

Interesting Experiment

On Men That Are Deemed
To Be Habitual Criminals

In Camp Hill Prison on the Isle of Wight there has been taking place for some ten years a most interesting experiment upon men deemed habitual criminals. It is proving that apart from men who are deranged there is no such thing as the incurable criminal, and Winston Churchill, who is credited with having established the Camp Hill and other similar prisons, is immensely proud. Indeed, it may be remembered to his credit when his other services to the state are forgotten. In England there are some 500 men listed by the police and recognized by the courts as habitual criminals, that is to say men—and a few women, too—who upon their release from jail immediately commit a crime, who have no desire to support themselves otherwise than as criminals. Five hundred is not a large number of habitual criminals for a country with England's population, but it is enough to give the police a lot of extra work and worry when any considerable percentage of them is at liberty.

There has been an increase in crimes of violence, including murders of passion, in the past ten or twelve years, but in the crimes by habitual offenders there has been a sharp reduction. Then there were 1,200 habitual criminals in the country. To-day there are 500. In fact, the habitual criminal is disappearing and a similar rate of decrease in the next decade will find no officially listed habitual criminals in England. This is believed to be due wholly to their treatment, not to any particular increase in morality. The disease exists, but it can be cured. It is being cured, and by just such means as a lot of suspected molly-coddles and sentimentalists have urged, namely, by kindness. Under the law which Winston Churchill sponsored, a man may be declared a habitual criminal after a certain number of offences. When it became plain to the judge and the police that as soon as he served one sentence he would commit another crime, it was apparent that by merely imprisoning him again the problem was not being really attacked.

The new law permitted habitual criminals to be sentenced to what is called preventive detention, for from five to ten years. It was admitted that if they were sent back to the same old prisons, the law would have merely the effect of increasing their imprisonment, and this was not the object. New sorts of prisons were established, with, we suspect, new kinds of guards or at least with new sets of instructions for the guards. Kindness was to be the keynote. The habitual prisoners were not to be punished; punishment had signally failed in their case. There is not the regular prison atmosphere or discipline. One habitual criminal was conquered on the first morning after his arrival when he was asked politely whether he preferred tea or coffee for breakfast. The whole idea is to civilize or revitalize the criminal. His years of evil doing have not been comfortable or pleasant. Obviously they have not been successful. The idea at Camp Hill is to prove to him that he will have a much better chance of prosperity and happiness by being law abiding.

He is not being punished for anything at Camp Hill; he has paid his legal debt to society. He is being educated. He is taught a trade, and he is paid a little for his work, given a little money to spend, and the rest is saved up for the day he leaves. The room he occupies is not like a cell; it has a carpet on the floor and the doors are not locked at night. The attendants are not uniformed. The newcomer is not forced to take a bath nor is his hair cropped. He can shave himself, and we learn from an article by Davis Edwards in the Buffalo Express, that the thing the men most delight in is the little looking glass in the room. The men might escape from Camp Hill, we gather, but what good would it do them? They would be speedily recaptured. Of all the patients of Camp Hill who have been discharged it is said that but three per cent. have been re-arrested, and bear in mind that this is a reduction of 97 per cent. among habitual criminals.

The regeneration of the men is not, as a rule, achieved by a single leap. They work their way up. After six months' good behaviour, the prisoner is given permission to eat in the hall with other men of his grade with whom free conversation is permitted. A second period of good behaviour gives him two after-supper hours of intercourse with other progressives, and he may play games and see a good film now and then. The third good conduct ticket permits him to live by himself in a small cottage on the grounds, where he can cook his own meals and where supervision is reduced to a minimum. By the time the patient is permitted to leave he has learned a trade, he has ready money in his pocket, and what is perhaps most important he has come to the conclusion that to live by crime is a mistake and that the career is one that only a mug would choose.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Forms. It is because of their rigorous form that the ballade and the rondeau have established themselves by the side of the sonnet; and the lyric who has learned to love them finds in their rigidity no curb on his power of self-expression. So in the kindred art of music, the sonata and the symphony are forms, each with a law of its own; yet the composer has abundant liberty within the law.—Brander Matthews.

FADING OF IDEALS.

Marks an Educational Failure Sustained Through Ages.

"The fading of ideals is an evidence of the defeat of human endeavor," writes Prof. A. N. Whitehead in the Hibbert Journal.

"In the schools of antiquity philosophers aspired to impart wisdom, in modern colleges our humble aim is to teach subjects. The drop from the divine wisdom, which was the goal of the ancients, to text-book knowledge of subjects, which is achieved by the moderns, marks an educational failure, sustained through the ages. I am not maintaining that the practice of education the ancients were more successful than ourselves. You have only to read Lucian, and to note his satiric presentation of the pretentious claims of the philosopher, to see that in this respect the ancients can boast over us. My point is that, at the dawn of our European civilization, men started with the full ideals which should inspire education, and that gradually our ideals have shrunk to square with our practice. But when ideals have sunk to the level of practice, so long as we conceive intellectual education as merely consisting in the acquisition of mechanical mental aptitudes, and of formulated statements of useful truths, there can be no progress; and unless rearrangement of syllabuses, in the fruitless endeavor to dodge the inevitable lack of time. What I am anxious to impress on you is that, though knowledge is the chief aim of intellectual education, there is another ingredient, vaguer but greater and more dominating in its importance. The man who without some basis of knowledge, but you may easily acquire knowledge and remain bare of wisdom."

"Shakespeare wrote his plays for English people reared in the beauty of life as the Middle Ages merged into the Renaissance, and with a new world across the ocean to make vivid the call of romance. To-day we deal with herded town populations, reared in a scientific age. I have no doubt that unless we can meet the new age with new methods, to sustain for our populations the life of the spirit, sooner or later, amid some savage outbreak of defeated longings, the fate of Russia will be the fate of England. Christians will write as her epitaph that her fall issued from the spiritual blindness of her governing classes, from their dull materialism, and from their Pharisaic attachment to petty formulas of statesmanship."—Family Herald.

Welsh Castle for Sale.

Yet another Welsh castle and estate is in the market because its owner finds it too costly to maintain in view of present taxation burdens. This is Henol Castle and estate of over 1,000 acres, regarded as one of the beauty spots of Glamorgan, the residence of Sir Francis Rose, a former High Sheriff of the county.

Asked why the castle was up for sale, Sir Francis said: "The old place requires a lot of money to maintain it. Income tax and super-tax have almost trebled since the war, and the cost of upkeep has considerably increased, and there is a duty to younger children. "If I died to-morrow heavy death duties would make it impossible for them to live here. By the time one has paid all Imperial and local dues in the way of taxation there is not much left now, and for that reason I have decided to put the estate up for sale."

No Clasps to Be Issued.

No clasps for separate actions and engagements of the war will be issued. Economy is the only reason for the Government's ruling. Over 13,000,000 war medals of various kinds have already been issued, and if clasps were to be given also a vast expense would be entailed. For the South African War, ten clasps were given, and if battles during the 22 months of the Great War were to be recognized on a similar scale, it is estimated that more than 1,000 clasps would be needed. It is pointed out by the War Office that hundreds of thousands of medals of all kinds are still lying unclaimed. Among these are Military Medals, Military Crosses, Distinguished Conduct Medals, and even some D.S.O.'s.

Destructive Beetles.

The devastation wrought by beetles to the oaken roof of the famous parish church of Limehouse, the tower of which is one of the most striking landmarks of London as viewed from the Thames, is clearly seen in a section of one of the beams which has just been placed on view at the Whitechapel Museum. The whole of the woodwork has been honey-combed by the insects, and, as the result of the mischief wrought during the past two hundred years, what remains is a mere shell. The work of renovation is now in progress, and will involve an outlay of close upon £2,000.

The Order of Merit.

Twenty-one years ago the Order of Merit was founded by King Edward, carrying with it the right to add "O.M." to a recipient's name. The order is limited to 24 members exclusive of foreign honorary members. Military members include the Earl of Ypres and Earl Haig, while among the civil members are Lord Morley, Thomas Hardy, Sir George Trevelyan, all octogenarians—Sir J. M. Barrie, Lord Haldane, Lord Balfour, and Mr. Lloyd George. The ribbon is blue and crimson.

"Dry" Humor.

It was an ironic commentary on the "dry" law, says an English exchange, as applied to foreign ships, that the cargo of the Mauretania, which arrived from New York the other day, included 160 barrels of whiskey.

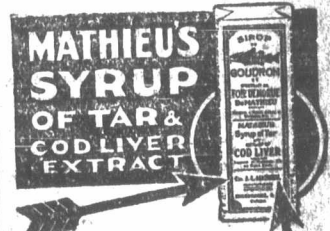
THE FAMILY HERALD'S OFFER

Many of our readers who have known and read the Family Herald and Weekly Star of Montreal for thirty, forty and even fifty years still marvel at the constantly increasing excellence of that remarkable farm and family journal. As each year succeeded another it seemed that as far as was humanly possible the point of perfection had been reached, but inevitably this astonishingly progressive paper would launch some new feature and make improvements here and there that would add immeasurably to its attractiveness and value. And so, for the coming season all who wisely subscribe to the old reliable Family Herald and Weekly Star may depend upon receiving even greater value than in the past, with many pleasant surprises thrown in. One of the nice surprises this year is a most beautiful picture of a remarkably lovely woman, entitled "The Wonderful Heroine," which will be given free to each new subscriber and to each present subscriber who renews in time for another year. Truly this is a value heaped up, pressed down and running over.

The remarkable life of the beautiful and heroic woman who is the subject of the painting has been published in booklet form, and our readers may obtain a copy free by sending a post card to the Family Herald and Weekly Star, Montreal.

KILBURN NEWS

Mrs. Murray L. Grant left last week to spend the winter in New Hampshire. Mrs. H. L. Grant entertained the Ladies Aid of the Baptist church for



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the December meeting. Quite a large attendance of members and visitors were present.

Mrs. C. H. McLaughlin will entertain the U. B. Ladies Aid for the January meeting.

The Red Cross Society will meet with Mrs. Murray L. Grant on the third Tuesday in January.

The Methodist Ladies Aid for December, was entertained by Mrs. J. Ogilvy.

Joseph Witherly has been visiting his daughter, Mrs. T. Vandine recently, and also spending Christmas with her.

Mrs. Martha Kilpatrick of Greenfield has recently been visiting her daughter, Mrs. Wiley Grant.

Our school closed on Thursday the 20th. In the evening a very pleasant program was carried out. The usual Christmas tree was heavily laden with Christmas gifts and candy for the children, their teacher, Miss Gilman kindly presenting each of her pupils with a treat and a Christmas gift.

Roy Baird of Baldersville, spent Christmas day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Grant.

Mrs. Fred Dinmore and Little son of Easton, Me., were guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Grant for nearly a week during the Christmas

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