

singular and instructive. It seems that the 'Mercury' is a vessel belonging to the Commissioners in charge of the hospitals and prisons of New York, and it is employed for the purpose of training boys, committed by the magistrates for vagrancy and slight misdemeanours, to become thorough seamen. One important part of the training in this ship is that she makes long cruises, and the boys are thus fitted quickly to enter into the service of the navy or the mercantile marine. In the present cruise, the Commissioners, desiring to promote the education of the lads and to advance the interests of science as much as lay in their power, instructed the captain to obtain a series of soundings on the line of or near the equator from the coast of Africa to the mouth of the Amazon, and to observe the set of the surface currents and the temperature of the water at various depths.

The Commissioners report most favourably of this mode of training, which is now being so generally adopted in this country. For such boys the adventurous life has a special charm, and, "instead of growing up to be a curse to the community, they are made into valuable men." Two hundred and fifty scapegraces were sent out on this voyage, and on the return of the ship, in the opinion of the captain 100 of these were capable of discharging the duties of ordinary seamen.

Brooke's detaching sounding apparatus was used in the 'Mercury,' and in the report of the scientific results of the voyage, which was drawn out by Professor Henry Draper of New York, a diagram of the bed of the Atlantic at the twelfth parallel is introduced, based on fifteen soundings. It shows that,