centering in western Virginia, New York, and Pennsylvania. Additional grievances were found in an unrealistic enforcement of the White Pine Acts and the Sugar Acts. Upon this scene of discontent and unrest came the Stamp Act upon which the colonists could focus all their mounting objections to their position within the empire.

In recounting this story, Mr. Knollenberg has marshalled new evidence along with old, and in the process he has laid to rest some persistent old myths. Generally his position is in reaction to the empire oriented historians who, beginning with George Louis Beer, sought to counteract patriotic claims that all British actions were evil. Now, in this most recent work, the emphasis is once again on the colonists who were suffering under British action, and on the blunders which came from London.

The work is masterfully documented, and not the least of its scholarly accomplishments is in the numerous appendices which clarify confusing problems and also establish some important historical points.

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CARLOS R. ALLEN, JR.


This excellent and scholarly biography of Thomas Paine by Alfred Owen Aldridge, presently a professor of English at the University of Maryland, reminds the reader (if he needs reminding) that the American Revolution involved more than a political severance by the colonies from England but was a truly social and ideological conflict as well. As much as any other leader of the rebellious temper of the American colonies in the mid 1770's and in a dramatic manner of life and expression which was uniquely his own, Paine represents the ideological spearhead of the American revolt against her colonial ties and goes on to fill in the negative of separation from the old with the positive of a new society consonant with his understanding of the principles of 18th century rationalism and liberalism.

Paine was wholly a self-made man and rose from depths of social obscurity which no other important leader of the American
Revolution can really match. The fact that he was born in such lowliness and grew, with much financial and occupational difficulty, to his maturity, not in the freer atmosphere and the more openly mobile society of the Thirteen Colonies, but in an England where the rigidities of place and title still dominated the social scene, no doubt gave to his revolutionary pen, when finally he came to write, its special point. Certainly he adequately embodied throughout his life the left-wing of the American Revolution and the degree of his rebellious momentum continued to be sufficient, in his declining years, to carry him well into the swelling tide of the French Revolution, even if also under the shadow of its guillotine when the extravagances of factual change finally outran the milder images of theory.

The author of this biography presents Paine as a conveyor and a missionary for ideas rather than as a personality. And, indeed, the essential nature of Paine's contribution and importance to history is wholly ideological. Paine held no office of importance in England, America, or in France; he manipulated no human destinies save through the impact of his writings. He would appear even purposely to have sought, through a general evasiveness and the lack of very intimate ties with other human beings, the obscurity as a man and individual which was his natural heritage by birth. To be sure, it would be an interesting effort to attempt to bring Paine the man out of his self-sought corners and fairly to present a well-lighted portrait of him—one thinks of Edmund Wilson's brilliant achievements in this as in other regards in his To the Finland Station, where the leaders of revolutionary thought in the 19th century are reproduced for modernity in their living wholeness. Mr. Aldridge shows no flare for such portraiture, and his book is academic in the duller sense partly as a consequence. Yet one is grateful to him for not trying and then bungling the job as certain fairly recent popularizing writers on Paine have done.

There is little question that Mr. Aldridge's book is the best and most definitive treatment of Paine, his life, and his works which is available at present. It is erudite, complete, and free of obvious bias. But to say so much is still not to deny that something more stimulating and more searching may not someday be written about this fascinating 18th century "man of reason" who chose to involve himself as an active partisan in two sanguinary and passion-ridden wars. Perhaps the man may be made to appear more alive and three-dimensional by some later biographer or, more importantly,
the intricate interweaving of his ideas with the whole body of ideas of his age may be more clearly traced. Thomas Paine is no small topic; he is an intimate of too much of the history of his time to be small or to be dismissed by a book or two. With such a topic creative scholarship is never truly finished.

Chatham College

Katherine George


This is a summary report and record of forty years as a prison administrator and as a Medical Director of Philadelphia's Holmesburg and Moyamensing prisons, and as a Warden of Rockview State Penitentiary of Pennsylvania. During this time he had the custody and medical care of nearly 750,000 men and women. This book condenses this long experience into a number of rather definite conclusions, which often do not agree with current or popular ideas about crime, criminals and methods of treatment and custodial care.

Dr. Baldi feels that there is a gap between the theoretical aims of prisons and the practical procedures both with regard to rehabilitation and punishment. The average prisoner thinks of his sentence as malicious persecution. The only ones affected constructively are those who have a realization of having done wrong, "the rest we can only hurt." On the other hand, "prison—is the only way we have of keeping troublemakers off society's neck, for a length of time measured by the size of the nuisance he has created." The number who actually are helped by prison life is small, but it is worth the effort.

Dr. Baldi covers many controversial aspects of crime and prison life, and gives numerous typical cases to show his basis for the conclusions reached. Some of the topics covered are Prisons and Their Purposes, Some of My Guests Were Peculiar, The Stuff of Dreams, Politics and Prisons, Use and Abuse of Pardons, and many others.

This book is more than a diary of forty years in this work. It is one of the best short evaluations of criminals and prisons that has been published for some time. It bears the same relation to our problem in this field today that John Howard's The Prison