

such as 'this is a real offence' without running the very great risk of further anti-social conduct, with perhaps more serious consequences on the one hand or on the other hand the risk of jeopardizing the chances for recovery of the individual.

"These questions are now being met by the establishment of psychopathic laboratories in connection with courts of which there are several attached to juvenile courts, and at least two, in Chicago and Boston, for the assistance of municipal courts.

"But the establishment of these expert centres will not relieve the lawyer from the need for training in mental hygiene if he is to co-operate intelligently with and use the laboratory, and if his work is to be not only remedial but also preventive. Many lawyers still find it difficult to detach themselves from the belief that a criminal who is neither feeble-minded nor insane, is, therefore, 'responsible' and a fit subject for 'punishment.' Nothing but a realization of the causes and nature of behaviour disorders will overcome this.

"To advise adequately in regard to many matters which come rather within civil than criminal practice, such as divorce proceedings, will-making, etc., the same training is of the greatest value."

A very important report by an unusually able Committee was presented to the State of Massachusetts in February, 1919. It touches upon the greatest evil connected with the administration of criminal justice. It says:

"It is still the practice in our courts generally to commit offenders for short terms without permitting an examination and study of the individual himself to determine whether his condition is not such as would cause him unavoidably to become an offender whenever he is at liberty. Society cannot protect itself against the chronic repeater otherwise than by study and classification of offenders as they come before our courts, and such disposition of them, after a finding of guilt, as will take into account their proved inability to adjust themselves to normal conditions of living under law; and by the provision of such ways and means, through custodial detention or oversight, as will guarantee the community against their constant depredations. The only just way of dealing with such an incompetent must be by a plan of kindly custodial oversight based upon a recognition of his condition rather than his offence. That our police departments should go on rounding him up and our courts go on imposing fines and terms of sentence upon him time and again, at great expense to the public and to the great delay of trials for others, is absurd as a business proposition and unjust as a disposition of the rights of our citizens."