able in the west of Ireland, and entirely unsuitable to the social conditions of a negro population in West Africa. To meet such local requirements, sub-committees might be formed in each country and colony—possibly in each county, province, or other administrative area—which, while adopting the fundamental principles laid down by the Commission, would vary or modify the normal penalties to suit local conditions. By this method, while the same theory and standard of justice would obtain currency throughout the empire, any tendency to an uncompromising rigidity of detail would be avoided, whilst a greater measure of coherence and consistency would be secured. By no means the least benefit to be derived from a systematic treatment of legal penalties on the lines described, would be the gradual but sure development in the public mind of a sense of proportion with regard to the relative gravity of various offences. This sentiment would, in course of time, render impossible the glaring discrepancies in the administration of justice, which we have at present good reason to deplore.

Want of space forbids any attempt at more than an outline of this scheme for the solution of a most difficult problem. Its elaboration would involve a survey of the whole field of criminal law. One or two points, however, occur to the writer as having a special importance, if success is to be assured.

In the first place, it is clear that the amount of a fine should, ceteris pribus, be in proportion to the social, or rather financial, position of the wrong-doer. Strict accuracy would, of course, in many cases be out of the question, but nevertheless an attempt should be made to assess a money penalty in the manner described.

Again, penalties should be increased proportionally upon a second, third, or further conviction, for a similar offence. Thus, if a fine for drunkenness upon a first conviction were assessed at a sum amounting to half a day's wages, such fine might be doubled upon a repetition of the same offence within twelve months of the previous conviction, and re-doubled for a third conviction within the same period.