

children was 40%. This indicates a close, although not necessarily a causative connection between the two conditions. Amongst delinquent boys 13% were mentally defective, but a similar percentage was found in boys who were committed to institutions for reasons other than delinquency. During the past twenty-three years the proportion of prisoners to each 100,000 of the population has fallen from 89 to 53. In considering this fall, the increased use of the probation system must be weighed. A considerable number of prison inmates were given an intelligence test. Fixing the lower limit of normality at an "intelligence quotient" of 90, the tests indicate that 58.8% were subnormal. Taking "mental age," 4.8% were found to be below 10 years and 23% below 12 years. We are not, however, provided with any information as to the standard of intelligence in the general population. As in other countries, the chief causative factor in initial delinquency was found to be defective home conditions. Much use appears to be made of an indeterminate sentence, with conditional release on probation. It is claimed that 60% of those who are thus trusted with their freedom are not re-committed to prison. This number, however, includes both recidivists and first offenders. It is, consequently, difficult to estimate the true value of the method.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Fifteen Years' Experience with Defectives on Livo. (Mental Welfare, January, 1927.) Wildenskov, H. O.*

Livo is an island of 750 acres, separated by a channel from the Danish mainland. There are in residence about 95 mentally defective male patients, under the care of eleven attendants. The inmates, out of working hours, are allowed to move freely all over the island. The establishment is a branch of the parent institution at Brejning. All the patients sent to Livo had exhibited criminal tendencies. During a period of fifteen years 225 patients were received; 124 of these had been guilty of theft, 66 had committed sex offences of various kinds, 35 were incendiaries. Three-fourths of the patients were between 14 and 24 years of age on reception. All were sent to Livo as being mental defectives, but six were found to be psychopaths; these latter were removed, as it was found that they exercised a bad influence upon the necessary discipline.

The inmates are not necessarily under permanent detention. Cases which appear to be suitable are released, under due safeguards, if situations can be found for them. Releases to the number of 161 have been made, and 58 of these have been re-admitted. Some of the released cases live at the parent institution during the winter, when employment is more difficult to obtain, going out to situations in the spring. This would seem to be an admirable plan. The age and the degree of intelligence of the re-committed cases do not seem to furnish any clue as to the liability to relapse into crime. The prospect of release is regarded as of great importance. Without such a prospect it would be much more difficult to maintain discipline with so small a staff.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.