

States, Elmira, with its more careful and thorough management, sending a very disproportionately large number of insane prisoners to Matteawan.

The chief argument brought forward, however, lies in the records of clinical histories which make up a considerable part of these volumes. Twenty-five cases are given in which various classes of crimes were committed by insane persons (mostly general paralytics), who were condemned and sent to prison; in some cases they were sentenced for fresh offences several times before the insanity was discovered. In the second volume twenty-eight cases (general paralysis, delusions of persecutions, imbecility, etc.) are detailed.

The authors' recommendations are clear and definite: (1) in *all* cases there should be a medical examination of the mental condition of the accused immediately after arrest, usually there need only be a very summary examination; (2) greater care in the selection of experts, all alienists competent to give evidence being inscribed on an official list; (3) special inspection of prisons by alienists, whose sole function it would be to discover and report cases of insanity.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

---

*Die Unterbringung Geisteskranker Verbrecher* [The Disposal of Insane Criminals]. Von P. NÄCKE. Halle: Marhold. Large 8vo, pp. 57, 1902.

Dr. Näcke's pamphlet, appearing at the same time as the books just reviewed, discusses some of the same problems and brings forward some of the same arguments. "The day has gone by," he remarks, "when the statement that prisons contain many psychopathic and even insane persons was regarded as a calumny; it is now a commonplace." He proceeds to summarise some of the evidence on this point, and mentions that, in his own experience, of fifty-three women from one fifth to one fourth were improperly sent to prison, while Sommer came to the conclusion that very few of his insane criminals were normal before their deed. The evidence leads to the conclusion that "the majority of insane criminals were insane at the time of the deed, but their insanity was not recognised." That this conclusion holds good for English prisons is, Näcke thinks, proved by Baker's statistics. The majority of those who really become insane in prison belong to the class of criminals by passion.

There are, however, wide differences, both in opinion and practice, concerning the best method of disposing of insane criminals. The greater part of Dr. Näcke's pamphlet is devoted to a condensed but thorough discussion of the various methods. The chief varieties are three: (1) central institutions for all insane criminals; (2) annexes to prisons; (3) annexes to asylums. One of the practical difficulties in settling this question lies in the fact that insane criminals belong to very various categories. The author is, however, decidedly of opinion that recidivists and really criminal characters are rare among them, and that it is unjust to allow our treatment of the majority to be influenced

by the small minority. The "moral insane" or moral imbeciles ought to be sent to a special institution, which would provide the peculiar treatment they require; and this institution might be an annexe to a prison, but on the whole the author favours the annexe to the asylum as generally the best method for disposing of the criminal insane, at all events on the Continent of Europe. While fairly presenting the case in favour of great central institutions such as exist in England and America, Dr. Näcke does not consider that these form good models for imitation. At the same time he has no wish to drive a principle to death, and he considers that various kinds of institutions may, under varying circumstances, be the best.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

---

*Twenty-Sixth Year-book of the Elmira Reformatory (1901).*

Considerable changes have lately taken place in the management of this institution. Mr. Brockway, who was superintendent of the prison from its establishment, has resigned, as also has Dr. Wey, the physician. Dr. Frank W. Robertson has been appointed superintendent and Dr. Christian physician. With these new appointments are associated various other changes, both in the *personnel* and the management of the institution. Some fear may naturally be felt lest these sweeping changes may involve a disastrously retrograde movement in the management of the institution which has so long served to teach the world the direction in which prison reform must be directed. Fortunately it cannot be said that there are any apparent signs of degeneracy about the Elmira Reformatory. On the contrary, it would appear that the recent appointments have involved no radical change of policy, but, on the other hand, have led to increased efficiency. Splendid as were Mr. Brockway's achievements, there can be no doubt that some infusion of new blood was required. The late superintendent emerged, on the whole, triumphantly from the exhaustive official investigation to which his actions and policy were submitted a few years ago, but there can be little doubt that that investigation weakened his moral authority and interfered with the discipline of the Reformatory. The time had clearly come for the reins to be placed in other hands. It is satisfactory to find that corporal punishment, Mr. Brockway's use of which was the most debatable point in his management, has now been entirely abolished. It is also most satisfactory to find that—as all prisons should be—the institution is now in charge of an alienist. Dr. Robertson, previous to his appointment to Elmira, had been for five years the medical chief of the Pavilion for the Insane at Bellevue Hospital, New York. It is not surprising to find that he has set himself resolutely to deal with the question of insanity at Elmira, and a considerable number of cases have been transferred to asylums. Dr. Robertson is strongly of opinion that, as a matter of routine, the mental and physical condition of prisoners should be carefully investigated before sentence is pronounced. This would result in securing valuable information which would materially assist the judge in properly disposing of the case, and would prevent the