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Author(s): James Monro

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# THE LONDON POLICE.

BY JAMES MONRO, C. B., LATE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE OF  
THE METROPOLIS OF LONDON.

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THE associations produced by locality in connection with administration are nowhere more noticeable than in the Metropolitan Police. For many years Bow Street was synonymous with the police force of London; in more recent times, and in every country, Scotland Yard has taken the place of Bow Street in representing to all the world the system of police organization in the metropolis. The close of the present year, therefore, which will probably witness a change in the headquarters of the force, may be said to mark a period in the history of its progress. The dingy collection of detached houses, thrust out of public view in Great Scotland Yard, which gave to the force a "local habitation and a name," is to be abandoned, and a spacious building on the Thames Embankment, "plain for all folks to see," will constitute the central office of the Metropolitan Police.

With the architectural merits or demerits of the new structure the police have not concerned themselves; they are sentimental enough, however, to feel pleased that the transfer of site does not involve a change in the name of their headquarters, and that at New Scotland Yard the metropolitan force will still be able to identify themselves with the local designation which has been so long and so intimately associated with their past history. For the first time since the creation of the force the Metropolitan Police will have a central office which is worthy of the name, and the extent of the accommodations which it has been found necessary to provide is significant of the growth of the administrative system which is required to meet the wants of the capital of the kingdom and of a population not far short of six millions. At this period of its history a few remarks as to the constitution and organization of the great force administered from New Scotland Yard may not be considered out of place.

Although some of the duties performed by the Metropolitan Police are imperial in their character, and extend far beyond the local limits of the metropolis, the force in its constitution is distinctively local, and the sphere of its ordinary operations is restricted to what is known as the Metropolitan Police District, embracing an area of about 700 square miles, within a radius of fifteen miles from Charing Cross.

In commenting on the origin and development of modern police, Mr. Pike, in his "History of Crime in England," published fourteen years ago, writes :

"Local traditions are not yet entirely extinct, and they have retained so much vitality, even in the capital, that the police of the 'City' of London is under the management of the corporation, while the police of the rest of the metropolis is under a separate control. Whether this apparent anomaly is due to the vitality of local traditions, or to the application of the principle of self-government *quâ* police, which may extend some day to the metropolitan force, the fact still remains that the police of the 'City' of London, surrounded as it is on all sides by the Metropolitan Police District, remains still under the control of the corporation of London, and is a separate force altogether from that which is known to the world as 'Scotland Yard.'"

Roughly speaking, the strength of the whole Metropolitan Police force, officers and men, may be put at 15,000, from which may be deducted about 2,000 men who are employed at Her Majesty's dockyards and military stations beyond Metropolitan Police limits, or on special protection posts at public offices or buildings. For the performance of ordinary police duties in the police district there remain, in round numbers, about 13,000 men of all ranks—a small force, truly, when we consider the enormous population concentrated within a limited area, and the immense value of property to be protected from the attacks of the most expert criminals of the country. We have not yet, in England, attained to that perfect state of society, referred to by an eminent French writer, in which "each one should always be his own constable, and end by not having any other"; and this ideal condition of affairs has hitherto not been reached, so far as I am aware, in any capital city or any country of the civilized world.

On the contrary, the advance of civilization seems generally to be attended by demands for an increase of police. The strength of the police force in the city of New York, with a population exceeding one and one-half millions, was in 1888 about 3,400 of all ranks, supplemented by "special police," and able, in times of emergency like the recent railway strikes, to call to their assistance hundreds of detectives from Pinkerton's agency;

so that London, with a population approaching six millions, is weaker, as regards the number of its constables, than the most populous city of the West. For years past the insufficiency of the strength of the metropolitan force to meet the growing wants of the capital has formed the subject of complaint on the part of the executive, and the same state of affairs appears to exist in New York. "An increase of the patrol force," write the New York Board in 1888, "is almost indispensably necessary. Many important and densely-populated sections of our city are inadequately protected, and frequent applications are made for police protection which the Board of Police are compelled to deny, while recognizing the necessity which prompts the several applications." The opinion of the Board of Police in New York, with a larger proportion of police to its inhabitants than London, has been that expressed by every Commissioner of Police of the metropolis for years past. The need for increased police to cope with the public demand for increased protection has been emphatically recognized by the press, and the opinion of the public has been humorously set forth by "Mr. Punch" in his cordial indorsement of the views of Policeman X., Junior:

"If double duties tax the force, the numbers, too, you'll have to double 'em.  
 . . . . .

The Metropolitan Police has other duties—ah! a many,  
 Than them 'ere early Peelers had, and if we costs a pretty penny,  
 In times like these, so given to crimes, so Socialistic and Home-rulish,  
 A policy that's pennywise must be pertikerly poundfoolish."

The pressure of public opinion resulted, last year, in the augmentation of the force by 1,000 men, which will modify the demands for additional police for a time. But, even so, the police force is small, considering the duties required at its hands, and every foreign visitor to the capital is amazed when he is told that the protection of London is secured, by day and night, with such a comparatively weak force as can be placed upon the beats.

Weak in numbers as the force is, it would be found in practice altogether inadequate were it not strengthened, to an extent unknown, I believe, elsewhere, by the relations which exist between the police and the public, and by the thorough recognition on the part of the citizens at large of the police as their friends and protectors. The police touch all classes of the public at many points beyond the performance of their sterner duties as representatives of the law, and they touch them in a friendly way.

Few crossings in crowded thoroughfares can be got over by the nervous and the timid without an appeal for the courteous help of the policeman ; no marriage party in the West End is complete without the attendance of Scotland Yard to quietly look after the safety of costly wedding gifts ; the laborer in Whitechapel depends upon the early call of the man on beat to rouse him for his work ; the police bands often cheer the spirits of unfashionable audiences in the East End, and the police minstrels are cordially welcomed at concerts for charitable purposes. Many a homeless wanderer has to thank the watchful patrol for guiding her to a "refuge" for the night, and it is no uncommon sight to see a little child, lost in the streets, trotting contentedly by the side of a burly guardian of the peace in a custody as kindly as it is secure.

"Well, how were you on Sunday"? said the philanthropist, Miss Octavia Hill, to an old woman, in a low neighborhood ; "was it very rough"? "Oh!" she answered, "it was like Heaven, such a lot of police about!" The police, in short, are not the representatives of an arbitrary and despotic power, directed against the rights or obtrusively interfering with the pleasures of law-abiding citizens ; they are simply a disciplined body of men, specially engaged in protecting "masses," as well as "classes," from any infringement of their rights on the part of those who are not law-abiding—a force which is felt to be only a terror to the evil-doer and "for the praise of them that do well."

It is not to be understood that the public always smiles on the policeman, or that he is above committing mistakes. Of criticism, indeed, the members of the force come in for a full share from a public which not unfrequently finds a relief for its feelings in decrying its own institutions. We all know how fond John Bull is of declaring that he has no army fit to take the field and no navy able to appear with credit on the sea, and yet, notwithstanding—perhaps in consequence of—such unfavorable criticism, our soldier and sailors, whenever there is work to be done, seem to come up to the mark, and none is prouder of them at bottom than the said J. B. So with our police. Criticism, often hasty, often ill-grounded, is poured out upon them without stint at seasons of excitement, and any one reading the public prints at such times might readily imagine that London had no police worthy of the name. But, as Longfellow says, "The strength of criticism lies only in the weakness of the thing criticised"; and the

record of the performance of their duties by the police constitutes a source of strength which, after all criticism and in spite of occasional fits of ill humor, the public fully and freely recognize.

The entire force is under the command of the Commissioner of Police of the metropolis, who, acting under the immediate authority of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, is responsible for the administration of the whole police system throughout the Metropolitan Police District. Under him are three assistant commissioners, two of whom deal with details of discipline and ordinary business, the third being specially intrusted with the control of the Criminal-Investigation Department.

For executive purposes the unit of police organization in London is the *division*. The whole of the Metropolitan Police District, including the River Thames, is marked off into twenty-two divisions; some small, where population is very dense and traffic very large; others of greater extent, in the suburbs and neighborhood of London. At the head of each of these divisions is an officer styled a superintendent, who is to the public the representative of police authority within divisional limits, and who is responsible to his superiors for the efficient direction and control of all matters relating to police administration in his jurisdiction. Under his command are several hundreds of men, distributed at various police stations throughout the division, and supervised by a chief inspector, inspectors, and sergeants, each rank of officer controlling others below him, till the divisional, or local, unit of the constable on beat is reached. It is obvious that the duties which are imposed on and required from an officer in the position of superintendent are very arduous and important. He is practically in the position of the colonel of a regiment which is always in active service, responsible for its efficiency and discipline, as well as for every detail of interior economy and administration connected with it. Let us hear what one of the superintendents, when examined before a recent committee, says as to the duties of his office:

625. How many hours on an average have you?—I average 12 hours a day.

626. Night and day?—Night and day.

627. Do you ever get a Saturday half-holiday?—Never.

628. Do you have Sundays at home?—Sometimes, but very seldom.

629. You have, in fact, constantly to be present and superintend anything that goes on in the division?—Unquestionably.

630. Anything that affects the duties performed by about 700 men?—Yes, the interior economy of the division and general supervision.

631. And you are held responsible for the efficient performance of every part of the duty by your subordinates ?—That is so.

632. And for that you receive what pay ?—My present pay is 350*l.* per annum; it commenced at 300*l.*

633. Have you to be possessed of a knowledge of law ?—Yes.

634. For what purposes ?—For the purposes of administration, and also for the purpose of giving directions to all my subordinates upon all kinds of questions in connection with their duties to the public.

635. You are held responsible for knowing the law, and being able to apply it—the police law, that is ?—Yes, and to instruct others.

636. The whole action with reference to crime, for example, passes through your hands ?—It does.

637. And it is your business to control and advise and put right the officers who are charged with the general administration of the division ?—Yes.

(Evidence of Superintendent Huntley before Committee on Police Pensions.)

The position of superintendent is the chief prize of the service, to which any constable may look forward. Every one of these officers has passed through the ranks, and won his way to a superintendentship by specially good service; and the tact and efficiency with which the duties are performed by the superintendents entitle them to the confidence reposed in them by their superior officers and the public at large.

For administrative purposes, and, specially, for utilizing the combined services of the force at any time when required, the various divisions are formed into what may be termed four brigades, or police “districts,” each one of such districts comprising several divisions, and being under the control of a superior officer, originally termed district superintendent, but now known as chief constable, who is responsible for the general administration of his district to the assistant commissioners, and through them to the commissioner.

The principle of organization, in short, is one of local decentralization, tempered by centralization for administrative purposes; the individual responsibility commencing with the constable on beat; from him extending through sergeants, inspectors, chief inspector, to the divisional superintendent, and the general responsibility of the last officer being continued, through chief constables and assistant commissioners, up to the commissioner himself. All divisions are in direct telegraphic communication with headquarters and with each other, and the American system of electric communication between fixed posts in the streets and police stations is being introduced in exterior districts. How far this can be utilized in the crowded streets of interior divisions is a doubtful question, for reasons into which I need not enter here.

So far as the experiment has hitherto gone, it has been attended with satisfactory results, and, where labor can be saved by such mechanical appliances, the Metropolitan Police will not be slow to profit by the experience of their Western brethren.

We turn now to the *personnel* of the force. From what ranks are the constables of the Metropolitan Police drawn? It is often supposed that the majority of the members of a force so highly disciplined are furnished by the army; but this is a mistake. The Metropolitan Police is not a military, but a civil, force. It forms no part of the garrison of London, and the proportion of soldiers who find a place in the ranks is, in reality, much smaller than is generally believed. The training of a soldier does not fit him for discharging many of the most important duties of a policeman, and the principle aimed at in the army with reference to military efficiency is diametrically opposed to that which must be followed in the ranks of the police. The whole teaching of a soldier is directed to suppressing his individuality—in the police such individuality is carefully developed; the sentry on his post remains blind to all that goes on around him, except as it concerns the limited range of the post, which he cannot leave—the constable on his beat has to keep his eyes open every moment, note what is passing, and interfere, in the interests of the public, at his discretion; military duty is necessarily unbending—police work is as necessarily elastic. In no place is it more necessarily elastic than in the crowded streets of London, and an army of military police would there be out of place.

From all ranks of civic life policemen are recruited; artisans, tradesmen, laborers, skilled and unskilled, yeomen's sons, farmers' sons, all find places in the ranks; for the Thames police sailors are required. The character of each candidate for admission into the force is carefully scrutinized, and his antecedents, so far as ascertainable within reasonable limits, inquired into. A moderate standard of educational acquirements is insisted on, and special regard is, of course, paid to the physical strength and constitution of each applicant. The medical examination which each man has to pass is probably stricter than in any other service in the country. The standard of height is 5 feet 9 inches, and every effort is made to secure "selected lives" for a service which involves constant risk to life and limb, and which wears out strong men in about twenty-three years.



The state of the labor market at various seasons of the year naturally influences the supply of candidates, but it may be said generally that in ordinary times there is not much difficulty in securing suitable recruits to fill the constantly recurring vacancies in the force. From one cause or another, about eight hundred to one thousand men, roughly speaking, enter the force every year; a list of candidates is kept at the central office, and as vacancies occur a sufficient number of applicants to fill them are summoned to go through their preparatory course of training. Until very recent times there was absolutely no provision made for the accommodation and supervision of these recruits. They were brought up to be drilled, and with the end of their hours of drill on the ground attached to one of the barracks of Her Majesty's Guards the interest of the police authorities in their prospective constables ceased. No quarters were provided for them; they were attached to no division; they were compelled to dispose of themselves in miserable lodgings in an expensive part of the town; the subsistence allowance paid to them barely provided them with the necessaries of life. All this, however, has been changed, and a comfortable section-house has been erected, where recruits are lodged and fed under the supervision of responsible officers, where they are made to feel, from the moment of their entering what is called the "preparatory class," that they are treated as members of the force, and where they learn practically that their interests are looked after even before they don the blue uniform and are sworn in as constables of the Metropolitan Police.

As a rule, three weeks' drill is sufficient to allow of a recruit being passed into the ranks as a constable, when his practical instruction in the ordinary duties of a policeman commences. He is regularly taught the elements of police practice by an inspector; he is sent out on the streets in company with an experienced constable; he attends at the police courts to learn the conduct of cases; and gradually he is trained to take up the full duties of an ordinary constable on beat. His pay is 24 shillings per week; after three years it rises to 27 shillings; after five years further to 30 shillings. Sergeants receive from £88 to £100 per annum; inspectors, £117 to £162; chief inspectors, £190; superintendents, £350 to £400. The salaries in the Detective Department are higher. These rates of pay are apparently

much smaller than the salaries attached to police duties in New York. Patrolmen in that city, I find, receive from \$1,000 to \$1,200—equal, roughly speaking, to £200 to £240 per annum; sergeants, about £400; captains, £550; inspectors, £700. Making every allowance for difference in cost of living, it seems clear that the claims of police workers to rank, to some extent at all events, as skilled laborers are, in the matter of remuneration, more liberally recognized in New York than in the metropolis of England.

The police “day” lasts from 6 A.M. to 10 P.M.; the “night” from 10 P.M. to 6 A.M., and the duration of “duty” varies according as it is performed by day or night. Day duty is performed in two tours of four hours each in interior divisions, while in exterior divisions, where the beats are longer, a constable remains on duty eight hours continuously. Similarly, duty at night is continuous for eight hours. Such night duty in winter is exceptionally severe, and every expedient has been resorted to for the purpose of diminishing the strain imposed by it on the men; but in practice it has been found less exhausting when performed even for eight hours continuously than in broken periods, as during the day. Still, the wear and tear produced by eight hours’ night duty for a month at a time are very great, and nothing tells more severely upon the health and powers of endurance even of strong men.

It is needless to detail at length the various duties which are performed by the blue-coated guardians of the streets. The public peace is a wide word, and its maintenance involves a sphere of duty as extensive as the expression itself. To any one who has witnessed it the regulation of traffic in the crowded streets of London by the police is a matter for the highest admiration; and the security to life and property which is effected by their watchful care is, on the whole, marvellous. Prevention of crime in every shape is the highest duty of the uniformed police, but the results of prevention, being negative, cannot, unfortunately, be tabulated in figures. The public are ready to acknowledge police skill in a good arrest, or in the successful result of a complicated case, but they frequently fail to recognize the value of the quieter preventive measures which lead to no thrilling stories and no exciting incidents. The successful prosecution of dynamiters brought much credit to the police, who found the dynamite and who

tracked the criminals to conviction ; but the most perfect specimens of police work in that campaign were preventive ; of which the public could not hear, and which naturally they could not commend. None the less real, however, is the value of the preventive influence of the police under ordinary circumstances ; it may not be fully appreciated by the public, but it is a reality to the criminal ; and while the measured tread of the night patrol may now and then interfere with detection, in very many cases it confers a security from attack which would very soon be found wanting if the much-abused "regulation boot" gave way to noiseless shoes or similar devices of the amateur policeman.

The maintenance of the peace is not secured without grave risk of life and limb to the force engaged in repressing disturbance. The roughs of London have an unenviable reputation for resorting to violence, and their victims too often are the police. In the Whitechapel Division about one-fifth of the force are annually injured on duty, and the proportion of men throughout the service who are compelled to go on the sick-list from assaults or wounds amounts to no less than 9 per cent.—a proportion much larger than amongst even railway employees, whose vocations are justly reckoned peculiarly dangerous. Many an American visitor has expressed to me his astonishment at the frequency of savage assaults on the police, at the forbearance with which constables endure violence without retaliating in self-defence, and at the inadequate sentences which are deemed sufficient punishment for such offences. "Roughs who attack policemen and brutes who beat their wives," said one gentleman to me, "seem to be privileged persons in your country !" The marvel only is that such a state of things should be allowed to continue, and that the public are content to see 9 per cent. of their protectors seriously injured every year without insisting that their assailants should meet with severe punishment.

Any reform in this direction would do far more to protect the police than spasmodic suggestions to provide them with revolvers as a means of defending themselves from armed burglars. As a matter of fact, the armed burglar is a criminal seldom met with ; firearms, as a rule, do not commend themselves to the burglar class, and the number of cases in which the revolver is used is insignificant. The use of the revolver *by police* would certainly, in the present state of English law as to self-defence, lead to complica-

tions which it is desirable to avoid; in ordinary circumstances the revolver is not nearly so useful for offensive or defensive purposes as the truncheon, and in a disturbance it might be quite as dangerous to the policeman as to his assailants. The opinion of the police themselves on this matter is the best indication of their lack of affection for the revolver. In every exterior division there is a store of revolvers kept at police stations, and any constable certified as fit to use the weapon is at liberty to have a revolver if he chooses; but the number of cases in which the permission is accepted is infinitesimally small. The metropolitan policeman prefers a truncheon in his pocket to a pistol at his belt, and takes his chances of danger from the armed burglar with comparative equanimity. The philanthropy, however, which has lately been active in agitating for milder sentences of habitual criminals might well make itself heard in protesting against inadequate punishment for crimes of violence against policemen.

While the prevention of offences against the law and the arrest of the offenders form the principal duty of every constable, a special agency exists for the detection of crime and the supervision of habitual or dangerous criminals; this is known as the Criminal-Investigation, or, more briefly, the Detective, Department. The presiding officer of this branch is one of the assistant commissioners, and for the efficient control and direction of its operations he is directly and specially responsible. Every day the reported crime of the entire Metropolitan Police District is laid before him, and he is thus enabled, at a glance, to ascertain the occurrences of the past twenty-four hours, and to direct attention to any quarter where special action is required. The principle of administration is, as in other matters, based on the divisional system: local crime is dealt with locally by a staff of detective officers under the superintendent of the division; special crime of an exceptional character, or extending beyond local limits, by a special number of selected officers, stationed at headquarters. The operations of the whole staff are controlled by the assistant commissioner, aided by the chief constable of the Criminal-Investigation Department and two special officers styled superintendents.

With the exception of the present chief constable and the assistant commissioner, every member of the detective staff, whether at divisions or headquarters, has served in the ranks and

passed several years in the uniformed branch of the force. Surprise has often been expressed that for the detective service, which requires special qualifications and highly-developed intelligence, recruits are not sought in other directions than simply within the ranks of the uniformed branch. Experience has, however, shown that such a system cannot be followed with advantage; it has been tried and found not to answer; and while I do not think that improvement of existing arrangements is impossible, I can safely say that, for all practical purposes, the present system has turned out a staff of detectives with which any police administrator has the fullest reason to be satisfied. Every efficient constable, whether in uniform or in plain clothes, is bound, from the nature of his duties, to develop some of the qualities which go to form a good detective. Acquisition of useful information, observation of character, quiet attention to little things, application of the results of observation, fertility of resource, all are qualities which a constable on the beat has, every day of his life, opportunities of displaying, and there is no better school than a policeman's life in the streets of London for acquiring and applying the knowledge of human nature which is specially developed in detective work.

The self-restraint and self-control which are nurtured by discipline form a valuable part of the training of a detective, and, with the opportunities for the display of aptitude for criminal work afforded in the performance of ordinary police duty, it is not difficult to select candidates who seem specially suited for a detective career. With a detective force, moreover, drawn from the ranks of the uniformed branch, the principle of unity in the force is most effectively maintained, and the jealousy which would be excited by the existence of a detective staff recruited from outside is avoided. Each branch of the force relies on the other for assistance, and all, whether in uniform or on the detective staff, feel themselves to be members of one service, interested in performing their common duties to the public and in maintaining the reputation of the Metropolitan Police as a whole.

I have often been asked to supply the rules of the Detective Department and of the system of criminal investigation. My answer has invariably been that there are no such rules. The object aimed at is to detect crime, and each officer, guided when necessary by advice from his superiors, is left to himself—to his own ingenuity and to the development of his trained common-

sense—to attain that object. The only restriction imposed upon him is that his operations must be strictly within the limits of the law ; but detection “according to order” does not exist in the economy of Scotland Yard. In no department is the elasticity of police administration more required than in the detective branch ; and in no work is the development of individuality more essential than in the performance of detective duties. On such individual development Scotland Yard relies for success in the detection of crime, and the results justify the policy. The popular idea of the detective of the Metropolitan Police is that he can never get rid of the signs of his individuality as a member of a semi-military force ; that his military gait betrays him even to a casual eye ; that, in spite of any disguise, the fatal “regulation boot” stamps him at once as a “passenger from Scotland Yard.” It is almost a pity to dispel this illusion, which is certainly useful in diverting attention from many a detective ; but the fact remains that the staff of the Criminal-Investigation Department, who have, probably for years, forgotten their acquaintance with the parade-ground, have no military gait ; they do not wear any regulation boot at all ; and they are able, apparently without exciting the attention of even interested observers, to adapt themselves, as regards outward appearance, to any society where their vocation leads them. Were it allowable to tell tales out of school, I could give many amusing instances in support of these remarks.

A specially important branch of the detective service at headquarters is to be found in the Convict-Supervision Office, which deals with the habitual criminal. Under the law, all convicts released on ticket-of-leave, or sentenced to police supervision in addition to imprisonment, are obliged to report themselves monthly to this office or to police stations. They are not allowed to leave the Metropolitan Police District without announcing their destination to headquarters, so that the police of the locality where they intend to reside may be communicated with ; and on returning within the limits of the London district they are bound to acquaint the Metropolitan Police with the fact. Of the value of this supervision system there is not the slightest doubt ; and, imperfect as it is in many respects, to its careful and efficient administration I attribute largely the check which, of late years, has been put upon organized crime. It is a system which might be

used oppressively to the prejudice of the criminal anxious to turn over a new leaf ; and its working, therefore, is most carefully supervised, and intrusted to special officers. Every inquiry regarding supervisees is conducted with the greatest secrecy and consideration ; every effort is made, in coöperation with Discharged-Prisoners' Aid Societies and employers of labor, to procure work for convicts who are willing to forsake their old course of crime ; and every means is used, while effectively carrying out the provisions of the law, to avoid even the appearance of persecuting or hunting down the criminals who come under its operation. The societies for the relief of discharged prisoners have testified emphatically to the humanity of the police in carrying out this very necessary system of supervision ; and from personal experience, I can testify that the number of complaints made, even by prisoners, of improper action on the part of the police is infinitesimal.

Such is a brief outline of the system adopted by the Metropolitan Police for preventing and detecting breaches of the law in London. Judged by results, it is not too much to say that the security of the public in the streets is achieved and public order maintained in a manner unsurpassed in any capital city of the world. The regulation of the vast traffic of the metropolis throughout the day, and up to a very late hour at night, is carried out in a quiet, unostentatious, and efficient manner, which calls forth the highest commendation of all foreign visitors, and life and property are protected, on the whole, in a manner which leaves no very serious ground for criticism. It is true that crimes of violence generally have diminished in modern times ; but, making every allowance for this, it is still marvellous that organized crime of a really serious character should prevail to so small an extent in an enormous population like that of the Metropolitan Police District. Excluding the unique series of outrages in White-chapel,—at the non-discovery of the perpetrators of which none grieved more than the Metropolitan Police,—I cannot call to mind half a dozen really serious cases of murder which, within the last five or six years, have remained undetected ; and the number of such offences committed is really small. Serious crimes against property, such as burglary and housebreaking, occur to the extent of about four a day, roughly speaking, and as regards detective results of these cases there is decidedly room for improvement.



Still, judging by the criminal statistics of other countries, so far as these are available, and so far as the difference of classification of offences admits of comparison, there is less serious crime in London, proportionately, than in the capitals of other civilized countries. Crime in the Metropolitan Police District, on the whole, is kept well in hand, in the face of a more watchful criticism of police action than is anywhere to be encountered,—without the facilities for police investigation which exist in most other European countries,—and under a criminal procedure the defect of which, to quote M. Taine again, is that “it protects the individual at the expense of society, that it is too difficult to obtain legal proof, and that many guilty persons go unpunished.” For the results attained few will deny that the public are largely indebted to the officers and men of Scotland Yard.

J. MONRO.