

# "Enlightenment" in Australia

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from the norm. Instead they are very positive about all that which this inclination implies. Social ostracism and the legal situation still keep many away from our organizations, and the irresponsibles are found in all walks of life. Yet all that most of the groups and their magazines stand for cannot just be expressed in terms of sexuality. Subsequently the movements designed to bring about sexual equality before the law take a more reserved view of those who merely hover along the outskirts seeking the pleasures there, since they cannot find them elsewhere, and avoiding responsibilities, since they are not mentally equipped to be consistent in that direction.

## "Enlightenment" in Australia

Sydney — «Use of the lash against persons convicted of male sex perversion should be considered», Judge Berne suggested at the Quarter Sessions today. His Honor described the prevalence of sex perversion among males as «a disgrace to the community». He said use of the lash was permitted under an amendment to the Crimes Act, which also provided a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment for indecently assaulting a male.

After being told by the Chief of the Vice Squad that male perversion in New South Wales, particularly Sydney, had «jumped to alarming proportions,» Judge Berne described such offences as «vicious foreign imported habits». «Picture shows, parks and public W. C.s are all infested with these types,» he said. «They are so low that even the criminal scum have no desire to be associated with (them). The serious part of the matter is that no child is safe with these people about, and parents can hardly afford to let their children out of their sight. It is no exaggeration to say that, in the field of criminal activity, no greater danger has ever menaced the community . . . It is useless to treat offenders with kid gloves; it is necessary to treat them without mercy. It is a very serious crime, and it is an offence that even the lowest animals would not commit. The serious part of the matter is that (their) desires are to pollute others. Medical science cannot curb (their) unnatural instincts, and there is only one language which can curb (them) . . . the language which is expressed in the armed tongue.»

Asked by His Honor if male perversion offences were particularly rampant among «certain foreign elements in our community,» Inspector Crothers said that was so, and apparently such persons did not understand that it was the wrong thing. He gave the following figures of sex crime incidence: In 1933, 22 sex offences by males; 1945, 19; 1946, 31; 1947, 79; 1948, 194; 1949, 284; 1950, 265; and 1951, 155. After Insp. Crothers had read out comparative figures of female prostitution and male perversion, Judge Berne commented: «In other words, these men have forced the women prostitutes out of business.»