

Sir R. Paget, "is sufficient for all purposes." We doubt whether anybody else, except the habitual criminal himself perhaps, is of the same opinion.

On the 16th April last Lord Coleridge called attention in the House of Lords to a case at the last Gloucester Assizes, where a man was tried before him for some small offence, and was further indicted for having been previously convicted. The prosecution called a member of the metropolitan police to prove his identity, and he said that he recognized the prisoner as a convicted offender. The prisoner, however, was not found guilty of having been previously convicted, and it afterwards appeared that the man whom the policeman swore was the prisoner had different colored eyes and hair, was 2½ inches taller than he, and had a mark on his arm which the prisoner did not bear.

At the Middlesex Sessions, in July last, before the assistant judge, a detective swore that a prisoner then before the court had been previously convicted, that he was certain of his identity because he had had him in custody, that he had at once recognized him at Marlborough street police court by his general appearance, height, etc.; but on production in court of the previously convicted person, the detective at once admitted his mistake.

In another case a detective swore that he was well acquainted with the prisoner, and proved a previous conviction; the authorities, on the strength of this evidence, took proceedings to have the man punished in mistake for a man under police supervision, who had failed to report himself, but he was able to prove that on the day he was sworn to as having been convicted in one town he was a prisoner miles away.

Again, the photograph of a prisoner was sent to London for identification, and the answer returned was "not identified," and yet it was afterward ascertained that this man had been convicted no less than five times previously for forgery and false pretences. The same answer was returned in another case, where the prisoner had also been previously convicted five times.

In the case of Jackson, the alleged murderer of Webb, the warder at Manchester,

the governor of the jail stated that no previous conviction had been proved against him at the trial in April last; that he had a warrant from the police to that effect; and he, therefore, believed him to be a first offender, or he would not have been employed upon the work for which he had been selected. It appears now, however, that there are grave doubts whether he had not been previously convicted. If this is so, and the governor had been informed, as he should have been, the warder Webb would not have been murdered.

For ten years the French police relied on photographs, but when their collection had reached 100,000, they found it impossible to search through this collection each time they required to identify a prisoner, and they therefore adopted, about five years ago, the system of M. Bertillon.

This system consists in taking the measurement of certain bony parts of the human frame which do not alter after adult age has been reached, and of a systematic record of the marks, etc., on the prisoner's person. Under this system they have recorded the description of nearly 60,000 criminals, and they have recognized 1,500 prisoners who have attempted to conceal their identity, and in not one single case have they made an error.

These measurements, etc., which are carried out in a precisely similar manner in every prison throughout France and Algeria by ordinary warders and police officers, occupy on an average about five minutes for each prisoner, and no additional note has been found necessary.

By a series of subdivisions into classes of large, medium and small, according to each separate measurement taken, the photographs are so classified that, in order to find the photograph wanted out of the 60,000, it is only necessary to examine a packet of about a dozen, occupying five or six minutes.

These measurements are often transmitted by telegraph from the country to Paris, and the reply giving the names of those who can identify the prisoner are returned in the same way within half an hour, thus saving the time and expense of sending a