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Reform of Juvenile Criminals.

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REFORM OF JUVENILE CRIMINALS.

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The best methods of reforming young criminals are more or less a matter of opinion. For the causes of crime have not been sufficiently determined, so that remedies may have an adequate application.

To treat a disease, without knowing its cause definitely, may be the best that criminology can do at present.

As in physical so in social disease, the individual subjects must be studied, if the real causes of crime are to be found. Such professional and scientific investigation is the only path to the root of the matter. But such study has barely commenced in our country. Not merely the punishment of crime, after it has been committed, but, as Pestalozzi says, the education of man to do good and the killing of the cause of crime, are what will protect the community.

VALUE OF SAVING ONE CHILD.

Every child kept from being a criminal wins for the State a good citizen, but every child becoming a criminal through the State's neglect of conditions leading to crime, is a vicious parasite, and whether free or in prison, feeds upon the people. The preventing of one child from going wrong may save the State the cost of some notorious criminal trial, and protect the community from reading the details of the life and acts of some moral degenerate or pervert, tending to make him a hero rather than a culprit.

SIN OF MODERN TIMES.

Any description of a crime, that tends to palliate it or make it interesting, or associate it with dignity or respectability so that the resultant impression is one of interest in, or acquiescence in or condoning the evil, is the great sin of the press, stage, and literature of modern times. Such publications are a positive evil to society, on account of the law of imitation; and, in addition, make the criminal proud of his record, and also develop the morbid curiosity of the people. It is especially the

mentally and morally weak who are affected.¹ But any description of crime, that makes you detest the crime, is moral in its effect, even though it involve objectionable details.

CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE LEFT TO THEMSELVES.

Prevention of crime concerns the care of the young, and especially those who are criminals, vagabonds, paupers, homeless, or without proper home, or in any way neglected by being left to themselves. The child is not master of itself, but its environment controls it. Perhaps in as many as nine cases out of ten, the child will be what its surroundings tend to make it.

TWO CLASSES IN MORAL DANGER.

There are two classes of children in moral danger (1) those who can be saved by ordinary pedagogic means, and (2) those who have need of some special method of reformation.

There are some children, who without being disposed to do evil, are led astray by their environment, sometimes it is bad companionship, sometimes their own parents force them into vice and crime.

SIGNS SUGGESTING VICIOUSNESS.

There are other children who seem to be vicious by nature. These often present a characteristic appearance. There is a certain animality in the face, the eyes are without expression, the forehead is low or depressed, the jaws are very large, the edges of the ears are rough, the ears extend out prominently from the head. Sometimes the complexion has an unhealthy color. Such children may be too large or too small for their age; or they may appear older or younger than they are. Some do not look you straight in the face, but have a stealthy, oblique or variable glance. Some stutter, hesitate or become confused. These defects are only signs and of course do not necessarily mean the existence in the person of the things signified. They mean that such individuals will at least bear observation.

CYNICAL CHILDREN.

There are children who advertise their corruption, treating with effrontery whoever interrogates them, laughing at the questions, manifesting cynical pride and glorifying themselves.

One learns to know the hypocrites and sneaks who cry with

¹"Man and Abnormal Man" (by writer) Senate Document No. 187, 58th Congress, 3rd Session, including a study of children, in connection with bills to establish laboratories under city, state and federal governments in the study of the criminal, pauper, and defective classes, with bibliographies.

This document may be obtained on application to any United States Senator or Representative.

effort and protest their innocence, without appearing too desirous of escaping justice. It is easier to recognize the true character in children from 10 to 16, than in those younger.

SIGNS, SUGGESTION, SINCERITY.

A clear voice, open toned, well pitched, even under strong emotion, is a good sign. If the look is direct, a little elevated, if the eyes are directed straight at you, if the mouth has no contraction, if the arms, hands and legs are in a state of repose, these are signs of a sincere nature, but only signs.

It is important to distinguish whether a child is bad by nature or whether its badness comes from its environment. A child might commit several serious crimes, being lead astray by its surroundings, and yet not be bad by nature, especially, if at the time, it did not recognize the gravity of the crime, but later regretted it. Such a child should never be placed in company with a child, who to all appearances, is bad at heart.

CASES OF IMPROVEMENT OR REFORM.

In order that the reader may study the cases¹ for himself, those where the treatment was successful, are first given, and then follow cases where reform proved impossible.

IMPROVEMENT THROUGH ENGLISH REFORMATORIES.

The reformatories and industrial schools of Great Britain have improved three-fourths of their inmates as the following table indicates.

| Great Britain. | REFORMATORIES. | | | | INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS. | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| | Improved % | Doubtful % | Relapsing % | Unknown % | Improved % | Doubtful % | Relapsing % | Unknown % |
| 1882 | 74 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 80 | 6 | 3 | 11 |
| 1883 | 72 | 6 | 11 | 11 | 80 | 5 | 3 | 11 |
| 1884 | 74 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 80 | 6 | 3 | 10 |
| 1885 | 75 | 6 | 10 | 9 | 81 | 5 | 4 | 10 |
| 1886 | 75 | 7 | 10 | 8 | 83 | 5 | 2 | 10 |
| 1887 | 77 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 84 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 1888 | 76 | 5 | 11 | 8 | 82 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 1889 | 75 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 83 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| 1890 | 75 | 6 | 11 | 8 | 84 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| 1891 | 77 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 85 | 4 | 3 | 8 |

TWO CASES WITH HEREDITARY TAINT.

Girl, 13. She was thirteen years of age. Her father was

¹Selected from special investigations.

nervous and also had an affection of the heart, but he was a sober man. Her mother was very nervous, subject to hysterical attacks. One brother died of croup, another of meningitis. She was of average height, sallow complexion, black eyes, dark brown hair, had narrow and receding forehead, ears well formed, but a little large. She knew how to read and write, but had no taste for study. She did not like to sew. She was a coquette, dressed with much care and was cleanly. But she was giddy and hairbrained; she talked constantly, incoherently and without sense. At times she was unconscious of what she said. She was very affectionate towards her parents and while she liked her brother and sister, she struck them often.

Good training would help this child sufficiently to live properly in the community.

Boy, 11. The boy was eleven years of age; he had a flat forehead and nose; his ears were almost without lobes. He was very limited in intelligence and could barely read and write; was filthy in speech and so violent and dangerous that he needed close watching at school.

His brother was insane and his father was an alcoholic and had served several times in prison for violent assaults. Much might be done to help this boy, but not without taking him away from his surroundings.

IMPROVED BY REFORMATORY.

Age, 12 years; length of head 179 m.m., width 160 m.m., circumference of chest 69 c.m., height 137 c.m., sitting height 70.5 c.m., arm reach 141 c.m.²

At the right corner of the mouth was a linear cicatrix 2 c.m. long, prolonging the line of the mouth.

Nothing was known as to antecedents. The family were day laborers, living in an industrial village; their morality was doubtful; they allowed their children to be vagabonds and thieves. Arrested, the boy was acquitted and put under the charge of public charity. This boy had contracted bad habits, which were so deeply rooted, that he could not be sent to a family. He was sent to a reformatory. After two years here his conduct was modified sufficiently to be given employment outside of the institution.

REFORMED BOY TWO YEARS LIFE IN REFORMATORY.

Boy, age 15, orphan; length of head 180 m.m., width 156 m.m., circumference of chest 74 c.m., height 143 c.m., sitting height 71 c.m., arm reach 146 c.m.

²When the arm reach is greater than the height, it is generally regarded as a defect.

This boy was very healthy, he had been to school and knew how to read and write. He was brought up by his aged and feeble grandfather who lived in a section where prowlers were numerous, intractable and brutal in disposition.

This boy was taken from these unhealthy surroundings and sent to a school for correction, where his bad tendencies were put under control in two years.

SAVED BY REFORMATORY.

Boy, age 15 years, orphan; length of head 181 m.m., width 168 m.m., circumference of chest 73 c.m., height 151.5 c.m., sitting height 76.1 c.m., arm reach 150 c.m.

The boy had good health. He was educated by an uncle. He could read and write, was somewhat pretentious. He was placed in domestic service, but he soon began to steal, justifying it by a most revolting cynicism. His moral sense seemed false; it was necessary to keep him from temptation, and to attempt to set his conscience aright. He was sent to a reformatory where he could make preparation to enter the army, otherwise he might be likely to fall back into crime.

TWO VAGABONDS REFORMED BY FAMILY MOUNTAIN LIFE.

These were two brothers seven and ten years of age.

Boy 1. Father dead; length of head 164 m.m., width 145 m.m., sitting height 55 c.m., height 107 c.m., arm reach 102 c.m.; thin lips, pointed chin.

Boy 2. Length of head 175 m.m., width 150 m.m., sitting height 68 c.m., height 124 c.m., arm reach 120 c.m.; slight scar on left eyebrow.

These two boys were healthy and vigorous, presenting no defect of hearing, seeing or speaking, no anatomical stigmata. Nothing could be found as to their antecedents, except that the mother had rickets, stuttered and was very limited in intelligence, leading a haphazard life, making her children beg.

These children never went to school; but were very active as vagabonds in several communities, where they were a pest, sleeping in barns. They would pass by food and fruit, but would steal a watch or other object of value. Finally they were arrested and imprisoned. A committee of a local charitable society, intervened and had these boys taken out of custody and put under the care of a good man. But they escaped and continued their voyage home, a distance of 30 miles. They were arrested the next day while in the act of stealing.

When the younger one was questioned as to his acts, he looked at his brother and at the questioner, raising his shoulders a little with a sense of superiority and pity. What shall be done with these boys who intend to live as they please.

These two vagabonds were sent to live with an honest mountaineer, to have a bed, a place at table to eat regularly and to attend school. After four years of this life, those boys were completely transformed and reformed.

HOPELESS CASES.

In vicious and criminal children, the cause of their degeneracy can often be traced to hereditary antecedents, yet in some cases, as we have seen, careful but severe treatment will save them, where otherwise their bad instincts would lead them to destruction. If, however, such treatment through neglect of parents, or others, be delayed until the child is somewhat grown, it will in most instances fail, for criminal taint has had opportunity to develop and permeate the character. Such a child is morally frail, with little power of resistance and liable to fall under the least temptation. A few seem to have a sort of blindness and want of comprehension, being absolutely under the sway of their instincts and impulses. For these there is little or no hope.

INCAPABLE OF REFORMATION.

Boy, 14 years of age, father dead; length of head 170 m.m., width 155 m.m., height 150 c.m., sitting height 77 c.m.; he had a club foot and congenital paralysis. His father was an alcoholic, dying at the age of 35 of pleurisy. The mother had good health. She was treated brutally by her husband, while with child. Two other children, a boy of ten and a girl of seven, showed nothing unusual. The boy's paralysis did not prevent him from being active. He could read, but wrote with difficulty, though he had attended a number of different schools, private and public. He became involved in an immoral affair which was his undoing before the court where he served as a witness, and gave the details of the scandal. His imagination was perverted.

The child was sent to a reformatory, but without success in treating him. He attempted murder in the street. The defect in this boy was aggravated by the circumstances of his life, it was impossible to reform him.

GIRL, MORAL DEGENERATE.

Girl. One (age 13 years) had an extraordinary physical development for her age; the mother had married again. The girl was brought up by grandparents, who lived in a factory town. The child early showed vicious instincts which frightened the family. She was arrested for a series of thefts of goods displayed at stores. It was a case of precocious puberty. She went to a convent with the formal promise that she could leave

after three months. As the time approached, she declared if she was kept any longer she would set fire to the building. Then she was placed in several institutions, but all were glad to get rid of her. At one convent where she remained 48 hours she refused to eat, pretended there was something the matter with her eyes, so she could not sew. At another place where she remained but one night she frightened the sisters and boarders by twisting herself so when laughing that they thought her insane. At the convent where she remained some time, she acted still worse, she would attack the sick, scandalize the personnel by her words and jests. She was vicious by nature. She suffered from a cerebro-spinal trouble and excessive sexuality.

RELAPSES INTO OLD WAYS.

Boy, 13 years of age; orphan; large for his age, he could neither read nor write, and had little mental capacity. His father was a habitual criminal; his mother had a doubtful character. He was cared for by uncle and aunts, with little means. He showed brutal instincts, stealing jewels and then breaking them to pieces. He was arrested and taken before the court. The local society took him in charge and found him a home in a good family; in two years though not reformed he was somewhat changed for the better, but he went back again to his old ways, himself recognizing that he could not adapt himself. After being returned by his guardian family he began to steal.

BOY WITH HEREDITARY TAINT.

The boy was eleven years old; his father was nervous, violent, a drinker and gambler. His mother was extremely nervous, becoming exceedingly angry on the least provocation.

He was an apt pupil, when so disposed. But he was lazy, greedy, untruthful and jealous; he played truant at school continually, declaring he had had enough of school. For two months he went out every evening attending balls and other entertainments, not returning until after eleven o'clock. In the day he did not wish to do anything; he was always away. It appears that his father when a boy had the habit of sleeping outside. The son had little affection for his mother; he did not wish to kiss her, nor have her kiss him. Brutal and treacherous, he would strike his sister, fourteen years of age, defective in many ways and as bad as her brother. He would abuse every one and become violently angry, threatening to break everything. Every effort was made to help this child: nothing could be done.

DEGENERATE GIRL WITH BAD PARENTAGE.

Age 15, mother dead; length of head 171 m.m., width 151 m.m., height 166 c.m., sitting height 85 c.m., arm reach 168 c.m. There was a scar on the upper right jaw, another on the middle of the left jaw.

The father was an alcoholic, and led a bad life. The girl was large and had the appearance of being 20 years of age; had excellent health, with the exception of an enuresis.

Reared by an uncle, she was put under the care of a good pastor, where she proved to be impossible. Arrested for theft, she was sent to a convent.

This is another case of cerebro-spinal trouble, and excessive sexuality. She was sent to work in a manufactory, but she left and returned telling a story she had invented. In spite of all the efforts to reform her she did not grow better. At the last convent she lived in, she broke a door to regain her liberty.

IMPULSE TO RUN ABOUT PREVENTS REFORMATION.

Boy, age 16, orphan; length of head 187 m.m., width 144 m.m., height 156 c.m., sitting height 84 c.m., arm reach 158 c.m. Eyebrows near each other; dimpled chin; scar at end of chin; tattooing on left wrist, asymmetry of face.

This boy was reared by a brother-in-law. He was employed in a hotel. He stole three dollars from one of his fellow servants. He was placed with an employer in the city and for three months with another employer, where he saved a little money. Unfortunately his impulse to be on the go, brought him into the street, where it was not long before he was arrested.

VAGABOND NATURE TOO STRONG.

Boy, age 17, father dead; length of head 177 m.m., width 149 m.m., height 150.3 c.m., sitting height 79 c.m., arm reach 155 c.m., health good.

The mother earned her living with great difficulty. Her boy in company with an Arab was arrested for being a vagabond. He appeared gentle, maleable and manifested good intentions. He was placed in a family of a well-to-do farmer, who seemed disposed to aid him as best he could. For a few days everything passed quietly, but the boy associated with all the vagabonds coming that way. He was returned to his mother, who found him a place with a former employer. She had little hope that he would continue to do well any length of time.

PRISON COMPANIONSHIP CAUSED RELAPSE.

Boy, age 18, father dead; length of head 175 m.m., width

156 m.m., height 172.3 c.m., sitting height 93.6 c.m., arm reach 180 c.m., good health.

Arrested for theft, he was sentenced for the first time to three months in prison. After serving his time, his mother died. He was placed with an employer where he gave satisfaction. But he met a confirmed criminal (recidivist), with whom he had been in jail. He suddenly left his employer to take up with his former prison companion.

BOLD ROBBER.

Boy, age 13, length of head 165 m.m., width 152 m.m., height 135 c.m., umbilicus was prominent. This boy had a badly shaped palate (pointed arch); he had an enuresis. When eight years old he was very sick. He spoke with difficulty, half French and half patois; was wholly illiterate. He was placed in service with several employers. His father was a grave digger. The boy was very backward mentally. There were five other children, about whom nothing is known. This boy was sentenced to a house of correction for 19 years, on account of a number of bold thefts; getting upon the roof, opening the scuttle and going down into the house.

CHILDREN NEEDING PROTECTION.

There are three general classes of children, especially needing protection and study: Abandoned children, vicious children, and criminal children.

The abandoned children constitute the greatest number needing care. They consist of:

1. Foundlings whose parents are unknown.
2. Those deserted by their parents.
3. Paupers, without parents and without means of subsistence.
4. Those whose parents through disease or physical or mental incapacity, or detention or sentence for crime, cannot care for them.
5. Children where parents expose them to vagabondage, begging and idleness, or children who through bad treatment are ignored.

By vicious children are meant not only those who may be vagabonds or beggars, but such as do not submit to their parents and so withstand education, as unruly children in school.

Criminal children, whose age of responsibility may vary.

SOME METHODS OF REFORM.

These methods of reform are in accord with the opinions of many engaged in practical work and are offered merely as suggestions.

PROTECTION OF CHILD BEFORE BIRTH.

It is important to protect the intra-uterine life of the child,

special care should be given to the woman with child, by, maternal care, by relief at domicile, by arrangement of work: by creation of asylums, and of private maternities, and by examination into the paternity of the child.

PROTECTION IN EARLY LIFE.

The conditions of social life often do not permit taking a child from its mother and she is not always capable of giving the child the necessary care; there should be established institutions for rearing children according to the best methods.

SCHOOL LIFE.

Hygienic principles should be established in the schools. No teacher, according to a French specialist, should have charge of more than 20 or 25 pupils. A physician or specialist should be present at the formation of the classes. He should always examine any pupil showing himself incapable of adaptation to the conditions.

JUVENILE CRIMINALS.

Young vagabonds, less than 16 years of age, should not be committed to jails or police stations, or houses of arrest, but should be sent to an institution for observation, to determine what to do with them. Such inquiry should be made by a commission, one member at least being a physician.

The youngest should be assigned to families; the others should be sent to some reformatory school, or to a clinical school, whose head should be a physician or specialist. Adolescents (16 to 20 years of age) should be sent to some reformatory, without fixing in advance the length of time they should remain.

LOMBROSO'S METHOD.

According to Lombroso, one of the best methods of prevention for the "born criminal," is moral nursing; that is the rearing should commence in the first months of life, in the country, on the farm, in colonies, out of the reach of criminal association. A fight against alcoholism should be carried on by associations, by religious, political and temperance societies, by journals, etc., all these agencies should be in connection with medical treatment.