instability, the peculiar combination of a kind of sentimentality with apathy,—these characteristics seem to mark the criminal in all countries; and interesting illustrations of these are to be found in Mr. Ellis's book. Apart from the interest in the facts themselves, this study is important for the analysis of the factors that cause crime. Is it biological, an atavistic reversal to outgrown habits? Is it purely the social-institutional coming to the fore? Would not the hero of former days be regarded as a criminal to-day? Such are the questions that arise when we pass from description to analysis. In this discussion the many points of analogy between the criminal and the savage deserve especial attention. The mental and moral habits present many points of identity, and lead to the perpetuation of many customs, such as the love of tattooing, the sudden breaking-out of excessive emotions, the indulgence in orgies, and the like. There thus seems to be marked out a class of recidivists, or backsliders, who are unable to keep up with the complex requirements of modern life, and fall back into the habits of less civilized conditions.

The practical bearing of this study is unmistakable. The commission system, with the sentence noted out for the crime and not for the criminal, is evidently unsuited to the needs of the criminal classes. If the object is to restore these unfortunate as far as possible to places in a social community, the treatment of criminals must be a far different one from that now in vogue. This sentiment is becoming more and more widely appreciated, and some important reforms have already been put into practice. Of the many pioneers of this reformatory at Elmira the most noteworthy, and receives the place of honor in Mr. Ellis's chapter. Here, under the indeterminate sentence law, a prisoner works out his own release, and is prepared, by a carefully planned system of physical, mental, and moral training, to fit himself for citizenship. The whole man is considered, and the ideal is as near as the notion of punishment for the crime as it well can be. And this system is avowedly based upon the anthropological and psychological analysis of the criminal character. Practice necessarily hobbles along after theory, but it is certainly high time that the discrepancy between scientific knowledge and legal practice be reduced.

In addition to the aspects of the criminal here lightly touched upon, Mr. Ellis gives very interesting illustrations of less typical points, such as their peculiar slang, their literary productions, prison inscriptions, prisoners' views of life and religion, and the statement of the case from the criminal's point of view. The volume thus fills a real need, and may be recommended to all who have an interest in one or other of the many aspects of this important study.

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