inference naturally drawn from these facts is that if men go straight for two or three years they will in all probability continue to do so. It has also been pointed out that similar satisfactory results were found in regard to ordinary convicts discharged from convict prisons; this contention was however refuted by a comparison of the respective classes of men, those discharged from convict prisons being either of the Star Class (men not previously convicted) or the Intermediate Class (with only a very few convictions), whereas the Camp Hill inmates were invariably hardened criminals, and often of a dangerous kind.

It should be borne in mind that so far as concerns the individual offenders the objective of Preventive Detention was primarily reformatory and secondarily punitive. And from one's own experience under this less vigorous discipline (held by some as not necessarily conducive to reformation) the men are better behaved. They are afforded encouragement and, more important still, a man's individuality is recognised, and he is encouraged to display his character through his hopes and ambitions.

The view expressed by the number of visitors and officials of high standing from other countries whom I have had the pleasure of showing over Camp Hill is that the public is not doing its duty towards a criminal by simply excluding him from society for a longer or shorter period; but that criminality must be checked by preventive measures and by treating the offender with a view to his restoration. The protection of society equally with the reformation of the prisoner and his restoration to society as a useful citizen are therefore the duties of the State.

THE CHAIRMAN: After that deeply interesting account of Camp Hill you would, I am sure, like to hear Mr. Andrews, who is the Chairman of the Advisory Board at Camp Hill.

RESULTS OF PREVENTIVE DETENTION.*

By A. ANDREWS, J.P., CHAIRMAN, CAMP HILL ADVISORY BOARD.

Whatever your thoughts may be with regard to those who have the administration of the work of the prisons in this land, I do not hesitate to say that they are second to none in desiring that everything in connection with it shall be of a thoroughly human character. Almost the last words the late Chairman of the Prison Commission, Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise, said to me in connection with the work were these: "Mr. Andrews, you cannot be too human in all that you do in connection with the work of this prison." There is not a Director, nor anyone connected with the Prison Commission who has

* From an address before The Howard League for Penal Reform, June 3, 1921.

not been actuated by those same lofty motives. I feel it to be my bounden duty to mention that at the very outset.

The Camp Hill Advisory Committee is a body of men, six in number, viz., Sir Bryan Donkin, Sir Henry McMahon, Mr. Brodrick, Mr. George Shedden, Sir Godfrey Baring and myself. I have the honour to be the Chairman of the Board. The object of the Board is to advise the Secretary of State when, in our judgment, it is wise to recommend for licence one of these men who are at the present moment under the control of the Governor of Camp Hill, Mr. Wintle.

We ask you to remember the material with which we have to deal. One finds a man has been convicted twenty, twenty-five or thirty times, that he has served five, six or seven years of penal servitude. One man spent 35 years of his life in prison. Another came out from Portland Prison in the morning, committed crime again the afternoon, and was in a cell on the evening of that day. That is the kind of material upon which we have to work. No man can be sent to Camp Hill unless he has been convicted of crime three times since the age of 16. Think of it! Men have over and over again said to me "We have never had a chance." One man said: "At seven years of age I was taught to steal by my father, and I was thrashed if I did not come home after a successful venture in crime." That is how he was brought up.

Then there are men of superior education who have got an awful kink, men who come out for a very short time and then are back again almost directly, who have graduated with honours at our Universities, who could have taken high places in our social life; clever men, men with an inventive turn of mind. An example of this occurred just before the lamented death of my predecessor, one of the greatest authorities on convict life, the late Sir Edward Clayton. He was lying ill, and he said, "The Home Office wish me to go into the question of an invention of one of the men at Camp Hill. Will you do it?" I went down. The invention was—a burglar proof lock! and a very clever invention too. The man said, "People make the greatest mistake. They put the lock on the wrong way and on the wrong side." It was a most simple device, made out of cardboard, stuck together with cold potato. He was released on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, and to-day is doing wonderfully well. I do not know whether he has brought that lock to perfection yet, or patented it, but I was interested a little while ago to see set forth in one of the papers details of wonderful inventions that, working as an engineer, this man had carried out on his release. He is now doing quite well.

Every man admitted to the prison comes before us. The Governor first of all sees him, and I see him. The Advisory Committee have

the power to go in at any moment and interview the men whenever they like, and talk to them and see them in their cells, alone or otherwise, as seems desirable. Each man comes before me. There is no officer there, not even the Governor. I always say to the man, "Remember this: it rests with you when the key unlocks the door and out you go." A man may be sentenced to five years or to six or seven or eight or nine or ten years as the case may be; but without any thought of any pressure from the Prison Commission or anyone else, we exercise our own judgments, and the moment we consider a man is fit to be released we recommend that person to the Secretary of State for release, whatever the length of the sentence may be. Sometimes we have the word "Hopeless" written on the man's reports when he comes into the prison. I will not say that I take absolutely no notice of that, but I never accept it. I never write "Hopeless" over any man in that prison until I am able, at the end of the man's term, to say to the Secretary of State that the man has become an ex-convict, and that he has served the whole of his term because as a Committee we were unable to recommend him for release, and I set forth the reasons why we were not able to do so.

Every preventive detention prisoner is interviewed by a member of the sub-committee as soon as possible after his preventive detention sentence commences. I pay the greatest attention to the Governor. He and the chaplain write their reports, and we weigh the matter. If we are not convinced, whether it be Governor or whether it be chaplain (sometimes there is such a thing as the Governor and the chaplain not being absolutely in accord!) we then form our own opinion and decide what we think is the right course in connection with the prisoner. Experience has shown that a judgment on each individual case can only be formed after constant and close personal study by the various members of the Advisory Committee. I tell the man, "Whatever the length of the sentence may be, the moment that we are able to say to the Secretary of State that there is a reasonable probability that you will abstain from crime—that is the first thing—and secondly, that you will lead a useful and industrious life, then, whether you have been here for a year, or for two years, or for three years, you will be recommended for your licence."

No man is allowed to go out until work is found for him. That is where the Central Association comes in. I commend that work, and I would especially emphasise the value of the work of my friend Sir Wemyss Grant-Wilson. When a man goes out he is placed in the care of that Association. They find him work and watch over him. It is not the police constable who watches over him: he does not report to the police; but he reports from time to time to a person who is a friend of his, the agent of the Central Association. Reports

from the Association are brought to us showing how the man is going on.

Since Camp Hill prison was opened, 513 men have been received. Of those 49 were physically unfit to obtain the advantages of preventive detention; mental deficiency and other illnesses, and, may be, extreme old age, prevented them from benefitting. Of the remaining 454, 343 have been licensed on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee with the result that no less than 52 per cent. of them have turned out well, and are doing well at the present moment. That, I consider, is most encouraging, and better than was anticipated when the prison was first opened. Thirty to 40 per cent was looked upon as what we might expect, remembering the material, the kind of men who had been sent there, and therefore I do not hesitate to say that we are proud of this much better result. I only hope that in the future it will be even more successful.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now I am going to ask Mr. Duncan, one of the veterans of the prison service, to address you.

A GAOLER ON GAOLS.*

By JAMES H. DUNCAN,

Steward of H.M. Prison, Wandsworth.

It is my privilege to try to discharge a debt of gratitude which we owe to the Howard Association. There is only one note of disappointment which I must utter, namely, I am sorry that the Howard Association has closed its career before we have closed the last prison in this country. I have had some fifty years' day by day experience in prisons at home and on the Continent and in America, and it has not done me a bit of good. Years ago the prison officer throughout the world had a most difficult task in front of him. He knew that there were a lot of opinions as to what he ought to do and as to what was required to be done. There was the legal opinion, the official opinion, the public opinion, the philanthropic opinion and the religious opinion. Among them all he was bewildered. The Howard Association came to his assistance, and it said quite plainly and frankly that the officer was the real factor in the whole system, the officer, that is, who comes in contact with the men day by day, night and day, seven days a week, every day in the year. I am not speaking of myself. I do not now come in contact with the prisoners, although I have discharged almost every duty possible in different prisons. The officer was impressed with the opinion of the Howard Association, always turned to the Howard Association when in trouble, and the Association never failed the officers on any occasion. Not so very long ago, the prison officer's

* An address before the Howard League for Penal Reform, June 3rd, 1921.