

armed officers, that no prisoner make his escape therefrom. While in prison the prisoner must be so treated as to deter lawless persons outside from lightly committing a similar crime. He must, however, also be so treated that, if possible, he may be drawn from his evil ways and uplifted by reforming influences.

It should be noted, in passing, that this statement of the aim of a prison is hardly so simple as might at first appear. It is very general, and a change of emphasis from one phrase to another, or a quite legitimate change of meaning to be inferred from certain phrases, may completely alter the whole definition. In the old days, for instance, especially before John Howard, "so treated as to deter" was the all-important phrase, and all but the barest and tritest reformatory treatment was held to be inadmissible, as it detracted from the necessary "deterrent punishment." Modern penologists, on the other hand, while they by no means neglect the importance of deterrent punishment, put the phrase, "that he may be uplifted by reforming influences" at the forefront, in stating the reasons for having such institutions as prisons.

Is the Object Good?

Is the object a good one, and are prisons a necessary feature of its attainment? Surely these must be affirmed. The right of forcible detention and punishment of citizens by the State must ever be taken for granted, unless citizenship is but an empty name. Past traditions, therefore, so far as they have claimed this right, we do well to follow. But not for a moment does this mean the countenancing of the distorted emphasis which in the past has been put upon the "deterrent" features of punishment in prison. So far as prisons of past

or present are the outcome of desire for revenge, selfish satisfaction, irrational longing to punish, with little or no regard to the consequences, mere immediate protection to the State without consideration of the rights of criminals, or the thoughtless neglect of the public, we can in no sense commend their object or use. But in the—if necessary—forcible detention of men and women under prison authority, for the protection of society, with a minimum "deterrent" and a maximum reformatory treatment, we find a necessary, just, and laudable duty of society.



TAKING RATIONS.
American prison view.

Prisons are necessary, then, either potentially or actually. Under the old conception of punishment, "potentially" would be largely left out. Of course then, as now, the mere existence of the prison authority, and the certainty that discipline at its hands would follow crime, and the deterrent effect of this upon citizens otherwise criminal, showed the power of potential punishment over those not actually incarcerated. But the advisability of the actual imprisonment of the thief or the assaulter was rarely questioned, and so long as the fetish of "deterrent punishment" and the crime are kept in exclusive view, and the best interests of society and the rights of the