

APPENDIX.

ADVANTAGE OF THE INDETERMINATE
SENTENCE AND PAROLE SYSTEM.

In the majority of habitual criminals, crime is the outcome of a diseased social condition, in so far as heredity or environment effect the criminal personally. In this day the habitual criminal is conveniently, and not inappropriately, termed a degenerate. While this degenerate condition exists the criminal will follow crime. The degenerate and criminal condition requires correcting on two grounds—moral and economic. The State's highest duty is to turn an anti-social and expensive ward into a valuable citizen. It is a process of eliminating the wrong and supplanting it with the right. For this, two requisites are imperative—time and education—using the term education as it applies to the general developement of character. It is quite impossible to attain this unless we can stimulate the delinquent's best energies, and enlist his co-operation. The definite sentence not only fails to do this, but produces the reverse condition. No amount of energy, good conduct or imprisonment can palliate his condition and the dull degrading monotony of prison life, for a fixed term is all the criminal has to look forward to. Too often when these fixed terms expire, the delinquent leaves prison in a spirit of rebellion against society, and his avowed intention is to "get even". The most critical day in the history of every prisoner is the day he leaves prison. For him tremendous destinies hang on this day, and notwithstanding this, the Definite Sentence at this important crisis of his life has no admonitory influence over him;—its work is done. What superior intelligence enables any Judge or Magistrate to de-