

mit crimes of violence in a vast number of instances. They are Man-eaters. It is their *metier*.

The criminal is a low type physically, in some classes of crime (especially crimes of violence) mentally also. You take a man of brutish instincts and feeble intellect, and shut him up in solitary confinement. The result is that he becomes more brutish, and his intellect more feeble from lack of use. Often he becomes insane. Never can we hope to find him the better for a life diametrically opposite to everything his particular kind of diseased Ego requires.

You take a criminal who is not a professional criminal in any sense, but a man who, under sudden temptation or from passion, has committed a crime. He has stolen for bread, or killed to revenge an injury. He is an "accidental" criminal. You shut him up with professional thieves and cut-throats, and accustom him to a criminal atmosphere, and send him out an enemy of society. He becomes an anti-social being. Before, he was an ordinary law-abiding man, who yielded to the temptation of a moment. He is now a criminal by profession and a cut-throat from choice.

The last kind of case is the commonest of all cases that come before the magistrates for decision, that which terminates in the invariable formula, "Five shillings, or seven days," namely the case of drunkenness. If a man is a dipsomaniac or an habitual drunkard we send him to prison for seven days! The compulsory sobriety of that period makes him hasten to exceed the moment he is free with the result that as many as fifty convictions in a year are sometimes recorded against the same prisoner.

In all these cases our prison system is ridiculously inadequate and ineffective. The confinement and the soli-

tude tells on one kind of prisoner adversely, and makes him morbid, sullen, and sometimes melancholy or mad. Penal servitude on the other hand is to another kind merely a pleasant way to spend one's life, a peaceful retreat where meals are regular and work not over hard. Lastly, short terms of imprisonment are mischievous because they spoil the prison as a deterrent. Once a man has tasted prison life there is no longer the dread of the unknown about it, and he ceases to think of it with any particular shrinking or fear. The fact is, our system of punishment for crime is hopelessly old-fashioned, as unscientific almost as burning at the stake to cure Atheism or muttering incantations to cure warts. It is now generally admitted by all thinking men that crime is a disease just as alcoholism is a disease and lunacy is a disease. The criminal is an abnormal. He differs physically from his non-criminal brother, he is a different being. "Man is by nature a social animal," says Aristotle. The criminal is anti-social. It is a vital distinction. In some cases the disease is curable, the abnormality capable of modification, just as there are some kinds of lunacy that may be affected by medical treatment, massage, galvanic batteries, etc. In some the disease is incurable. Such is the case of very many of our professional criminals.

The question is, therefore, how to modify our treatment of the criminal so as, without great increase of expense, to make our prisons a reforming influence instead of a corrupting one, to cure the criminal instead of confirming his disease, to protect society with the least possible harm to the victims of that protection.

Beginning with the shorter sentences and taking that commonest sentence of all in England which we mentioned above, the penalty for