend their time in comparative idleness until the demand for farm labor becomes heavy. When that time comes, they will be herded around by some officer in such work as hoeing weeds, pitching alfalfa and wheat, or any other kind of work that requires nothing but a strong back to perform. And until the equipment of the institution is increased there can be but little opportunity for many of the slow and inefficient ones ever to learn anything worth while. Even in the trades where young men are employed, about half of them are standing around in each others way, just doing enough to get by. Listless, inattentive, if they are doing anything but serving time, there is not much evidence of it. They may add their bit toward

keeping the machine in running order but that is about as far as the value of their labor goes; and until the institution takes cognizance of this fact and makes a determined effort to offer this element of its inmates something besides board and clothing, it should be willing to have a huge question mark placed after its official designation.

And, lastly, let it be remembered that stone and mortar, iron bars, and school and shop equipment do not make a reformatory. Head and shoulders above all other factors should stand the men in whose charge the institution rest; and while it is always easy for one to criticise the short comings of others, yet as Holzhey says in the Survey Magazine for March 7th. 1914. "If specially trained and cultured men are employed in the colleges and universities to develop the normal, the mentally and morally sound youth of the nation into a higher efficiency, does it not stand to reason that men of even profounder knowledge should be put in charge of the mal-formed, mistrained, sick, and abnormally minded young men from which the criminal class so largely recruits itself in order to understand and thus be able to remedy their defects and short comings! Upon the institution officials rests a tremendous responsibility which, sad to relate, is far too lightly undertaken in many instances. Perhaps no greater opportunity can come to anyone in any work than to serve and befriend the young men who are in the extremity of those in the reform schools, and yet when one observes some of

of the officials in this institution, he can not fail to realize that they were never fitted for the high and noble work which they have undertaken but which they can never do. Drivers and never leaders, they can force obedience through fear, they can by abuse and threats cow the criminal at their feet, but when the time comes for him to leave he will go, not with a hand shake and a fervent word of appreciation for all these officials have done for him, but with a curse upon his lips and a burning desire for vengeance in his heart. Years ago, Abraham Lincoln said, "When the conduct of men is designed to be influenced, persuasion---kind, unassuming persuasion, should ever be adopted. It is an old and true maxim, 'that a drop of honey catches more flies than a gallon of gall' so with men. If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend. Therein is the drop of honey that catches his heart, which, say what he will, is the great high road to his reason, and which, when once gained, you will find but little trouble in convincing his judgement of the justice of your cause if, indeed, that cause be really a just one. On the contrary, assume to dictate to his judgement, or command his action, or to mark him as one to be shunned or despised, and he will retreat within himself, close all the avenues to his head and heart, and though your cause may be naked truth itself, transformed to the heaviest lance, harder than steel, and sharper than steel can be made, and though you throw it with more

than Herculean force and precision, you shall be no more able to pierce him than to penetrate the hard shell of a tortoise with a rye straw. Such is man, and so must he be understood by those who would lead him, even to his own best interests!"

Writing in the Survey Magazine for March 7th., 1914, Charles David Souder, formerly a convict, concludes with these words, "Thus ended my first talk with one of the finest young men I have ever known; almost the only man who took any visible interest in me when I entered the institution. Now after nearly six years are past, I remember this and similar incidents that mean more to me than all the rest of the institution. The price of a years work would not buy their memory!"

How many of our institution officials will ever receive such a tribute? How many ever get a vision of the great task that lies before them, and seeing it, will shoulder the burden? True, there are some, but their numbers are not legion. They may be excellent carpenters, printers, shoemakers, tailors, or blacksmiths; they may be able to maintain discipline; they may be able to run the various departments of the institution efficiently and economically, but when that is said, perhaps all is said. No officer, no matter what his skill in his trade may be, who considers his duty fulfilled when he has caused to be turned out so many galleys of type, so many shoes or so many garments, will ever become a great leader of men, and leaders, not drivers, will ever be the ones to inspire the men who come

under their influence. Men can be picked up at a nominal price in any community who can show our prison inmates how to spread plaster, how to paint, how to plow, but it can not through the medium of a want ad in a local paper ever expect to get men big enough for the stupendous task of teaching young criminals the ways of right living.

That the Kansas institution has men of the former type can not be denied, but that it has many of the latter is open to doubt. At the present time the institution has no chaplain, no athletic director, no one whose sole duty it is to attend to the inmates physical, spiritual, and moral needs, no one to whom an inmate can go to tell his troubles, no one from whom he can expect sympathy and help in his hours of discouragement and despair; no one to whom even his passing would bring a pang of regret; day in and day out, nothing but the prison whistle in the morning to call him to his wearisome routine; nothing but the clang of the cell bar at night to remind him that another day has passed into memory!

Kansas can boast of its marvelous wheat fields, its excellent schools and churches, its live and progressive people, its bright and promising future, and let us hope that in the not far distant time she will recognize the real needs of her unfortunate young criminals and will spare neither money nor effort in rising to meet them. When that time comes, then to the long list of things in which all true Kansans take just

pride, may be added the name of the Kansas State Industrial Re-
formatory.

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