

*The* ISLAND  
LANTERN



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*SMILE · STRIVE · BE GAME*

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THE MOST CRUEL  
NATION ON EARTH<sup>1</sup>

BY CLARENCE DARROW

**T**HE PEOPLE of the United States of America are obsessed of the idea of punishment. Her penalties are the most cruel and outrageous of any civilized country on earth.

She has bade farewell to mercy, kindness and charity and thinks only of vengeance.

Sometime the pendulum will swing back.

No other question in America compares in importance with this wave of vengeance and hatred that is sweeping

1. Excerpts from a recent letter to the Editor.

across America and leaving victims in every prison and their sorrowing friends in many homes.

I doubt if anything good can be said or thought about Crime, outside of prisons.

Who else knows anything about its cause, and the injustice of punishment?

The trouble is, they don't *want to know*. They enjoy hating someone; and hating what they call a criminal makes them feel righteous

## AMERICAN RED CROSS ENTERS PRISON WORK

**M**OST INTERESTING to all those engaged in prison work is the fact that the San Francisco Chapter of the American Red Cross is actively engaged in follow-up and after-care work in connection with prisoners discharged from the U. S. Army Disciplinary Barracks at Alcatraz.

In a letter to the Editor, Russell Kiltin, Bay District Representative of the American Red Cross, outlines this new department as follows:

"Each dishonorably discharged prisoner from the U. S. Army confined in the Disciplinary Barracks at Alcatraz, receives upon release a suit of clothes, ten dollars and an order for transportation to his point of enlistment. With the permission and co-operation of Colonel Maury G. Crallè, Commandant, I arrange to interview every man before his departure from the institution. It is my pur-

pose in the interview to learn the prisoner's plans, if he cares to discuss them with me, and something of his personality. If he is returning to a strange town, where he enlisted, without work or friends I advise him, providing he cares to accept Red Cross assistance, to visit our chapter at his destination. I tell him that if he does not secure work through his visit that our representative will very likely maintain him until he does secure work or refer him to some responsible agency or person that will. Remember this is not charity, as the man is expected to reimburse the chapter when he is financially able to do so. It is impossible for me to promise that our chapter will find the man a job or maintain him, as each chapter has a slightly different method of allotting their funds, and unless they take kindly to our suggestions of helping the prisoners, our work at Alcatraz, in this direction, is useless. However, all chapters contacted thus far have shown their willingness to help any man referred to them by our office. A few days before the man is to be released, we forward to our chapter in the town where the man intends to reside, a brief summary of our contact with him. A covering letter explains our purpose and hopes concerning the work, and we stress its importance. We have asked each chapter to send us a report on the man's attempt to rehabilitate himself. We believe these reports will be of great benefit to us in formulating a plan for after-care."