

Electric "Eye" Picks Pockets

Searches Convicts For Metal Objects
Hidden In Clothes Of Convicts
In Federal Prisons.

The electric eye that picks the pockets of "public enemies" at Alcatraz, island penitentiary in San Francisco bay, has been put on guard over lesser federal charges in several other prisons.

The federal prison bureau says the machine, which detects metal in the prisoners' pockets as they pass into their cells, is still in the experimental stage, but it has been found effective. Here's how a reporter saw it work at one federal prison:

As the men return from work at night, to be locked into their cells, they pass in single file through the arch of the tall box which houses the instrument.

Two guards watch the line of men as they file by; another stands at the side-wall where the signal light is located. When metal passes thru the box, a red light flashes in the signal case. The line is halted and one man is drawn aside. The line marches on, and the men who have been pulled aside are sent through the machine again.

The electric eye can be adjusted so sharply that it will flash red at the nails in a man's shoes; according to prison guards. If guards suspect any inmate of smuggling small metal pieces into his cell, they may order him to remove his shoes and regulate the machine so that the slightest bit of metal will trip the red light. In Alcatraz, a watch spring hidden in a man's ear was detected by the electric eye.

Where less dangerous criminals are kept, the machine may not be adjusted to such fine detective work. Even allowing for the nails in a man's boots, however, guards can adjust the "eye" so finely that it will signal when a half-tin of tobacco passes by.

Inmates have learned that you can't beat the electric eye. In some institutions, where inmates are allowed a few personal trinkets, they remove these objects if made of metal and turn them over to guard while they pass through the box.

Guards always double check the inmates before they are allowed to

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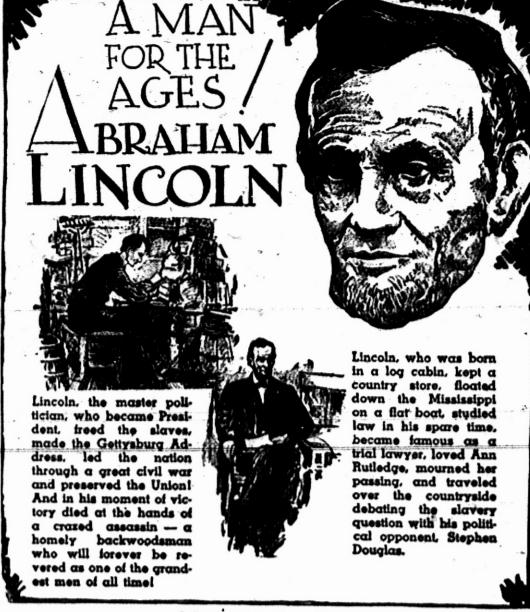
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'Eye' Enables Blind To Read

Mechanical Device Permits Afflicted to Follow Ordinary Type
By Electricity

An artificial "eye" designed to enable the blind to read ordinary books, magazines and newspapers was demonstrated recently at Northwestern University.

It enlarged letters on the printed page to a height of four inches, and in effect, hung them in the air and passed them over the fingers of the sightless readers, all by electricity.

Emil Ranseen, graduate student in psychology who invented the device, said it was inspired by an article written by Helen Keller, famed blind teacher of the blind.

Ranseen said he was confident his invention would "mean more to the blind" than raised lettering because it would be easier to learn and would not require specially made books.

The device was made in three units: One to "read" the page; one to amplify electrical impulses generated in the first unit; and one to translate these impulses into something the hands of the reader could feel and understand.

The first unit looked like a small, crude talking machine which moved on tiny rollers and was equipped with an undersize automobile headlight.

The light shone down on the page. Black letters absorbed the rays. White spacing reflected them upward through a magnifying glass to the "record" of the "talking machine." Slots in it chopped up the

light and passed it on to a photoelectric cell.

The cell converted the light rays to electric current, and sent it to the second unit, where the current was amplified.

From the amplifiers, the current traveled to the third unit, made of wood and shaped roughly like a hand. On a four-inch straight line through the middle of this hand were nine small glass beads, each with a hole in the middle. Each bead was a miniature sewing machine, with a miniature wire needle.

When the "reading" unit passed over the letter "I" on the page, all the needles pricked the reader's hand at once, indicating a single, straight line. Other letters gave similar responses.

Mother Goose rhymes, and simple sentences from elementary school readers were used for demonstration. Ranseen emphasized that his work was still in the final experimental stages, and the device not ready to market.

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Left-Handed Kings

How many have noticed that all the four kings in a pack of cards are left-handed. They are Caesar (Spades), Charlemagne (Clubs), David (Diamonds), and Alexander (Hearts)—the most powerful monarchs in history.

State Planning Model Prisons

Kentucky's Charitable And Penal Institutions To Be Models For Other States.

Kentucky's State prisons and charitable institutions, if plans already approved by State and Federal authorities work out, will be a model for other states. Purchase, construction and reconstruction is to cost between \$10,000,000 and \$14,000,000 and is to be completed within ten years.

Head of the State Welfare Department, Frederic A. Wallis, Paris, Ky., says the plan as outlined will result in important savings.

Keystone of the new system is to be a receiving and hospitalizing prison where new convicts will be sent from the courts for examinations by physicians and mental specialists. The mentally unsound will be sent to an insane ward in one of the state hospitals. Others needing medical or surgical attention will be kept in the receiving institution's hospital wards.

Treatment of each prisoner will be prescribed with a view to his rehabilitation, Wallis said, pointing out that in the judgment of wardens now directing the state prisons, about 80 per cent of the inmates could be "salvaged" for society by proper handling.

A separate receiving institution will be constructed for women.

Male convicts will be classified as dangerous, less dangerous and tractable. Separate wards will be constructed in the receiving prison for each class—the wards to be designated as maximum security, medium security and minimum security.

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