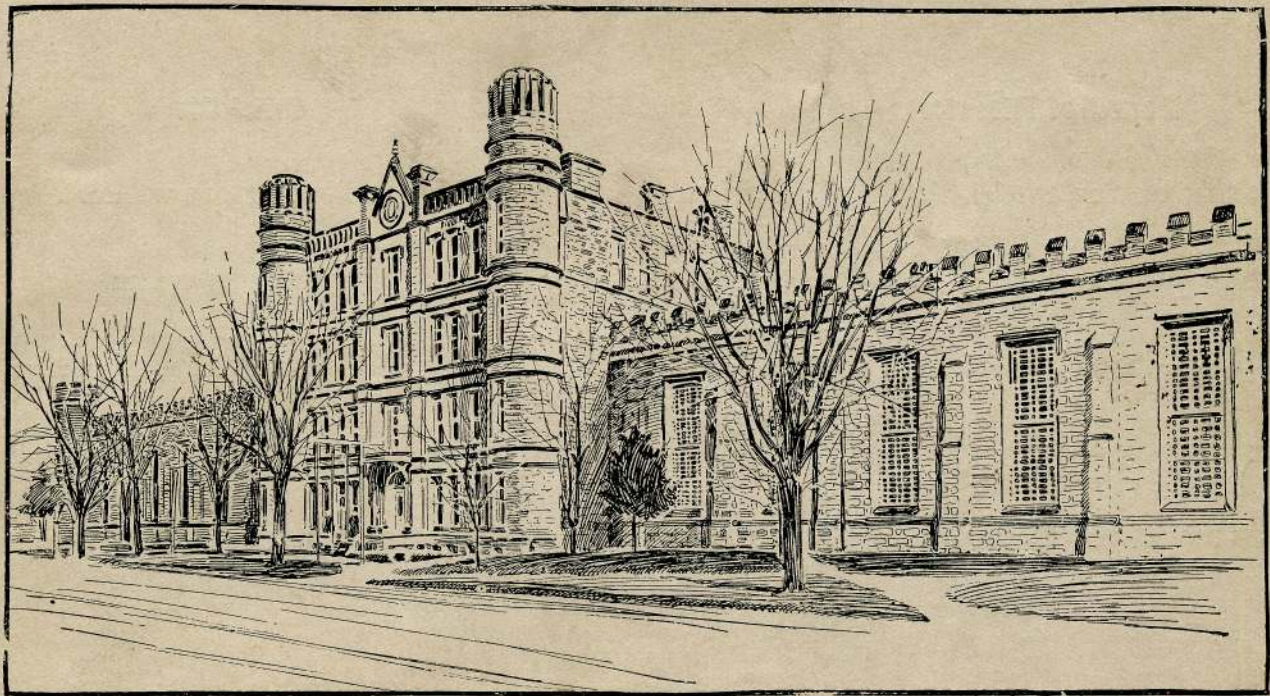


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WEST VIRGINIA PENITENTIARY,
MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

OFFICERS:--1902.



Board of Directors:==

NEWTON OGDIN, PRESIDENT, ST. MARYS, W. VA.

JOHN A. BLOYD, TREASURER, MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA.

J. WM. GILKESON, MOOREFIELD, W. VA.

W. W. WHYTE, WELCH, W. VA.

CLARKE HAMILTON, JR., WHEELING, W. VA.

Officials:==

C. E. HADDOX, WARDEN.

F. W. MYERS, CLERK.

W. D. STEWART, PHYSICIAN.

C. G. DAWSON, CAPT. OF GUARD.

MRS. SOPHIA HORN, MATRON.



History of the Penitentiary.



HEN, at the close of the Civil War, it was found necessary by the State of West Virginia to have a penal institution, the village of Moundsville, twelve miles below Wheeling, and located on the banks of the Ohio, was selected for the penitentiary. Something more than five acres of land, at the foot of the hills in the eastern part of the village, were purchased, and in 1866 ground was broken for the new building. Here more than one hundred prisoners were corralled, and a huge, wooden stockade was built around a section of the plot, and within it wooden shanties, rough looking, but as strong as oak could make them, were erected to shelter the unfortunates. The ground had to be drained and leveled before anything like permanency could be obtained. Once accomplished, the work of erecting the main buildings was undertaken, and in a marvelously short period the North and South Halls, and the main structure were ready for occupancy.

The prison system in vogue in other and older states was adopted, and prevailed through succeeding administrations, with practically few modifications, until 1897. The cells in which the men slept were of solid masonry with narrow, iron barred doors; the halls were lighted by great coal oil lamps, and, as regard to sanitation and ventilation, no thought was given those important subjects; hence there was a long sick list, and the mortality of the prison was far above what it should have been.

After the walls had been finished the contract system of labor was introduced. In 1897, when ex-Warden Hawk assumed control, there were more than 400 prisoners in the institution, and a contract having been made with the Federal authorities for caring for the prisoners from the District of Columbia, and from the United States courts of this state and Virginia, it was found necessary to make an extension to the South Hall. The architectural style of the older structures prevailed, and accommodations were provided for 272 men. The care and treatment of Federal prisoners having proved satisfactory the contract covering them was renewed. The highest record of the Penitentiary was reached the past winter when for a few days the total number of prisoners was 900, and the vital statistics show the percentage of sick men and the mortality record to be the lowest in the history of the institution.



W. W. Wadsworth

Hon. C. E. Haddox.



THE WARDEN of the West Virginia Penitentiary, Hon. C. E. Haddox, was born in Ritchie County in 1864, and at the age of eighteen he was appointed principal of the Cairo public school. Two years later he was elected a member of the Ritchie County Teachers' Board of Examiners, and shortly thereafter was elected County Superintendent of Schools, a position he held for two terms.

In 1889 Mr. Haddox was appointed postmaster at Cairo, and was re-appointed in President McKinley's first administration. In accepting political preferment, he did not cease his keen interest in educational affairs. For ten years he has been president of the Grant District Board of Education. He was Mayor of Cairo in 1899, and the same year he was elected president of the West Virginia Telephone Company. Other honorable positions he holds are those of president of the Bank of Cairo; director of the Oakland Pressed Brick Co., of Zanesville, Ohio, and stockholder in the People's Bank, of Harrisville, and the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, of Parkersburg. Reverting to Mr. Haddox's political proclivities, it may be said that he is an energetic party man, and has been a delegate to the Republican State Conventions for the last seventeen years. For fourteen years he was a member of the Ritchie County Republican Executive Committee, being its secretary for ten years, and is now a member of the State Republican Committee. In business circles the Warden has always been prominent. From small beginnings he built up a general mercantile trade in Cairo to large proportions, owns his own business block, besides numerous tenement houses within the corporate limits of the city, and is also half owner of the Cairo Water Works. He was married to Miss Ella Carrell in 1887, and two boys have blessed the union.

When he assumed the duties of Warden of the Penitentiary on May 1, 1901, he found the system of management reduced to a perfect business basis, with a balance in bank instead of a deficit on the books. From the beginning of his term he has had the physical and moral condition of the prisoners strongly at heart, and has done much to ameliorate their condition and to instil in them a desire for better things. The hearty co-operation of the Board of Directors has been given him in all his innovations, and many improvements, now being planned, will soon be inaugurated.



HON. NEWTON OGDIN.

HON. NEWTON OGDIN, President of the Board of Directors, was born in Wood County, West Virginia, in 1851. His father was Lewis Ogdin, also a native of Wood County, who was one of the first settlers of that part of the State. The subject of this sketch is one of the leading Republicans in West Virginia, and besides representing his district in the State Senate he was postmaster at St. Marys during President Harrison's administration. It was partly due to his exertion and influence that the Pleasants County Bank was organized in 1897, and he was made President of it, a position he holds to-day. He is also one of the leading merchants of St. Marys, and is interested in oil developments and in real estate. He was married in 1877 to Sarah Elizabeth Hultz, and to them have been born three children.



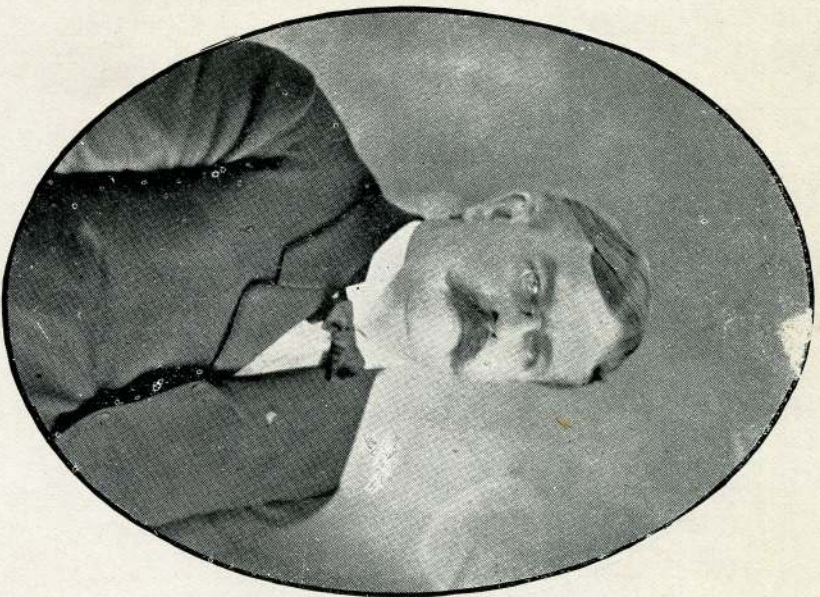
HON. JOHN A. BLOYD.

HON. JOHN A. BLOYD, Treasurer of the Board of Directors, was born near Moundsville, August 11, 1862, and he has always resided in Marshall County. At present he is the proprietor of the West Virginia Clothing Company, of Moundsville, an institution that is large and growing. He has always been more or less engaged in politics, being an ardent Republican, and in the first year of Governor Atkinson's administration was appointed a member of the Board of Directors, and re-appointed by Governor White. As such he has been Treasurer of the Board since being sworn into office.



HON. J. WM. GILKESON.

HON. J. WM. GILKESON was born in Moorefield, in 1847, where most of his life has been spent. Such education as he received was from schools the community offered. From 1865 to 1869 he served as a clerk in a mercantile business in that town. From 1869 to 1872 he traveled for a Baltimore wholesale grocery house. Returning to his native town he became a partner in a mercantile business which he conducted until 1883, at which time he assisted in the organization of the South Branch Valley National Bank, of Moorefield, and was elected its cashier, which position he has filled to the present time.



HON. W. W. WHYTE.

HON. W. W. WHYTE is a native of Virginia, but has been a resident of Welch, in McDowell County, this State, since 1890. He is one of the leading coal operators of the Elkhorn Valley, and is considered one of the most successful business men in the State. He was elected Sheriff of McDowell County in 1896, and continued in office until 1900. In 1901 he was appointed on the Board of Directors of the West Virginia Penitentiary by Governor White. He is an ardent Republican, being a member of the Republican State Central Committee, as well as of the Executive Committee of that body.



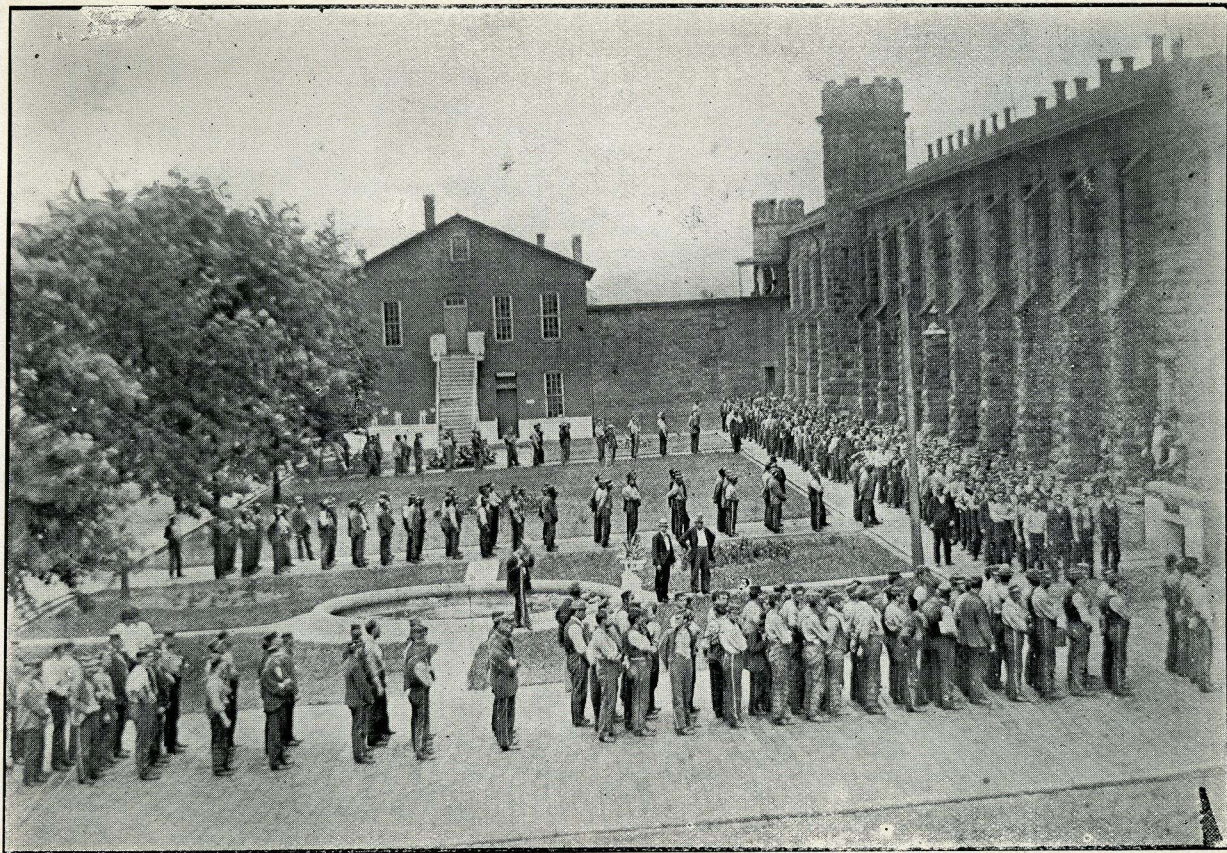
HON. CLARKE HAMILTON, JR.

HON. CLARKE HAMILTON, JR., is a native of Preston County, West Virginia, where he was born in 1867. His entrance into public life was made in 1887, when he was appointed Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue for West Virginia, by Hon. John T. McGraw, Collector, under President Cleveland, a position which he held through that administration. He settled in Wheeling in 1888, becoming secretary and treasurer of Schaefer & Driehorst Co., a position which he holds to-day.



THE GUARDS.

The strength of any penal institution is its guard force. In this respect the West Virginia Penitentiary is fortunate, for its guards are picked men, conscientious in the performance of their duties and humane in their treatment of prisoners. The Captain of the Guards is Clarence G. Dawson, who, in 1897, came to Moundsville as a Guard in the Penitentiary. On June 20, 1901, he was appointed Captain by Warden Haddock. Capt. Dawson has attended all the Republican State Conventions for 12 years, and is a loyal supporter of Gov. White.



DRILL SCENE IN THE YARD.

Drill Scene in the Yard.



STUDENT of human nature will find much food for thought in the yard of any penal institution, but in the great enclosure of the West Virginia Penitentiary the field for observation is far greater than one at first believes possible. The reason is simple, and may be deducted from the opening paragraph of the history of the Institution published in this book. Here, at certain hours, are gathered the men of the mountains and the outscourings of the towns and cities, the criminals from the State Courts, and those from the Federal Jurisdictions of the District of Columbia, Virginia and West Virginia.

The negro predominates, and the reason may be ascribed to his almost total illiteracy. Few of them have any education, and their sense of the fitness of things, and their ideas of right and wrong, are all askew. Of the white prisoners many of them have a smattering of book knowledge, and that particular class is here through natural tendencies, or, as a result of an environment that knew the biting sting of poverty only too well! However, class distinction does not obtain in the prison yard except in so far as to separate the whites from the blacks. Otherwise they are all on a common level. In the gross they are all alike to the officers, but individualized, any of the guards might tell of the superiority of this man over that.

When the photograph was taken the men had just left the shops and were marshalled in the manner depicted preparatory to a marching drill before going to supper. At that moment a fierce thunder storm broke, and a bolt of lightning shattered the tall flag staff on the roof of the main building, yet, not one man left the ranks, so perfect was the discipline. In this yard the men march every pleasant afternoon for half an hour after supper, and on Sundays for a like period after breakfast and again after chapel service. Warden Haddox has done much to beautify the grounds, and the coming summer will witness thousands of plants abloom in the numerous beds. The prisoners take a keen delight in anything bright, and the green grass and divers colored flowers tend much to dispel the gloom of their lives.



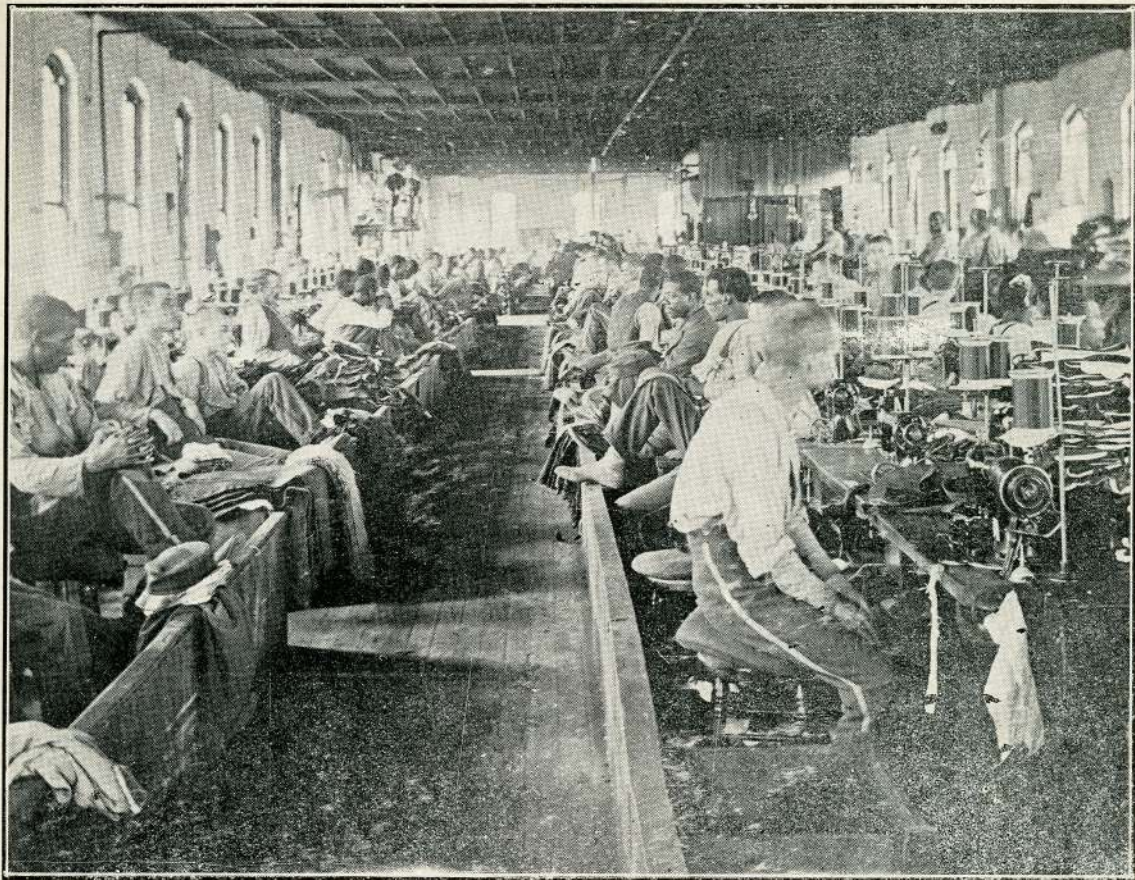
The Tailor Shop.

EACH person sent to the Penitentiary has tacked to his sentence the words "at hard labor," but in some cases, especially when the prisoner is in ill health when received, it is left to the discretion of the Warden as to the character of his employment during his incarceration.

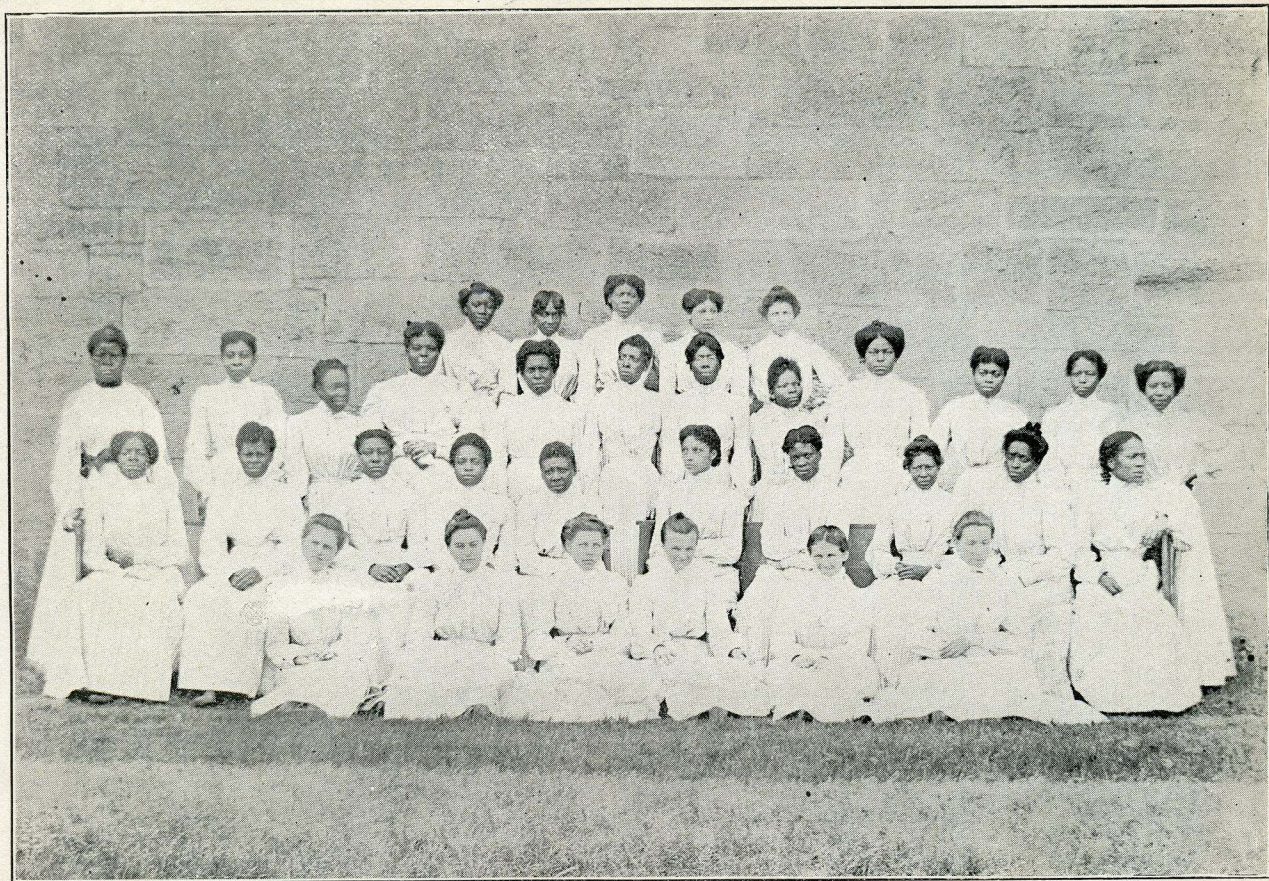
The Tailor Shop of which we herewith present a view of the interior during working hours, is the largest in the institution, employing nearly 300 men, or about one-third of the working force on the roster. In the shop, under the direction of a superintendent and two foremen, and under the watchful eyes of two guards, the men work from 6:40 a. m., until 4 p. m., with half an hour's intermission for dinner. To a beginner at one of the machines, a day's work seems exceedingly hard, but after a month, the greenest, rawest recruit, if industrious, will begin to show skill and aptitude. After that it depends on his own energy whether he makes overtime or not. "Overtime" in all the shops means a little pin money, which, to a long time man, may become quite a large sum by the time he goes out. Cutting, bundling, seaming, joining, gumming, pressing, and inspecting are the various branches of work in the Tailor Shop.

The other industries of the Penitentiary are to be found in the Skirt, the Broom, and the Whip and Net Shops. In the first named the prisoners turn out many dainty skirts, some of which may eventually be worn by leader of fashion. In the Broom Shop are made ordinary house brooms, and the little whisk brooms of the toilet. The Whip Shop employs a large number of men, and they show rare skill in hand plaiting, a particularly arduous and exacting branch of the business. The Net Shop, while not so extensive as the others, is a busy place, and some remarkably fine goods are made there. All in all, the shop system in a penal institution has its commendable features. In the first place idleness in a prison breeds mischief, even in the form of lunacy; but industry keeps the mind engaged, and the inmates are far more contented than otherwise. Again, if the prisoner so desires he may acquire a trade, at which he can make a good living when he goes into the world again.





AT WORK IN THE TAILOR SHOP.



A GROUP OF WOMEN PRISONERS.

The Female Prisoners.



WOMEN prisoners in a Penitentiary, are always a pitiful spectacle for visitors to gaze upon. Yet the laws of all states are so framed that the female who commits a felony must suffer for it according to the enormity of the crime. It happens frequently, however, that the sentencing Judge endeavors to find some mitigating circumstance, and if he does he gives the woman the benefit of it where the elasticity of the law permits. At the present time there are 36 women in the West Virginia Penitentiary, and they are housed in three dormitories in the main building. Each has a white enamelled bedstead, with woven wire mattress, and the best of bed clothing, and wearing apparel. Their apartments are decorated, and give every appearance of comfort. They are under the direct supervision of the Matron, Mrs. Sophia Horn, a woman of superior executive ability, but who rules by kindness instead of force. The women, even the most surly of them, are devoted to her, and readily obey every command.

The females wear neat gowns, which, to the casual glance, do not appear to be as uniform as the men's. They work in a room by themselves in the Skirt Shop, and they produce some wonderful creations from their machines. They go to work after the men are all in the shops, and return to their dormitories for their meals before the shopmen are turned out. In fact there is no possibility for either to see the other or hold any communication. During summer evenings, when it is necessary for the women to exercise in the yard, the lock-out men are obliged to retire out of sight in their respective halls until after the women have returned to their quarters.

They are a happy lot, these female prisoners, and some of them have naturally good voices, so that the evenings pass swiftly with lively music, both vocal and instrumental. Occasionally ladies visit them, and bring them flowers and books, and try to encourage them to look on the bright side of their situation.



The Kitchen.



n important, if not the most important, feature of every large hotel is its kitchen. While the West Virginia Penitentiary is not a hotel, in a certain sense it is one for it has to feed more than 900 guests, unwilling guests though they be, every day of the year, and consequently the kitchen is a highly important factor.

The cooking is done under the personal supervision of an experienced Guard. The chef is a colored man, and he has for a corps of assistants ten men of his own race, and a crew of waiters and dish washers. The cooking is done either by steam or gas, as the case warrants, and the apparatus is of the latest and most approved type. The engraving gives a very good idea of the interior of the kitchen. No attempt is made at cooking fancy dishes except at Christmas, New Years, Easter and Thanksgiving, owing to the limited time and the large quantity to be cooked for each meal.

There is a general belief that men in prisons are poorly fed. Such a belief does not appertain to the West Virginia Penitentiary. Fresh meat is frequently served to the prisoners, at least four times a week, each meal requiring more than 600 pounds; fried bacon fills in the principal meal of the fifth day; mackerel, or some other fish on the sixth, and bologna or packed ham on the seventh. Among the other food stuffs cooked in the kitchen for the prisoners are: boiled pork, beans, rice, oatmeal, prunes, dried peaches, dried apples, hominy, wheat grits, hominy grits, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, rolled oats; and in season, all the various kinds of vegetables which the markets afford. The kitchen force, as an adjunct of the commissary, has the actual distribution of all the articles of diet, and in addition to the enumeration above, syrup and coffee are served at breakfast and supper, and butter frequently appears on the bill of fare.

The bakery is an auxillary of the kitchen and the bread that is made there is as good as can be found in most bake shops.





THE KITCHEN.

The Dining Hall.

THE custom prevalent in many penal institutions, in this and other countries, is to feed the men in solitary; that is, the prisoners are marched in, and on passing a given point each picks up his pannikin of rations and goes to his cell, draws the door and the drop is lowered for a given length of time when it is released and they deposit their tins at another place. They are then marched to the shops.

In the West Virginia Penitentiary the congregate system prevails. Morning, noon and night, the men are marched into the large dining hall in shop-companies, and are seated at the tables pictured in the engraving. The guards distribute themselves along the main aisle for obvious reasons. The food, good and wholesome, is already on the tables, and the men fall to at a given signal. No talking or laughing is allowed, for the reason that, if permitted, the discipline of the Prison would be impaired, and such a thing would be harmful in the highest degree. About twenty minutes are allowed for each meal, and when the gong is sounded the men arise and file out in an orderly manner, dropping their knives and forks in a large box at the door. In winter, breakfast is served at 6:45 o'clock, dinner at 11:50, and supper at 4:30. In the spring, summer and fall, the hour is twenty minutes earlier.

The question of food in a big Institution like the West Virginia Penitentiary, is perhaps the greatest daily problem that confronts the management. Three times a day more than 900 prisoners have to be fed, and they must have good wholesome food, else the consequences, viewed from any point, would prove disastrous. The health of the inmates must first be considered, for if they are not properly nourished, sickness would prevail, and that means a loss of revenue derived from the various departments. And in the next place, poor food means discontent, and that in turn might lead to serious consequences, a thing to be dreaded at all hours in a prison. But the food is good, sickness and mortality are at a minimum, and the inmates are as contented as it is possible for men similarly placed to be.





THE DINING HALL.

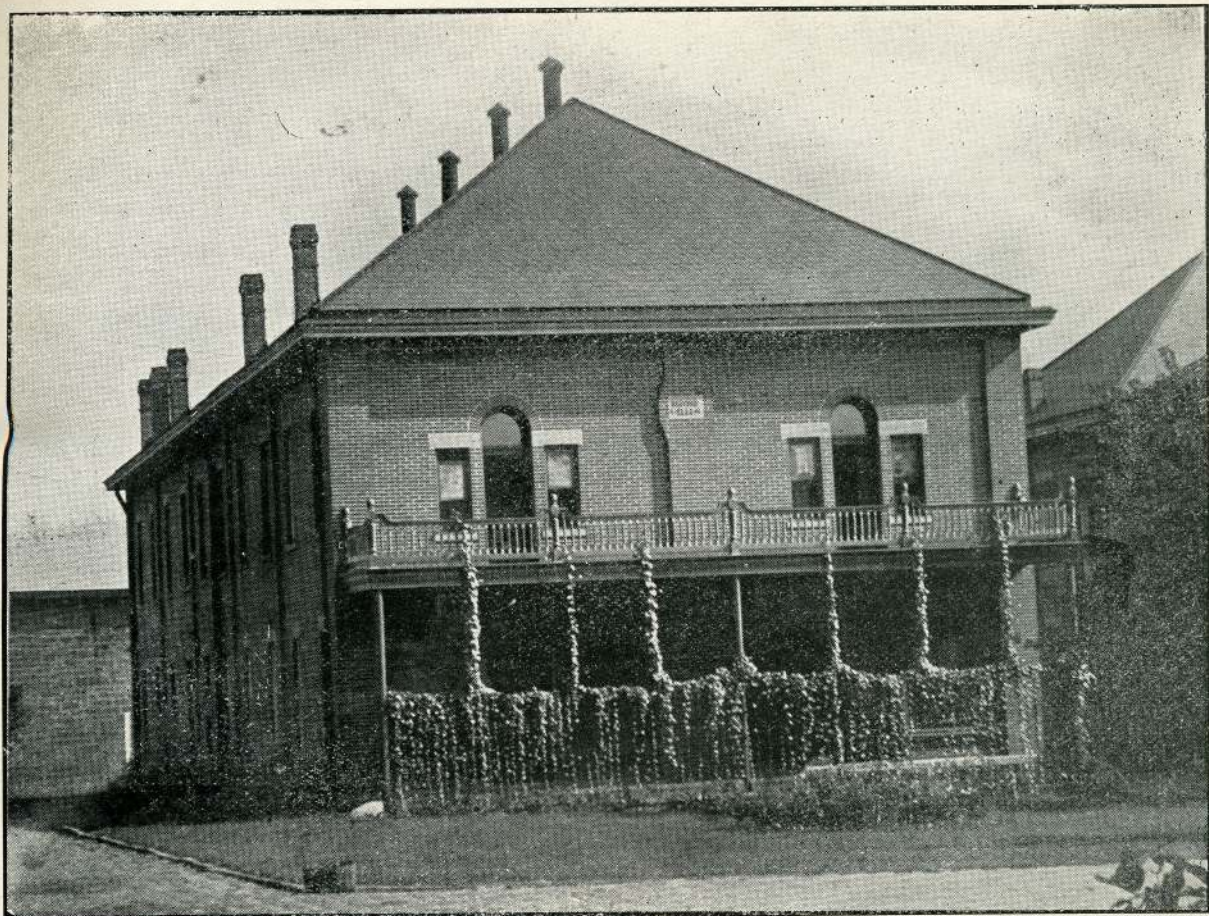
The Hospital.

PENITENTIARY success is only achieved after constantly battling with and overcoming adverse conditions. Permanent success cannot be attained for the reason that the conditions are complex, but there is a degree of transitory success to be obtained in the management of evil-doers, and that is the nearest approach to the social millennium that human powers can devise or accomplish. Perhaps the most salient feature of this management is to be found in ministering to the bodily and mental ailments of those who are unfortunate enough to become residents of a penitentiary. If a man or woman is in perfect health, mentally and physically, he or she is more susceptible to good influences, and the success of reformatory labor is measured accordingly.

Prior to 1899, the hospital of the West Virginia Penitentiary was located in an old brick structure at the southern end of the grounds, but in the year mentioned, the new building was erected, and therein Dr. W. D. Stewart and a competent staff look after the welfare of the inmates. The three essential things in a well-conducted hospital are abundances of light, ventilation and food, and all of these are found here. The main part of the hospital is so divided by movable glass partitions that four large wards can be provided, or one great ward, as circumstances warrant.

Everything is scrupulously clean, and the attendants are specially selected for their skillfulness and training. Accommodations are afforded for 30 patients, but it is rarely that number of men are so ill as to have to have hospital treatment. Rare operations are performed here at times with as great a degree of success as obtains in the highest grade hospitals in the country. Each morning a tour of all the cells is made by the physician and his assistants, and prisoners who have a temporary illness are treated there without being removed to the wards. Later in the day the doctor visits the shops, and examines such men as have ailments but who are not ill enough to lay in. One part of the hospital building is devoted to the drug store, and there a skilled apothecary compounds any prescription that may be needed, no matter how intricate it may be. In a remote part of the grounds is located a ward wherein the insane prisoners receive care and attention.





THE HOSPITAL.

The Library.



REFORMATORY work within the lines of criminology has never been successful where nothing has been done to stimulate the intellect of the individual. That fact is admitted by all persons who have an abiding faith in prison reform. While it is true that there are many criminals who have enjoyed the advantages of a superior education, the number is really small compared with the mass of law-breakers who have little or no mental development.

It was principally to reach the latter class, and to further the work of reform, that the management of the West Virginia Penitentiary decided in 1899 to establish a library, and when the extension to the dining hall was erected the room in the second story, 40x40, was fitted up with the requisite shelves and furniture. Letters were sent broadcast throughout the country to humanitarians, making appeals for the donation of books, magazines, and periodicals, and within a few months there was organized a library with nearly 4,000 bound books, about 13,000 magazines, some of the latter dating back to 1856, in complete volumes and very valuable.

To further this intellectual work, a night school was established, and for more than two years about 40 men have received instruction each week day night. The teachers are educated prisoners, and they take a keen interest in bringing their pupils forward. Reading, spelling, writing, and arithmetic are taught, and as fast as the men acquire the rudiments of an education they are turned out to make room for others who desire to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the school. Within the space of time mentioned, more than 200 men, who could neither read nor write when they were received here, have left this Institution far better equipped mentally to renew the struggle of life than they ever dreamed of being. The library is in great need of bound books at the present time, those on the shelves being much worn. Contributions along this line from the friends of prison reform will be gratefully received.





THE LIBRARY.

The Cells.

CONFINEMENT in the West Virginia Penitentiary means, in the literal sense, incarceration within the four great walls which bound the Institution. But, as in all penal institutions, it is necessary to house the inmates, and, to do this effectively, cells had to be built from time to time in tiers and blocks to accommodate the growing population of the Penitentiary. The engraving gives an excellent view of the eastern half of the South Hall.

The cells in the foreground were the first constructed. The majority of them are now occupied by "the lock-out" men, that is men who by reason of their exceptional conduct are trusted to a greater extent than the others. These cells are built of brick, with iron floors and ceilings, and they are frequently whitewashed. The doors are made of bar and flat iron, and each has a heavy lock. In addition thereto is the "drop-bar" for each tier, which doubly secures the doors when it is swung into place by a lever at one end of the tier. In the early days of the Penitentiary, the halls were lighted by locomotive headlights, and each cell was provided with a coal oil lamp. The fumes of these lamps, especially during the summer months, proved detrimental to the health of the inmates, but since the installation of the electric plant each cell is lighted by an incandescent lamp, and the halls are also brightly illuminated. The result of this change was early manifested in a marked decrease of sickness.

In the distant half of the South Hall and in the North Hall entire, the cells are made of heavy, chilled steel, impregnable to file or saw. These cells were constructed within the past decade, and they are larger and better ventilated than those referred to above. Like the latter they are supplied with incandescent lamps. In the execution chamber there is a single block of four steel cells arranged in a square. Each apartment of the latter is supplied with running water and a toilet, and there is room enough in each for a full sized bed, chairs, table and dressing stand. When improvements, now under contemplation, are made, there will be a marked change in the cell-houses, and the sleeping quarters of the men will be thoroughly modern in every respect.





THE CELLS.

The Towers.

No Penitentiary can be said to be complete without its towers. It is the unalterable law of a criminal's fate that he must be confined behind walls, and wherever such walls have been erected it is a consequent necessity to have towers at certain distances, from which the guards may have constant supervision of the yard while the unfortunates are moving about within. At the West Virginia Penitentiary there are four towers, one at each of the four corners of the enclosure, and there are eight guards to man these points of vantage. Four guards go on duty at 4 o'clock in the morning, for at that hour the first "lock-out" men are turned into the yard, and they remain at their posts until 12:30 p. m., when they are relieved by the other four, whose watch does not end until 9 p. m., at which hour all prisoners are locked within their cells.

Each Tower Guard is armed with two repeating rifles of modern make, and they, as well as the other guards of the Institution, must be proficient marksmen. Once on duty in the tower the guard is not permitted to leave his post except in case of sickness, in which event he must telephone to the front office for a relief. At stated intervals during the day he must register on the big electric dial in the Warden's office. He is not allowed to have any reading matter; all his faculties must be concentrated on the duty before him, and that duty is plain. At the first sign of trouble in the yard, or the first evidence of anything of a suspicious character, he must notify the front office by telephone.

The position of a Tower Guard, by reason of its semi-isolation, is necessarily a lonesome one. The winter months are perhaps the hardest, because of the quick descending darkness. At such times every sense must be on the alert to detect the slightest suspicious circumstance. The spring, summer and autumn months are not so severe, for the weather is such as to permit them to exercise along the broad top of the wall. But viewed from any light, the position of a Tower Guard is not an enviable one.

