

**FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC: IN
COLLABORATION WITH SING
SING PRISON. FOR THE NINE
MONTHS ENDING, APRIL 30, 1917**

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For the Nine Months Ending
April 30, 1917

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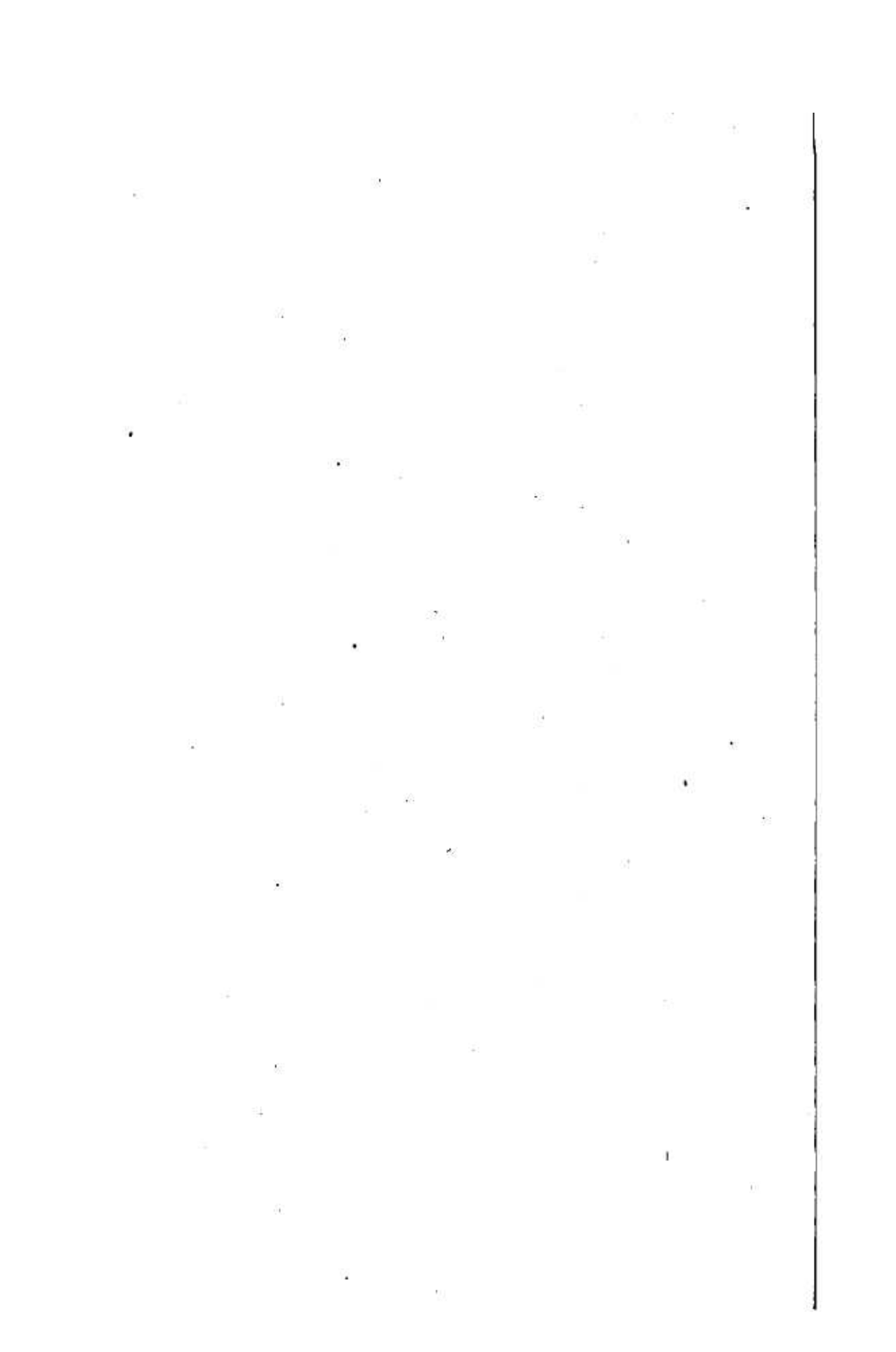
PREFACE

The establishment of the Psychiatric Clinic at Sing Sing Prison was made possible through the financial support given by the Rockefeller Foundation to the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, which has helped in the planning and supervision of the work through an Advisory Board composed of Drs. Pearce Bailey, L. Pierce Clark, Walter B. James, George H. Kirby, William L. Russell, Thomas W. Salmon and Frankwood E. Williams. The work of the Clinic has been hampered to a certain extent through lack of physical facilities, particularly of adequate quarters. This condition is, however, largely unavoidable under the present circumstances, notwithstanding the fact that the State Prison Department, and especially the present warden of Sing Sing Prison, the Hon. William H. Moyer, has always rendered us the fullest co-operation and encouragement. We take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for this valuable assistance.

This account would be incomplete without acknowledging fully the credit due to Drs. D. C. Kalloch and F. M. Shockley, former assistants at the Clinic, and to Mr. C. S. Rossy, former psychologist, all of whom contributed largely to the material of this report. The very excellent work of our field investigators, Miss Zaida E. Udell and Mr. Paul Wander, whose earnest efforts have contributed in no small degree to the obtaining of our data, also deserves especial mention. The members of the Advisory Board have always been a source of very helpful inspiration, especially Dr. Thomas W. Salmon, Medical Director of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, without whose kind and wise guidance, our task would have been an infinitely more difficult one.

BERNARD GLUECK,
Director.

OSSINING, NEW YORK,
June 15, 1917.



INTRODUCTION

MUCH as we should like to enter into a detailed discussion of case histories in the presentation of this report of the activities of the Psychiatric Clinic at Sing Sing prison during the first nine months of its existence, it is obvious that this course would lead us considerably beyond the scope of the report. What we aim to present in these pages is a bird's-eye view of the nature of the problem involved, rather than a clinical study of criminal types. We have felt from the first that a general view of the problem is most essential before any more or less detailed approach to it of a purely research nature is undertaken. That in the course of gaining this general survey we should have gathered a great deal of useful and interesting clinical material is but natural, but the presentation of this material in detail must await future publication.

To those who have given serious thought to the problem of criminal behavior, there should, of course, be no doubt as to the part psychiatry ought to play in the field of criminology, but if a need is still felt for the outlining of reasons why criminology should seek in psychiatry an aid toward the definition and administration of its problem, the following rather significant facts might be offered for contemplation:

1. Of 608 adult prisoners studied by psychiatric methods out of an uninterrupted series of 683 cases admitted to Sing Sing prison within a period of nine months, 66.8 per cent were not merely prisoners, but individuals who had shown throughout life a tendency to behave in a manner at variance with the behavior of the average normal person, and this deviation from normal behavior had repeatedly manifested itself in a criminal act.

2. Of the same series of 608 cases, 59 per cent were classifiable in terms of deviations from average normal mental health.

3. Of the same series of cases, 28.1 per cent possessed a degree of intelligence equivalent to that of the average American child of twelve years or under; of the ninety-eight native-born defectives, 80.6 per cent were recidivists* in crime, whose average number of

* A recidivist is an individual, who, in addition to his present term of imprisonment, has served one or more previous sentences in penal or reformatory institutions. Page 16.