

good conduct to earn a complete discharge. It is held that many offenders against the law are already sufficiently punished by the exposure and disgrace of conviction and that the intention of the law has been vindicated if they show real contrition and a willingness to compensate the person they have wronged, since the great bulk of offences are theft. The ancient Jewish law, which is the foundation of modern jurisprudence, laid great stress on restitution, but this has been largely lost sight of. The probation system implies the appointment by the court of special agents who act as guardians, and see that the terms of provisional release are properly carried out, reporting regularly to the court concerning the person so dealt with. Under this humane system it is claimed that reformation is the rule and that the benefit to all concerned is infinitely greater than the fixed sentence of imprisonment. The more general adoption of probation is advocated by many leading social workers, and significantly also by prison wardens and officials who come most in contact with the criminal class.

#### PRISON REFORM.

We are gradually coming to see the futility of the fixed sentence as a cure for crime. If it is necessary to send a man to prison then the one aim should be his rehabilitation as a good citizen with as little delay as possible. This is not a matter of time but of treatment. One does not dream of requiring the cure of physical diseases in a fixed time, and in dealing with moral malady the time required for cure is even more uncertain. Judges are not as a rule sufficiently familiar with a man's character and antecedents to fairly estimate the length of imprisonment he should undergo, and the inequality of sentence involved in this guesswork is regarded by students of penology as one of the main factors in the prevalence and repetition of crime. In the industrial school legislation of most civilized countries we have a guide that should prevail also in the case of adults. A boy whose conduct indicates his need of discipline is committed to an industrial school without definite sentence. He thus becomes a ward of the Institution until twenty-one years of age. Full provision is made for early release under supervision and every inducement is offered pupils to earn parole. A visitor's record is maintained and if there is evidence of relapse the lad can be returned to the school without further warrant or trial. Properly carried out this law is an undoubted success and conscientious prison officials everywhere would rejoice if they had the same kind of law for adults. At present they are compelled to detain reformed prisoners for an unnecessarily long term, while at the same time they are forced to release on a given date impenitent criminals who immediately resume their warfare against society. The indeterminate sentence of three months and under two years, with the parole system is now in force in Ontario and should be advocated for adoption in Canadian penitentiaries.

#### THE WEAK-MINDED AND DEFECTIVE.

It should be borne in mind that a large percentage of habitual criminals are defectives who drift into crime from sheer inability to take care of themselves.