

any way impairing the efficiency of such tribunals. We would suggest as a remedy the adoption of standard penalties for each of the offences usually dealt with at Petty or Quarter Sessions, Police Courts, and other courts of similar jurisdiction. Such standard penalties would serve as guides to the Bench in deciding Crown cases, and should, in normal circumstances, form the basis of their judgments. In proportion as the circumstances varied from the normal and tended either to aggravate or partially to excuse the offence, so would the punishment inflicted be greater or less than the theoretical standard.

The objection may be raised that no crime is normal, and therefore that no standard penalty, implying a general average of guilt, is possible. This is doubtless true so far as the graver crimes, such as manslaughter, burglary, arson, and many others, are concerned; but the writer maintains that this argument does not apply to such minor offences as form the routine work of Petty Sessions or Police Courts. We hope, in due course, to be able to convince our readers of the real need for greater uniformity in the practice of courts of a similar jurisdiction. It ought not to be possible that an offender brought before one court should receive a trifling penalty, whereas, his conviction for the same offence, by another court of co-ordinate authority, would result in comparatively severe punishment. Inconsistencies of this kind should be impossible, but they are, nevertheless, of everyday occurrence. The impression produced upon the minds of those who study the Police Reports must be one of uncertainty. Yet, surely, certainty is an essential attribute of true justice.

The gaol-bird, when convicted, still stands a "sporting chance" of a light sentence; and, as a race, we are supposed to be lovers of sport of all kinds. It is more than questionable, however, whether these "sporting chances" are conducive to the moral improvement of such persons. Under present conditions it is not uncommon to hear it asserted that one magistrate is unduly severe in his attitude to certain offences, while another is charged with excessive leniency. In order absolutely to pre-

clude to
abolish
turn th
be desi
fluence
punish

Man
called
nal, Tr
ing, th
inflicte
stances
were p
such re
render
and the
even th
the ge
which
But wh
be, so i
matter

The
object
the mos
that he
commit
than to
vindict
but sho
nature
without
impress
who are
judgme
The an