

May 8, 1949

## PENAL CODES SEEN IN NEED OF CHANGE

Greater Emphasis on Mental  
Hygiene, Psychiatric Care  
Is Asked at Forum

This nation's treatment of criminals was attacked yesterday by some of the country's leading authorities in criminology. They called for a changed philosophy in the criminal laws and for extensive psychiatric help for prison offenders.

The experts took part in an all-day forum for the Study and Prevention of Crime held at Columbia University. This is the first time any university has sponsored such a forum, according to the chairman, Dr. David Abrahamson, research associate in the university's department of psychiatry.

This country is dealing with crime ineffectively "because we have not yet come to an agreement as to how we wish to deal with criminals," declared Austin MacCormick, internationally known penologist, who is executive director of the Osborne Association.

"The lack of a basic philosophy for all those dealing with crime and criminals is the chief reason for our failure as a nation to develop a continuous and fully integrated program of crime prevention," he said. "We are, instead, standing with one foot in the past and the other in the present, with one hand tilting the scales of justice toward retribution and the other toward rehabilitation."

He scorned the idea of retribution. "Punishment as retribution belongs to a penal philosophy that is archaic and discredited by history," he said.

The contribution of mental hygiene to the prevention of crime was emphasized by many speakers. James V. Bennett, director of the Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, Washington, said that "mental hygiene has much to offer to the prevention of crime."

He deplored the shortage of psychiatrists, saying that the Federal Government, despite having the funds, was unable to get sufficient psychiatrists for the Federal prisons.

"We have started an experiment in group psychotherapy, but it looks as though we may have to abandon it because we cannot get psychiatrists," he said.

Frederick MacCurdy, New York State Mental Hygiene Commis-

## Dean of Women at Ohio U. Will Retire After 36 Years



Dr. Irma E. Voigt

ATHENS, Ohio, May 7—Dr. Irma E. Voigt, the first and only dean of women in the 145-year history of Ohio University, will end her thirty-six years of service to the university on June 30. John C. Baker, president, has accepted her resignation with regret.

In 1913, a few weeks after receiving her Doctor's degree, Dr. Voigt was appointed to the new position of dean of women. In the thirty-six years that since have passed, Dr. Voigt has played a leading part in the development of the university and in helping its women students through their college careers.

Dr. Voigt served as president of the National Association of Deans of Women from 1935 to 1937, and in 1938 was named chairman of the American Council of Guidance and Personnel Associations.

For four years she was a member of the national council of the student division of the Y. M. C. A. She was one of the charter members of Kappa Delta Pi, a national honorary educational society.

sioner, described crime and mental hygiene as "right together in practice." Declaring that recent studies

indicated that mental illness was based on personality disturbances and emotional attitudes developed in early childhood, he said that results through mental hygiene "will come quickest and surest from proper treatment and care of today's infant, pre-school and pre-adolescent children."

He said he also hoped the study on offenders in Sing Sing Prison now being conducted "will open the way to a new approach to the care of our prison population and our parolees and that the state will supply the necessary personnel for screening and therapy, looking toward rehabilitation."

Dr. MacCurdy described penal laws as "frequently made not with intellectual but emotional motives predominating" and said their approach was often "not from a scientific viewpoint but frequently through the jaundiced eye."

Prof. George Dession of the Yale Law School asked for a complete overhauling of the legal philosophy of crime so that "the national thinking would turn from a desire to punish to one of rehabilitating and reorienting the offender."

Dr. Alfred Kinsey, author of the Kinsey Report, asked that the laws on sex offenses be changed. He said: "Not more than 5 per cent of persons who pass through the courts are involved in sexual behavior which damages other individuals." The other 95 per cent "are involved in sexual behavior that transgresses laws that have no function other than to preserve custom," he said.

## VISIT FIELD OF YORKTOWN

Members of Early American  
History Group End Sessions

SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
WILLIAMSBURG, Va., May 7—Members of the Council of the Institute of Early American History and Culture, a merger of the historical activities of the College of William and Mary, made a tour of the Yorktown Battlefield this afternoon.

Dr. Samuel Eliot Morison, Professor of History at Harvard, was re-elected chairman of the council as delegates ended a two-day session.

Dr. Carl Bridenbaugh, director of the institute, said that the grants-in-aid of the institute would be announced June 1.

Principal discussions today centered on the historical themes and designs for the Steuben glass project, which will comprise forty-nine bowls, one for each state and one for the Federal Government. On each bowl will be cut a scene from the history or folklore of a particular state. They will be designed by Sidney Waugh, the sculptor.

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