

attain the Italian, French and Spanish Tongues, and in Merchandizing be fit to negotiate with the greatest Princes." In a second College nothing would be spoken but Greek, and in a third Hebrew. This would attract all "forraigne Protestants of work in this westerne World," as well as the Jews' "whose conversion is now at hand."

The vision of a truly Puritan Paradise opens up. "If London were an University, such, pluming the Crest of this Royall City, would cause it to present a more glorious aspect than all the lofty Cypresses in Constantinople doe unto all that approach unto it: yea, all the yeare long cause London to resemble Jerusalem in the Feast of Tabernacles." Not only would there be a chaplain in every house of the nobility (and even "the Citizens carry one sometimes"), but every godly merchant might have a graduate in his ship, and "Sea-men (generally so

prophane)" might become Saints and "their masters goods prosper in their hands."

That there will be objections from Cambridge and Oxford (the order of precedence is his and prompts a conjecture as to the True Lover's upbringing) is foreseen, but these, it can well be imagined, do not daunt such a buoyant optimism. Your True Lover, if he is worthy of the name, has as little difficulty with objections as with finance. Thus there are nine answers to the three objections ("weak, weaker, weakest"), not any of which are objections founded upon such base things as accommodation and finance. Perhaps, however, it was this sort of objection which prevailed with the Lord Mayor and his colleagues (to whom "Motives" are presented), and, as we know, the True Lover's University did not build Jerusalem in London. Which, perhaps, is just as well.

E. D.

### Immigration and Degeneracy in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

THE United States Government is taking measures to control immigration, so as to ensure, so far as is possible, that undesirables of all sorts shall be excluded. The present publication, which is the statement of Dr. Harry H. Laughlin made before the Committee on Immigration and Naturalisation of the House of Representatives, is witness to its activity in this direction. By estimating the actual and predicted proportions of various sorts of degeneracy contributed by the various stocks that enter the United States, it is possible, by excluding immigrants from those foreign countries that contribute more than their share, to ensure that the healthiest possible stocks only are admitted.

The statement of Dr. Laughlin covers feeble-mindedness, insanity, criminality, epilepsy, inebriacy, leprosy, tuberculosis, blindness, deafness, deformation, and dependency. It is found that each of these forms of degeneracy demand distinct methods of treatment. For example, it is comparatively easy to control feeble-mindedness, for it manifests itself early in life. Therefore it is found that the native white population contributes, proportionally, more than the immigrant white to the feeble-minded part of the population. On the other hand, insanity, which manifests itself much later in life, is not so easy to diagnose in the immigrant, with the consequence that the immigrants of the present generation have a higher incidence of mental instability than is possessed by the foundation families. Therefore it

<sup>1</sup> Analysis of America's Modern Melting Pot: Hearings before the Committee on Immigration and Naturalisation, House of Representatives, Sixty-seventh Congress, Third Session, November 21, 1922. Statement by Harry H. Laughlin. (Serial 7-C.) Pp. 723-831. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1923).

is proposed that immigrants should come of families with no record of insanity.

The case of crime is interesting. Those countries that have contributed least to the criminal population of the United States are Great Britain, Scandinavia, Ireland, Germany, and the Netherlands; *i.e.* precisely those that have contributed the foundation stocks. The Southern European countries have contributed a far larger proportion, and this is probably due, in the opinion of Dr. Laughlin, to a change in social environment, with a consequent social maladjustment. Since criminalistic tendencies show themselves early in life, it has been possible to exclude this type with a considerable degree of success.

The analysis of figures has made it possible to reach some interesting conclusions with regard to the contributions to degeneracy made by the different constituent elements of the population of the United States, and it is evident from this report that before long we shall know much more than we do at present about the problem of degeneracy. One definite conclusion seems to have been reached by Dr. Laughlin; he states that "custodial inadequacies are for the most part recruited from a relatively small portion of the families of the whole population. This means that social inadequacy is not a result of accident or bad environment, but that primarily most custodial inadequacy is founded upon degenerate inheritance."

The ultimate effects of the prosecution of a thoroughgoing policy of immigration control will be far-reaching; for the United States will be able to absorb the healthy stocks, and to reject the unhealthy, thus greatly benefiting itself at the double expense of European countries.

W. J. PERRY.

### Fire Hazards and Fire Extinction on Oilfields.

THE subject of fire-risk, prevention and extinction on oilfields is one which the public as a whole tends to take very much for granted, only being stirred to interest by press reports of oil-well fires such as occurred in Trinidad some two years ago, when thousands of pounds' worth of damage was done, or by more serious disasters on some of the American fields, involving the loss of many lives. On the other hand, those concerned with the actual control of oilfields, if not the employees themselves, are very much alive to the ever-present danger of a conflagration arising from the high degree of inflammability of petroleum and its products, and they know, usually only too well from experience, that oil-fires, from the inherent nature of the materials involved, are by far the most difficult to combat successfully.

Prof. J. S. S. Brame chose this subject as the theme of his valedictory address to the Institution of Petroleum Technologists recently, and in view of the rapid and generally unappreciated evolution of modern methods of oil-fire extinction, especially as practised in America, his dissertation was particularly welcome. It certainly stimulated members of his audience to a keener perception of the risks run by those engaged in all branches of the industry, without in any sense being either sensational or alarming.

As with other undesirable evils, prevention being better than cure, the greatest possible care is taken nowadays to meet, by precautionary measures, the contingencies of oil-well and oil-tank fires. Unfortunately, one of the chief causes, lightning, is extremely