

In Scotland, the movement progresses, and members of the Women Police Service have been accepted as policewomen by the Chief Constables of Edinburgh and Glasgow. In addition, members are serving under the Caledonian Railway Company. A large number of women police are also working under the Authorities in Ireland.

## THE MOTHER IN GAOL.

We wish to call the attention of magistrates and police authorities to the cruelty, no doubt unintentional, of sending women to prison without first ascertaining whether they have made arrangements for their children's care. To give a recent instance, a widow was fined on account of the verminous condition of her children, and given seven days in which to pay. She failed to find the money, was given more time on several occasions, and on finally appearing before the magistrates, was sentenced to five days' imprisonment. She was not allowed to return home before being sent to prison, being told she should have made proper arrangements when she received the warrant. She was thus separated from the baby *which she was nursing*, and the other children were left to get on as best they could. This is a strange way to enforce a law whose whole *raison d'être* is the welfare of little children!

## THE REPORT OF THE INDIAN JAILS COMMITTEE.

### AN IMPRESSION.

*By Lt.-Colonel John Mulvany, M.R.C.S., Late Bengal Jail Department.*

The most important penological event of recent years is, undoubtedly, the publication of the Report of the Indian Jails Committee. No great inquiry had been made into the state of Indian prisons since 1889, and none in England since 1895. The deliberations of the last International Penitentiary Congress, of 1910 (in which India had no share), had plainly shown the trend of modern thought in the direction of prevention and reformation and the abandonment of medievalism, while recent experiments, both legislative and penal, clearly pointed to the dawn of a new era in the treatment of criminals and the prevention of crime.

No examination into prison matters had ever been initiated under such happy auspices as those which marked the inauguration of this inquiry. No scandals had been alleged; no grave charges made; and the good repute of Indian jails had never stood higher. Certain vague and intangible grievances were, it is true, spoken of at the debate in the Imperial Council, in 1914, but the great case against, and freely admitted by, the government was simply that India had failed to keep pace with the march of modern thought.