

Model Prison being Built in America

When the State of Illinois, U.S.A. has finished her new £700,000 prison, features once thought essential to penal housing will be forgotten, says the "Scientific American." Cell houses will have roofs of glass; the ventilating system will include an arrangement for washing the air used; every cell will be an outside one, and sunshine will reach them all at some hour during the day, as every one of the eight cell houses is round.

The many new ideas worked into the plans for this structure are attracting much attention from those interested in this class of building. By them a much safer, saner and more habitable prison will be the result. At the same time a system of control will be in use, which is pronounced by those in this country and abroad who have made a study of prison control, to be about perfection.

The cell houses, of which there will be eight, are built around a central dining hall. Corridor con-

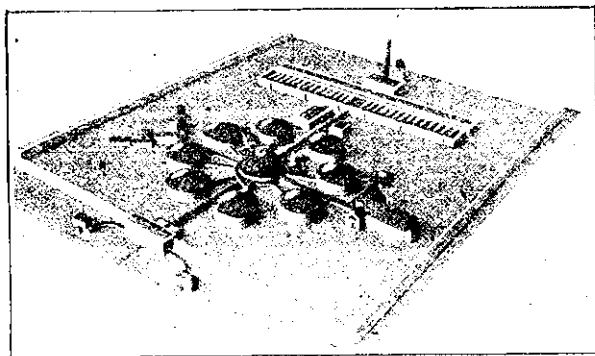
Work on the structure has been under way for some months, the prisoners doing the work for the State, and thereby cutting the cost of labour. Two years would see this model prison completed, but the men who sit on the State's money bags may not make the entire appropriation. In such case five years will be required.

The site of the home for criminals is a short way from the old. It comprises several thousand acres, purchased several years ago, but which until this year was farmed, its products feeding those confined within the prison walls.

With every cell in the prison having sunshine and the best of air, Illinois is doing her share towards safeguarding the health of her prisoners, and placing herself well above those States where a sentence of five years' imprisonment carries with it a virtual condemnation to an early tubercular death.

Road Education

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Model of Illinois Prison at once Humanitarian and Escape-proof.

nections join all these to the central structure. Each cell house accommodates 250 prisoners, and has a diameter of 150 feet. Tunnels connect all cell houses to the administration building, which is at the entrance. In case of an outbreak all such connections can be immediately closed. Chapel and hospital are arranged for, these being on opposite sides of the cell house group. Dwellings of the warden and his assistants will be outside the prison wall near the administration quarters. The prison shops will be located not far from the hospital and chapel, while between shops and walls the pumping plant will be stationed.

The scheme for keeping an eye on the prisoners is the last word in such work. Every cell house has an observation tower in its centre. Within this tower, which is darkened, the guard keeps watch through slits. Within his immediate vision are the rooms of the prisoners arranged in circular form. Prisoners will not know just when they are being watched. It is said that with this system of watch escape is impossible, nevertheless steel bars will further strengthen the system by being located at each window, inside and out.

The increasing general interest being shown in road building throughout the United States, and the wholesale demand for better constructed and hard surfaced roads have called for more cooperation among the different communities and organizations interested in this line of work. In fact, no other single subject has more of a vital personal interest to every inhabitant of any country. Stated briefly, the cost of living is considerably affected by the expense of hauling and delivering produce to the markets, and to the consumer. Do bad roads lower hauling costs? Who pays for this hauling ultimately? Ask yourself these pertinent questions.

The latest impetus on a large scale has been the addition of Federal aid, which has called for a closer co-operation between municipal, county, state and government officials. It will lead to more logical planning of methods of construction, selection of routes, and a more comprehensive programme of building and systems of maintenance.

The magnitude of the movement and work to be undertaken require a thorough knowledge of the different types of construction, so that the most modern methods may be selected and the greatest amount of good permanent work done at the least cost. There has been so much "hit-and-miss" road building, that a great deal of the work simply results in a total loss. By close co-operation among road officials, and the better education of the general public on road subjects, it is hoped that every dollar spent will bring its full value in actual comprehensive beneficial results.

Among the latest means taken to further the educational side of road construction and maintenance is the road building moving picture film. This method, taken from actual construction scenes, shows the very latest up-to-date road building methods and has for its object the education of the general public, enabling them to talk and work intelligently on road subjects, thus lending their co-operation and aid in this most vital movement for the building up and progress of the whole nation.