



WILD TURKEY

From Audubon's "Birds of America."
See Page 352 for review.

ton, D. C. Only recently have people recognized the need for studying the individual and varying the sentence to fit extenuating or aggravating circumstances. Even now, if a man takes your money and it happens that you have less than \$50 that is called petty larceny and he is guilty of misdemeanor. If you have \$51, although his intent is exactly the same, the crime is grand larceny and the sentence is entirely different.

Laws Forgotten

The courts do not use the machinery they already have for examining the mental condition of those who come before them for judgment, Dr. Overholser charged. In Massachusetts, where the law provides that the judge may ask for mental examination in any case before pronouncing sentence, in only about 35 cases per year has such an examination been made. If it were not for the Briggs Law there, under which certain classes of offenders are automatically referred for examination, it is likely that relatively few would be examined by psychiatrists. The Briggs Law is eminently successful, and should be copied wherever possible, he said.

It should be possible, and in many places it already is possible, for any judge before passing sentence on a convicted man to obtain the advice of psychiatrists regarding the treatment necessary before that man is fit to return to society. So far the New York City

Court of General Sessions is probably the only court in which all convicted felons are referred to the clinic.

Not all sex criminals are mentally abnormal, Dr. Overholser emphasized. But no sex crime is trivial from a psychiatric viewpoint. The man who is sentenced five dollars as a "masher" today is one who may be guilty of assault or murder tomorrow. Any person guilty of a sex attack on a little child or a sex attack with violence is a potential murderer and should be handled accordingly, he warned.

No Menace

The seriousness of the present "wave" of sex crimes was discounted by these experts who have been dealing with the problem over a period of years.

"Civilization is not being menaced," Dr. Edward A. Strecker of the University of Pennsylvania reassured the meeting. "It is doubtful that there is an actual increase in the number of these sex offenses. Indeed, it seems likely that at certain times in history, they were more prevalent.

"There is no place for sickly sentimentality in dealing with this problem. But the line of demarcation between normal and abnormal sexual manifestations is often quite faint and abnormal sexuality has its representation in miniature in normal sex life.

"It is the duty of the law to protect the public. It must continue to do that.

"But over and above this there should be an effort in the direction of better understanding. Prejudice and intolerance should not be permitted to becloud constructive judgment."

The practical problem of what to do with those offenders for whom the safety of the public demands confinement, was discussed. Psychiatrists agree that medical science can do little to relieve the condition of the true sex pervert. They do not want to be cured, and the physician can do little to aid the man who wants to be ill.

If sex offenders are placed in prison along with other criminals they magnify the problems of the administrator of such institutions where sex problems are already causing difficulty, it was pointed out by the Hon. Austin H. McCormick, Commissioner of Correction of New York City.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1937

The Metropolitan Museum in New York has a remarkable statue of an Etruscan war god, standing eight feet tall, in fighting pose.

"I am happy to commend this book."—DONALD CULROSS PEATTIE



46 + 2 CHROMOSOMES —AND IT'S A GIRL!

The curious pre-natal mechanism which determines the sex of man and beast is only one of the new discoveries of biological science. You will enjoy this new book which gives all the fascinating facts about adaptation in form and color, the structure of the sense organs, mating, propagation and the use of Mendel's law in plant and animal breeding.

If you want to know how we came to be what we are: why we look, feel, taste, see, hear and act as we do—read this exciting story of all life as seen through a famous biologist's eyes.

A REVELATION OF THE LIVING WORLD

The author presents a clear picture of the evolution and close interrelation of all living things—from the lowliest worm, *Ascaris*, to man. In addition, he discloses new and still comparatively unknown scientific discoveries. He explains graphically why our ideas of all life have recently undergone drastic change. A book for intelligent people who are curious about the most fascinating story ever told, the story of *life on earth*. With 153 fascinating and informative pictures, 390 pages, \$3.25.

Recommended by the Book-of-the-Month Club and the Scientific Book Club

ASCARIS

The Biologist's Story of Life

BY RICHARD GOLDSCHMIDT
of the University of California

At your bookseller or mail the attached coupon

EXAMINE THIS BOOK FREE

Detach, sign and mail this coupon.

To: PRENTICE-HALL, Inc.
70 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

Send me *ASCARIS: The Biologist's Story of Life*. When it is delivered I will deposit with the postman only \$3.25, plus the few cents postage. I understand that I may return the book within five days for full refund, if I am not satisfied.

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____

AU-1