

of this fact has occurred in Canada, where there is a tendency in minor crimes to use what is called the suspended sentence, and a modified form of the parole system. That its effect is excellent all recognize, for unless we have a system that enables us to discriminate between different classes, how can we look for different results than those which are now the rule.

No one can deny the statement that there are hundreds of criminals in our prisons to-day who might under certain circumstances be set at liberty, while others who will in time be freed, will only continue to prey upon society and commit anti-social acts with regularity. The first step in the solution of the problem is of course obvious, viz., the proper development of the indeterminate sentence. This can be regarded as a mere starting point, although of vast importance, because it transfers the responsibility of fixing a sentence from the judge, who cannot form an opinion of the highest value in regard to the classification of the criminal during the course of a trial, where rival counsels are almost invariably doing their best to build up their reputations, rather than add to the knowledge of the court in regard to the prisoner.

The authority of the judge having been transferred to another quarter, it is obvious that the responsibility should be shifted with great care and circumspection, to the prison or reformatory authorities. As the administration of justice is a costly article at the best, and the expense caused by the criminal population is so great, no fault can be found with a just expenditure which will eventually save untold thousands to the country. The ideal prison, then, should have at its head a commission of the very best judicial and scientific men the country can produce, men whose knowledge of their subject is of the most complete character, and who are able to study and classify criminals properly, and suggest the rational treatment, or punishment, if you prefer the word, in each case. Under this arrangement, it would be possible to give each criminal the careful study his case demanded, before being allowed to associate with others, and it is very certain that few mistakes would be made.

The instinctive criminals would be forever shut up and