

kept from society, and the work of reformation, which is, of course, the true work of every prison, could be carried on intelligently and with some hope, especially in the case of the young. Not only that, a proper system of probation or parole could be developed. At present the occasional criminal serves his sentence and leaves prison with the brand of infamy stamped upon him, and while it is true that he has satisfied the demands of the law, he has not expiated his crime, no matter how trivial, in the eyes of the public. A strong man would require an iron will to fight against popular prejudice backed up by our so-called detective system; a weak man finds it extremely simple to succumb to what seems to him the inevitable, and soon becomes a recidivist of the marked type. The system of probation should involve the finding of a proper situation for the probationer. The result is not uncertain, in fact in Elmira, where one of the few modern prisons is to be found, the percentage of recidivists under this system is extremely small. There the period of probation is generally six months.

I have hinted at the importance of having a highly trained and broad-minded commission at the head of the ideal reformatory. More important still is the necessity of having efficient and well-educated officials to carry out the instructions of these heads. We recognize the marvellous change that has taken place in hospitals for the insane, since the advent of the trained and intelligent nurse, and it is more important still that the wardens in charge of criminals should have the most advanced knowledge regarding prisons and their treatment. As Havelock Ellis suggests, "The criminal in all his manifold variations, with his ruses, his instinctive untruthfulness, his sudden impulses, his curiously tender points, is just as difficult to understand and to manage as the hospital patients, and unless he is understood and managed, there is no hope of socializing him."

The system of solitary confinement so warmly advocated by some cannot be too severely condemned. In Elmira, which we can regard as the nearest approach to the ideal reformatory, the endeavor is to occupy the convicts as completely and intelligently as possible, from the moment of waking until bedtime, leaving little or no opportunity for the development of evil, and