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NEW SOUTH WALES.

POLICE ESTABLISHMENTS IN UNITED KINGDOM AND
CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

(REPORT OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE UPON ORGANIZATION AND WORKING OF.)

Presented to Parliament by Command.

The Inspector-General of Police to The Principal Under Secretary.

Police Department, Inspector-General's Office,
Sydney, 26 December, 1888.

Sir,

In accordance with the Colonial Secretary's instructions conveyed to me in your letter dated the 16th February last, No. 88-1,021, I do myself the honor to report, for his information, that during my recent visit to Europe I made careful inquiries respecting the organization and working of various police establishments, for which purpose I was in communication with the following authorities:—

The Commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police.
The Commissioner of the City of London Police Force.
The Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary at Dublin.
The Chief Constable, Glasgow.
The Chief Constable, Edinburgh.
The Chief Constable, Manchester.
The Inspector of Police, Belfast.
The Préfet of Police in Paris.

These officials, and many others with whom I communicated, received me with the utmost courtesy, and readily afforded all the information I sought.

As a matter of course, most of the arrangements coming under my observation were matters of detail, of interest in a departmental point of view, which will I trust prove of advantage in the administration of the Department under my control, but it is unnecessary that I should refer to them at length in this report.

My observations regarding the working of the police were not confined to the places I have mentioned, and I further informed myself respecting—

The constitution of the Fire Brigade Service in London and in several other cities.
The system of Reformatories.
The construction of places of public amusement.
Street traffic.

And other matters of public interest more or less connected with the service.

As in the present day constant communication takes place between the police services all over the world, officers being appointed to one force after experience in another, improvements become speedily known and generally adopted, I was not surprised, therefore, to discover that there was but little in the modern arrangements and management of a novel character, indeed changes even of admittedly beneficial character are very gradually and guardedly adopted.

The most important and effective means of ensuring a thoroughly efficient police force are alike in all places and under all conditions. They are simply the selection of men for appointment of good character, possessing qualifications fitting them for an intelligent performance of their duties, and by unremitting watchfulness and care in the selection of superior officers of all grades, to ensure due instruction and supervision, in order that not only efficiency may be maintained but that there may be progressive improvement.

One difficulty invariably presents itself. Subordinate officers who have during a lengthened service performed their duties in a satisfactory manner have claims on that account, and by seniority, for higher rank, but having given the best part of their lives to arduous duty they are not in their advancing years possessed of the energy which is requisite to keep pace with requirements of the service. If to avoid the apparent injustice in passing over such deserving officers by promoting juniors over their heads the former are advanced to positions of greater responsibility, the result is commonly a deterioration in efficiency.

Such officials, whilst receiving every consideration to which their good behaviour and services entitle them, must, it seems to me, look forward to the liberal pensions to which they will become entitled as the ultimate recognition of their services.

Officers in the Royal Irish Constabulary are appointed after trial and instruction at the dépôt as cadets, in the following manner:—Out of every five vacancies for junior officers, one is given to a head constable, two are nominated by the Government, and the remaining two are nominated by the Inspector-General by selection from the sons of officers in the constabulary.

As I have had occasion to represent when reporting upon the Police Reward and Superannuation Funds, the scale of retiring pensions in New South Wales is far more liberal than that authorized in any other country in the world, and apart from the consideration of the difficulties which must necessarily hereafter arise in meeting the rapidly-growing charges for this purpose, there are other reasons why the scale fixed by the Act of Parliament should be modified to assimilate more closely with that adopted in other places.

The rate of pay in this country is very liberal, certainly adequate to procure the services of a good class of men. It is about double that paid in London, where there is no difficulty in procuring the services of any number of eligible candidates.

The members of the London Metropolitan Police are allowed one day's leave each fortnight, which, considering the trying nature of their duties (without Sunday rest), is, in my opinion, only a reasonable concession—one I should be pleased to have it in my power to grant in Sydney, but before it could be arranged an increase to the establishment would be necessary.

The foot police here compare very favourably in physique and intelligence with the men in any other service, but as a matter of course the bush duty performed by the mounted police is of a nature wholly different to that undertaken by any mounted police out of Australia.

The police in England and Scotland are not armed, nor drilled to the use of arms, though many intelligent people think it would be a judicious measure. The Royal Irish Constabulary, however, partake more of a military organization than any other police service.

In this regard the custom in various places is widely dissimilar. The police in Paris on street duty are armed by day with a short sword, and by night with a revolver as well, but no baton. In London they have a baton only, now of an improved make, but not equal to the American leather "club" in use in Sydney. In Edinburgh, where street fights are not uncommon, and the police are frequently assaulted and illused in the execution of their duty, they are not permitted to use their batons, or even to carry them, and if disabled there is no assured provision for any compensation. In Greenock the police are supplied with canes, to be used on occasion upon the unruly and disorderly.

There is no improvement in the uniform worn by the Home police which could be advantageously adopted here. The helmet hitherto worn by the London Metropolitan Police has been changed to one precisely similar to that in use in New South Wales for some years. I was at considerable pains to inquire of various manufacturers if a more suitable and less expensive waterproof cape could be procured for our men, but I regretted to find that a moderately cheap stitched cape of one material sufficiently rain-proof could not be manufactured.

Though the modern stations built in Australia are better as a rule than those in London in some respects, the metropolitan watch-houses in Sydney are far behind the requirements. My opinion has always been that persons apprehended are entitled to decent places for confinement, as far as practicable, in separate cells. They are sometimes innocent, youthful, and even respectable citizens, and should therefore never be placed in ill-ventilated cells, or with persons of a criminal or otherwise objectionable type. To allow of this more cell accommodation should be provided, and of a better description. This matter will, however, be specially brought under notice in a separate communication.

Bricks, white, glazed or enamelled on one face, the use of which I have advocated, should invariably be used for lining cells, being readily kept clean, and in every way desirable in a sanitary point of view. Such bricks are always used in modern watch-houses in the United Kingdom.

In June last I wrote from Glasgow to the officer acting for me in Sydney to bring before the Colonial Secretary a strong recommendation that the larger lockups should be provided with an observation cell for the accommodation of prisoners who are in an insensible condition, possibly insane, or suffering from illness, or in other respects in a state to require that they should be watched until they regain consciousness, or are seen by a medical man. The plan of the cell I described is simple, and humanity demands some such means of observation should be provided.

Had such been available in Sydney a terrible catastrophe which subsequently happened would not have occurred.

It would also be in my opinion advisable to provide better sanitary arrangements, in some of the cells at least, similar to those now generally adopted in the United Kingdom, specifications of which, cost, &c., I also transmitted for reference to the Colonial Architect.

The accompanying article from *The Times* newspaper of the 28th July last will afford information regarding the condition of the accommodation of prisoners before trial in England.

The mode of dealing with drunkards varies in different places. In the City of London, for instance, an inebriate is only detained until sober, when he is discharged without being brought before a Magistrate. It is not difficult therefore to find a reason for our returns of apprehensions being apparently higher than those of other cities.

Although there are certain conditions which affect the comparison in a minor degree, it is important to notice the proportion which the police in various cities bears to the population.

The tabulated statement below affords information on this head, but it must be borne in mind that the very extensive area covered by the Metropolitan Police District of Sydney weakens the effective force of the police, rendering a larger number of men necessary than the percentage according to population; instead of this, however, the strength is considerably less.

City.	Population.	Strength of Police, all ranks.	One Police Constable to proportion of population as below.
Metropolitan Police, London	5,476,447	14,081	1 to 389
Glasgow	550,000	1,093	1 to 503
Edinburgh	250,000	500	1 to 500
Manchester	377,529	940	1 to 401
Belfast	230,000	800	1 to 287
Sydney	357,856	517	1 to 692

In London and most other cities barracks are provided for a certain number of single policemen, and it would be an advantage if my recommendation in this regard were to be approved in Sydney, as in case of fire, disturbance, or other emergency, the means of calling out men at a moment's notice might be of the utmost importance. On the other hand, I think the counter advantage of the police living amongst the citizens, and thereby acquiring a knowledge of localities and residents, renders it advisable that the majority of the police should live in private dwellings.

In the metropolis of London between two and three thousand police are exclusively employed controlling the street traffic, which is indispensably necessary to prevent congestion in the extremely thronged and narrow thoroughfares.

The licensed vehicles (omnibuses and cabs) being under the sole control of the police, obedience to instructions from the latter is unquestioningly and promptly rendered. It is at the same time clearly apparent that the good order and system which is maintained in the vehicular traffic is to a very large extent the result of extremely skilful and careful driving, regard for the rules of the road, and respect on the part of drivers, both of public and private vehicles, to the safety and convenience of others.

It is observable, however, that horses are not required to proceed at a slow place at street intersections; that the drivers of licensed cabs are permitted to wander about the streets almost at will looking out for fares, and that in many of the busiest and narrowest thoroughfares, Cheapside and Fleet-street for example, the roadways are greatly impeded by the numerous hawkers who stand their barrows in the streets; also that large vans discharge goods in crowded streets in the most leisurely way, even stopping to feed their horses, whereby the locomotion of other vehicles is made far more difficult than it need be.

With regard to public-houses and the drink traffic, I must confess that I am not assured that my information and observations have been sufficiently comprehensive to warrant the conclusions I have drawn. The question of the control and licensing of public-houses does not appear to be a matter occasioning any serious difficulty in the United Kingdom. I do not think intemperance is on the increase, the signs of it in the streets and at public gatherings are, to my mind, certainly less obvious than in former years. The public-houses are apparently fairly conducted. I visited some in low quarters late at night, and there was less exhibition of degraded persons of both sexes drinking and quarrelling than I remember in former years. I attribute this to the improved police supervision to a great extent, but also to the desire of the licensees to maintain respectable houses. The chief difficulty in Sydney, and that which brings the police into constant conflict with the licensed publicans and the public, is the Sunday-closing clauses of the Act. This is not experienced in London, where public-houses are allowed to be opened on Sundays from 1 to 3 and from 6 to 11 p.m., and in other cities for certain fixed hours. I am disposed to think that this has not the effect of increasing drunkenness, as persons purchasing drink do it openly under police observation, instead of doing so in a clandestine manner, and in contravention of the law, which it is almost a matter of impossibility to enforce.

The French system for ensuring the certain identification of criminals by photography and measurements of head, length of bones, &c., is very ingenious and perfect. Having about 70,000 of such records, it is by other means very tedious, if not impracticable, to identify any particular individual, but by a simple plan of recording and arranging the descriptions this is readily accomplished. This subject I have dealt with in a separate communication to you of even date.

Both in England and France I made inquiries regarding the working of the Contagious Diseases Acts, and acquired certain information which it would not be convenient to embody in this report, but which is, of course, at the disposal of the Government should the question be again brought under consideration.

The foregoing report contains merely an outline of the matters to which I devoted my attention, in obedience to the Colonial Secretary's instructions, but I have taken copious notes of all details of police administration, which I shall not fail to make use of in so far as they can be beneficially applied in the management of the service of this country.

I have, &c.,

EDMUND FOSBERY,

Inspector-General of Police.

[Enclosure.]

[Extract from the *Times*, Saturday, July 28th, 1888.]

THE ACCOMMODATION FOR PRISONERS BEFORE TRIAL.

IN the course of last year a report was presented to Parliament of a Committee appointed by the Home Secretary to consider the accommodation at courts of assize and quarter sessions for prisoners whose misfortunes or misdeeds had led to their being brought up for trial or indictment. This report showed that the local authorities, whose business it is to make provision for this accommodation, had in a great number of cases utterly neglected their duty, and that extreme hardship, amounting sometimes to cruelty, was inflicted on these prisoners. The absence of proper provision for order and decency among them contrasted all the more strongly with the care which the same local authorities (under pressure of the law and the Government) had bestowed on the condition of prisoners in the prisons, because the unconvicted prisoner is clearly entitled to be relieved from any unnecessary hardship, and more especially at the moment when the issues before him demand that he should be free from every influence which might distract or incapacitate him.

These revelations, no doubt, suggested that a similar inquiry was necessary in the case of the minor courts of justice, and accordingly the present Home Secretary, continuing the work of his predecessors, appointed a committee in September last to inquire into the nature of the accommodation provided for prisoners in the police courts of the metropolis, and all buildings in England and Wales in which courts of summary jurisdiction are held, and to report what conditions such accommodation should satisfy, and what alterations are desirable in existing arrangements. The committee consisted of Mr. Justice Wills, Sir Robert Fowler, Sir Thomas Evans, Sir Edmund Du Cane, and Mr. Bushby, and their report has now been presented to Parliament.

The condition of things revealed with unsparing freedom in this report comes up to anything which the most sensational writer could desire if he were commissioned to produce something to throw the greatest amount of discredit and disparagement on "the authorities," and they make it abundantly clear that, with all our boasted progress in humanity, and all our discussion as to the principles which should regulate the treatment of prisoners, the "authorities" concerned in these matters are either very ignorant or very apt to neglect their duty, unless they are subjected to the stimulant provided by the being whom Sir William Harcourt, in the days of his more particular ignorance, before he had been Home Secretary, disparaged as a noxious reptile under the name of "Inspector Vastator."

For the facts relating to the present condition of these minor Courts and their requirements, so far as concerns the number of prisoners daily tried in them, the Committee were furnished with reports by the inspectors of prisons, giving, with full but dry precision, the number and sizes of the cells and rooms assigned to prisoners while awaiting their turn to be called up before the Justice who is to determine whether they are to be discharged as innocent, to suffer imprisonment for such period as he can order, or to stand the chance of trial by a higher Court, together with a statement of the necessary subsidiary accommodation,

accommodation, and the sanitary provision in each place. In the case of the Metropolitan and City police courts full tabular information was furnished to show the number of prisoners tried on various days, the time they were detained at the Court-house, and other necessary particulars; but Mr. Justice Wills seems to have undertaken to clothe their dry bones with life for the benefit of his colleagues, and to that end to have personally visited most of the Metropolitan police courts while the ordinary business was going on in them, so that he might thoroughly realize the condition of affairs, and be the better able to make such a graphic description as his practical pen could produce.

The report of the Committee is divided into three parts, which treat respectively of—

1. The Metropolitan and City Police Courts.
2. The Stipendiary Courts in the country.
3. Other Petty Sessional Courts.

The effect produced on the judgment of the Committee, by an examination of their material, so far as relates to the first division, is thus described in their report:—

"They appear to us to show that the present accommodation is extremely defective in almost every respect; that it is unworthy of a civilised country, and especially discredit to the metropolis of this country; and that a large measure of improvement is immediately and urgently called for. The results of the present arrangements may be shortly summarized as follows:—A great number of persons are habitually congregated in one cell, both before and after their cases are heard by the Magistrate. Classification of offenders is possible only to the smallest and most uncertain extent, and the attempt to carry it out must constantly break down in spite of any amount of goodwill. The offices of nature must be performed, if at all, under circumstances of disgusting publicity. The cells are, with few exceptions, most imperfectly lighted; many are quite dark. Communication from cell to cell is, in a very great number of instances, perfectly easy; in some as unrestricted as must be the intercourse between prisoners in the same cell. In some cases there is a mischievous facility of communication with the outside world, which can be, and sometimes is, made use of to defeat the ends of justice. In nearly all, respectable and innocent people, if they should be unfortunate enough to get there, must listen to the foulest language, and be exposed to contact with people of disgusting habits. Many cells, besides being dark, are most imperfectly warmed and ventilated. In short, preliminary detention carries with it punishment which, to persons of respectability or of decent habit, must be intolerable, and which is of a character that, if made part of a sentence, would raise an outcry throughout the land. To the young, to persons of weak morals, to people not wholly blameless or respectable, but still not belonging to the criminal classes, to those on the border-line between decency and depravity, this kind of association is calculated to do infinite harm; while to the really criminal, to the degraded and obscene, the opportunities of unchecked indulgence in licentious and mischievous conversation is not unlikely to afford positive enjoyment, and to afford some compensation for the loss of liberty. We are assured that many people of this class, and many others not sunk so low, and capable of being much damaged by intercourse of this kind, dread or dislike nothing so much as solitude, and beg to be locked up in company with others. To us it seems that solitude, however much it may be disliked, is a good thing for the guilty; and that for the innocent it is far better than liability to the degrading associations we have alluded to, and that it is desirable to aim at securing it rather than at avoiding it."

Mr. Justice Wills then refers to the darkness in which these unfortunate prisoners are condemned to pass the day of trial:—

"The worst defect about the cells, however, is their almost universal darkness; usually speaking, they have no light except what is admitted through the door. The door has one little trap-door in its upper part, about 12 in. by 5 in. or thereabouts, not always open, and besides this, about 18 in. of the upper part of the door, and very often a space of a foot or so above that, is occupied by plates of iron perforated with circular holes from $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to $\frac{3}{8}$ in. in diameter. In nine out of ten of the cells this is the only light admitted. Sometimes in the part above the door a piece of glass about 6 in. wide is inserted in the middle between two bits of perforated iron plate. With very rare exceptions these are the only means of getting any light into the cell. If the cell-door happens to be opposite a window in the passage in front of it, a little light steals in, and if the trap-door were open a man could see to read a watch in many parts of the cell if the day were not dark. But if it be opposite another cell or a wall, the cell is to all intents and purposes effectually dark. I entered many in which, when the door was closed, I could not see the opposite wall. I should think the cells at Westminster, which are lighted by glass panes let into the wall on the side of Vincent Square, are very nearly, if not quite, the only ones throughout the metropolis in which a man could see to read if he had the chance. When the day wanes, or is overcast or foggy, most of the cells must be practically quite dark. The police cells are all efficiently lighted after dark by a gas-burner with a reflector behind it in front of a pane of glass above the door. Very few indeed of the court-house cells have anything of this kind, and commonly there are only two or three burners on the opposite side of the passage outside the cells. Even at Bow-street, where the court is of very recent construction, some of the cells are as nearly as possible absolutely dark, and those which are not so are yet lighted only by a trap-door and the perforated iron plates already described. Here it seems almost a wanton piece of hardship, for the small skylight which lights the passage in front of the cells might perfectly well be extended over the greater part of its length. At Westminster the upper plates of perforated iron above the door are absent, and only such iron bars are there as are necessary for security, and the difference in the amount of light inside is very great indeed."

As to space, it appears that in the waiting-rooms the crowding is often so great that fifty or sixty prisoners are placed in a room or two with a space of about $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. to $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. each, less any space occupied by the police in charge. As regards the stipendiary courts in the country, twenty-one in number, the Committee enumerate several in which no alterations, or such as are of only a minor character, are needed, and they refer with particular praise to the magnificent courts in course of erection at Birmingham, where the humane treatment of prisoners under detention appears to have been thoroughly kept in view in the designs for the building. But they single out West Ham, Pontypridd, Liverpool, and Manchester county police courts for condemnation, saying with regard to the two last-named:—"At Liverpool and Manchester (county) the accommodation is bad. At Liverpool, before the hearing, the prisoners are placed in two corridors and two waiting-rooms; after the hearing they are placed in five cells, and generally about six in a cell. The cell has the inevitable water-closet, which can only be used under the disgusting conditions so often referred to. Under the circumstances described, any effectual classification is, of course, quite out of the question. At Manchester (county) there are but two cells, about 13 feet by 10 feet—one for men, into which sometimes twelve people are put; one for women, into which five or six are sometimes put. The only water-closets are one in each cell, to be used in public, if at all."

They then proceed to say:—"The two places, however, distinguished by the greatest disregard of humanity and decency are the petty sessional courts of Hull and Manchester (city). At Hull the same cells which are used for quarter sessions do duty also for the petty sessional courts. There are four cells—two containing 965 cubic feet each, one containing 426 cubic feet, and one 400 only. Into each of these, when quarter sessions are not sitting, 'three or four prisoners or more' are reported as being commonly placed. They are all underground; they have no access to daylight whatever, and, although lighted and heated, are 'infamously ventilated,' and soon become noisome and offensive. At Hull sessions from twenty to forty prisoners are tried, and, as there is no other accommodation for them, it may be imagined to what a pitch overcrowding and promiscuous aggregation must be carried. It is difficult to think with complete calmness of the fact that such a state of things satisfies those responsible for its continuance, and that it fails to rouse any sense of the unfairness and cruelty of putting a man upon his trial who comes, after many hours of confinement in such a noisome den, to struggle in court for his liberty or his character."

"At the Manchester City Court there are two rooms for men, about 21 ft. by 15 ft., and two for women, about 15 ft. by 14 ft. These are used for prisoners awaiting hearing. As many as thirty men are said to have been placed at once in each of the larger, and twenty women in each of the smaller rooms. After the hearing is over, prisoners sentenced or under remand are conducted to five rooms in the basement. There is a sixth, but it is so dark that it is never used. Three of these are used for men, two smaller ones for women. Those used for men are about 18 ft. by 15 ft., those for women about 18 ft. by 8 ft. They are faced with open bars. 'In one of these' says the Inspector, 'I saw thirty-seven men huddled together, some sitting, others standing or leaning against the iron bars, looking out, talking and muttering words to one another that sounded very like oaths. In the middle of this crowd was a soldier in uniform, standing as far apart from the others as he could. In the women's room there were eighteen associated. The whole scene reminded me of the barred cages at the Zoological Gardens, occupied by the lions and tigers, with this difference, that the wild animals were far better off. As many as forty to fifty men and from twenty to thirty women occupy these rooms at times. The three other rooms close by were not occupied at all.'"

The Committee's report as regards the other petty sessional courts is not so detailed as in the other divisions, for, as they say:—

"In the large majority of petty sessional courts the business is so small and the time occupied by a sitting so short that very limited accommodation for prisoners is needed. The reports now under consideration point to what might naturally be expected—that it is in the great centres of population that the worst abuses are to be found. They contain also abundant proofs that here also great improvements are in some places urgently called for. At Blackburn, for instance, 'there are two rooms or boxes at the top of the stairs leading from the cells and close to the dock, one for males, the other for females. They face one another, and are separated by a few steps (and a space) leading to the dock. Petty sessions occur daily, and the average number of prisoners tried does not exceed six. The room for males is 5 ft. by 4 ft. 7 in., and 6 ft. 11 in. high; cubical contents, a little over 160 ft. The room for females is 4 ft. long, 4 ft. 8 in. wide, and 6 ft. 3 in. high; cubical contents, a little over 118 ft.' A water-closet at the foot of the stairs answers for both sexes. 'Eight have been known to occupy the room or box for males, and as many as six women have been packed into the one set apart for females. There is no limit. These boxes are lighted and ventilated by keeping the doors open. There are also small square ventilated holes covered with wire netting—one at the top of each room or box.'"

The Committee refer to another important defect in the arrangements which probably characterize almost all police courts and police cells. They say:—

"In our opinions also, it is utterly wrong that women prisoners should have no women about them at the places of detention, and should be obliged to appeal to a man when they want to make use of water-closet accommodation. There ought to be at each court a female officer to take charge, under the gaoler or constables, of the women—a provision which by law has to be made for women in custody in a prison."

Mr. Justice Wills says:—

"In no case and in no place is there a female warder or gaoler. People often have to wait several hours in the waiting-room, and any woman wanting to perform any of the offices of nature must ask a policeman's help. He will take her across the yard, and generally she must go for the purpose to one of the cells, which may or may not be tenanted by other women. If it be so, she must relieve herself in their presence, if at all."

It seems almost incredible that it should be necessary at this present time to enforce the desirability of having female officers to take charge of female prisoners in police cells; and if this security against obvious abuses cannot be obtained without legislation it is absolutely necessary that the provision required by law with regard to women in a prison should be extended to women in police custody. It may naturally be asked how it comes about that the condition of affairs which has been described can have existed for so long a time in the midst of this great metropolis and in buildings the management and construction of which are entirely in the hands of the Government. The answer is to be found in the divided control and responsibility under which the police courts are managed. The magistrate, sitting in the court, has, of course, full control therein, but has apparently nothing to do with that part of the building in which the prisoners are detained before appearing in the dock. During their detention they are in charge of the police, but the police have nothing to do with the building. The police-stations in which the prisoners are detained until they are brought up to court belong to the police, and are managed entirely by them; their condition met with the entire approbation of the Committee, but the police-court cells and rooms are provided by Her Majesty's Commissioners of Works. They are thus a kind of nobody's child; there is no competent inspection of them, the officers of the Department of Works are not charged with, or responsible for, the duty of guarding the interests of the unfortunate prisoners, nor have they, of course, any intimate knowledge of the technicalities of this duty. The natural result of this condition of affairs is therefore what is developed in the report.

The recommendations of the Committee seem to be such as would obviously commend themselves to any person who considers the subject by the light of the accepted maxims which regulate the treatment of prisoners, and which are throughout the United Kingdom applied to the treatment of convicted prisoners. The Committee require suitable accommodation for a full average of the number of prisoners likely to be in custody at the same time; that this accommodation should consist partly of small separate cells and partly of separate compartments in a room or rooms; that it should be properly warmed, lighted, ventilated, and cleansed; that women should be kept separate from men; and that suitable provision should be made for the wants of nature. These remedies are such as to present no difficulty in application, and the cost involved is not of an amount to shock the most strenuous advocate of economy. We cannot but believe that Her Majesty's Government will at once take such steps as will remove this foul blot from among us, and, having thus set an example to the local authorities, will enforce among them the adoption of a standard of treatment of their untried prisoners in conformity with modern ideas of decency and humanity.

SANITARY CONDITION OF POLICE CELLS.

Mr. C. GRAHAM asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to do anything to remedy the insanitary state of the cells at many London and provincial police stations.

Mr. MATTHEWS: Yes, Sir, it is the intention of the Government to do everything in their power to remedy the insanitary state of the cells in London and the provinces. Active communication is now proceeding with the various local authorities, and there is every prospect that it will be found possible to carry out the recommendations of the Committee.