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.

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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
World of Europe did in 1854 and that of Frederik H. Wines, Punishment and Reformation, in 1910.

Dr. Baldi has made a real contribution to our attempts to deal with such problems as capital punishment, juvenile delinquency, mental defective offenders, administration of prisons, and the return of prison population to normal society. His material has been presented in readable style, and is a relief from the excessive use of tables of figures and attempts to reduce all to mathematical equations. The book is worthy of careful reading.

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M. C. Elmer


The early economic lures which drew white men to North America were gold, fish, and furs. North of Mexico, the hope of gold soon proved to be illusory. The fishing industry rapidly grew to great importance in coastal waters, but it was the fur trade which first made European ventures to the new continent profitable. The fur trade brought the white men to the land to establish trading posts and to deal with the Indians. Even after settlement began and farming provided sustenance for the colonists, the fur trade remained an important element in the economic life of various colonies down to the American Revolution, and it was among the causes of the conflict between France and Great Britain for control of North America.

This significant element in early American history is the subject of this entertaining, popularly written book by Colonel Hale, who does not aim at "a comprehensive study," but merely "to illustrate in narrative form" the effects of the fur trade on America's beginnings. He succeeds very well in carrying out his announced purpose. His story moves rapidly from topic to topic, the uses and sources of furs in the Old World, the almost fabled voyages of the Vikings who seem to have been the first to acquire furs from America, the French fur trading operations which extended up the St. Lawrence River into the interior of the continent, the early English colonies and the importance of the fur trade in their founding and