

protection. This last provision is of great importance in ameliorating the results of inebriety, but there is practically no legislative effort in the direction of prevention.

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*The Treatment of Crime.*

There is no doubt that there is a wonderful change for the better in the treatment of crime. Although we cannot yet say that rational and satisfactory methods prevail, we find that year by year more intelligence and more humanity is infused into prison administration. It is now recognised that primitive measures alone are not corrective, and that the effective reformation of criminals can only be attained by making our prisons true schools and moral hospitals. A few years ago the ideals of Elmira were besmirched with abuse. Irresponsible smartness was facile in obvious criticism. The opinions entertained by Mr. Brockway—that youthful criminals should be accurately examined in every physical and mental relation; that their health and useful occupation should be primary considerations; that indeterminate sentences and liberation on parole should be adopted,—were hastily pushed aside as mere Yankee notions to be met by a cheap sneer and at once relegated to obscurity. But there are many signs that a little leaven is working, for the Prison Commissioners now report in favour of modern ideas—they can, in fact, no longer remain impervious to the scientific knowledge of the age.

The Prisons Act of 1898 had only been in operation for a year when the satisfactory outcome of its beneficent provisions was manifest. The limitation of corporal punishment has not been followed by an increase of prison offences; the improvement in the dietary has not caused an increase of crimes; and we confidently expect that the effects of differential treatment, of associated labour, of remission of full time of sentence, will be progressively better than has been recorded in the first returns of a tentative year.

To us, whose labours are spent in asylum work, these moderate reforms are but matters of course. Differential treatment is a necessity in dealing with the insane. The evils of associated labour can only flourish where the staff is insufficient and inefficient. Liberation is dependent upon conduct. What demon

of stupidity has closed the eyes of officialdom to the reasoned and profitable experiences of modern life? At last we are told that it has been found practicable to permit associated labour in some prisons with a full staff of warders, and that the results are excellent. The Commissioners bear the highest testimony to Mr. Brockway's sagacity in saying that, if the impression already made on them as to the salutary effect of the power to earn remission is corroborated by further experience, they will advise that there should be a shortening of the period entitling the prisoner to the privilege. Thus the perfect, unalterable principles of a year or two ago are to be completely revolutionised.

And, further, just as the science and art of medicine now deals with the individual patient in all his circumstances of heredity and environment, and not merely with his disease, however neatly it may be pigeon-holed as a pathological entity, so the judge is directed to study the criminal as well as the crime.

The debtors, too, are now compelled to work. They are no longer permitted to shuffle through a demoralising prison life. The result is that their numbers are notably diminished in most of the prisons—at Birmingham to the amount of 30 per cent. Perhaps this will encourage the Government to do as much for habitual drunkards one of these days. Then we shall hear less of inebriate retreats (*retreats, indeed!*) and more of inebriate reformatories.

On looking over the Scottish Criminal Statistics for the year 1900 we find a similar encouraging report, as regards serious crimes at least, although drunkenness has led to an increase of minor offences. This is shown in dark colours on comparing the number of prisoners recorded per 100,000 of the population: in England, 581; in Ireland, 839; and in Scotland, 1386. There can be little doubt that whisky is the effective cause of this national disgrace. Burns saw it clearly:

“Wi' tippenny we fear nae evil,  
Wi' usquebae we'll face the deevil.”

Dr. Crammond, in an instructive pamphlet on 'Scots Drink,' has traced the rise and progress of whisky, and laments that the earlier brew of low alcoholic strength has been discarded by the fashion of a later day. No wonder, then, that crimes of

violence are increasing, and that Glasgow, sodden with drink, maintains its unenviable position in statistics. Here is a note of the districts :

Glasgow and district	.	.	.	56
Edinburgh and district	.	.	.	5
Forfarshire	.	.	.	4
Renfrewshire	.	.	.	3
Aberdeenshire	.	.	.	2
Stirlingshire	.	.	.	1
Argyllshire	.	.	.	1
Ayrshire	.	.	.	1
Fife	.	.	.	1
Inverness-shire	.	.	.	1
Swindling in different districts	.	.	.	1
				76
			Total	.

Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Dundee are singularly free from serious crime, and, curiously enough, not a single case comes from the whole Border region, from Berwick-on-Tweed to the Mull of Galloway.

Turning to the report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into the provisions made for the sick, for ordinary, juvenile, and first offenders, for dietary and occupation, we find that there is no fault recorded as to the general treatment of prisoners in Scottish prisons. The Committee give high praise to the officials in charge, and state that the treatment of the sick has been successful and humane. They regard it as indisputable that the power of removal to hospital, especially for serious surgical cases, is one that should be preserved. Sixteen were thus removed during a year. But the Committee urge that, for the nursing of ordinary sickness in prisons, the warders should be specially trained, and in support of their recommendation they refer to the success attending on similar training in asylums.

Certain anonymous allegations had been made regarding the moral corruption of prison hospitals, but the Committee hold that these are unfounded, and they are not prepared to recommend that the association of prisoners on medical grounds should be absolutely forbidden, or that existing arrangements should be disturbed. They hold that the better course is to

adhere to the present rules, and to call in a trained nurse when trained nursing is required.

The Committee have no suggestion to make as regards first offenders, but they recommend the alteration in the dietary suggested by Professor Fraser and Dr. Dunlop, who found certain prisoners underfed, and laid down the guiding principle that sex, size, and labour should determine the question, and not sentence. Committing magistrates are advised to visit prisons and see the nature of the punishments they award, and the Committee finally recommend the appointment, as in England and Ireland, of a medical commissioner, whose presence on the Board in matters of medicine, disease, and insanity would be a source of strength. It is noted that, since 1878, no fewer than forty-seven Scottish prisons have been discontinued, so that there are now only fourteen in all.

The male prisoners from the City of Paris are sent to the new prison at Fresnes, about eight miles from that metropolis. It is a vast place, consisting of four rectangular blocks, with a detached infirmary. Eighteen hundred and twenty-four cells have been provided, but there is also accommodation for 400 prisoners in association. The cellular system is only some twenty-five years old in France, and it is the rule to limit that method to the first year of incarceration, thus practically including the great majority of offenders. Fresnes prison is, however, only half full, and the Governor states that crimes, or imprisonments at least, are decreasing in number in France; while the aggregate received would be still further greatly diminished were it not for drunkenness. This is all the more remarkable, as he does not believe that drunkenness is sensibly more common than it used to be, notwithstanding the reports which have reached us—reports which, the Governor adds, “end in talk.”

Useful occupation is a prominent feature of the management of this prison, and the prisoners are allowed to have a certain proportion of the value of their work. The money thus earned may be spent on extra food or personal requirements, exclusive of tobacco. There is a large library, and a hall which is used as schoolroom and chapel. The staff are instructed (as well as the prisoners), to qualify them for an intelligent performance of their duties.

This rapid survey of the modern treatment of crime, as presented by these few conspicuous examples of activity and

improvement, encourages us to believe that we are hastening on to still higher developments. Much remains to be accomplished, it is true, but the thin edge of the wedge has been introduced, and it is comparatively easy to drive it home.

We have referred to Mr. Brockway, and regret to note that his term of office at Elmira has come to an end, as is set forth on another page of this number of the JOURNAL. His system was sometimes regarded as a foolish pampering of evil-doers; yet it was also his fate to be held up to scorn on the accusation of undue severity. Vile crimes require sharp punishment, and the cat has yet its uses. The criminal and his punishment is one aspect of the question, the criminal and his reformation is another. The latter is what interests us.

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*Workhouse Lunatic Wards.*

Workhouse lunatic wards have achieved an unenviable notoriety of late by the occurrence of several deaths, which have required the investigation of a coroner's jury.

In one case (that at Crumpsall) the night attendant, who had a hundred and fifty of all kinds of insane patients, distributed through a number of wards, to look after, was accused of having strangled a general paralytic who had been very noisy. A witness stated that the attendant had quieted the patient by twisting a towel round his (the patient's) throat.

A special Committee of the Manchester Board of Guardians appointed to inquire into the case (aided by the presence of an inspector of the Local Government Board) recommended that an additional attendant should be appointed. The Local Government Board has since this promulgated an important order, directing that the death of a lunatic in a Poor Law institution shall be reported to the coroner within forty-eight hours. The notice of death, signed by the medical attendant, must mention the time of decease, any unusual circumstances attending it, and also a description of any injuries known to exist at the time of death, or found subsequently on the body of the deceased. Mechanical restraint applied to the patient within seven days of death has also to be reported.

Lunatic wards in workhouses will not, however, become