

ing, but who have not become "Street Arabs," could be taken in for a period ranging from six to twelve months. We have at present a cottage not in use that could be utilized for such boys. It may be there are many parents in our cities and towns who would be willing to have their boys committed for six months or a year, who would be unwilling to have them sent until they reach the age of sixteen. Practically this short term period is carried out to a certain extent, and there is nothing in the law to hinder a magistrate or judge from committing a boy for short terms; but an examination of the commital papers in the majority of commitments would indicate that the magistrates construe the law to mean that they must commit a boy until he reaches the age of sixteen. In some instances a definite term is fixed from two to five years.

With boys who are decided "incorrigibles," or who have already started on a criminal course, a longer detention is an absolute necessity. It is impossible to reform such lads in a day. The habits of years are not easily broken. Usually from two to three years are required for such lads to bring about that change in their character so essential to good citizenship.

Then there are boys in whom the tendency to certain forms of evil is so marked, that their reformation seems an almost hopeless task. We have, unfortunately, some lads who, either from home or street training, or from both, or from hereditary tendency, are adepts in stealing and falsehood. It is in the training of these we experience our greatest discouragements. It is "line upon line; precept upon precept" here a little and there a little"; but even with the best methods that experience and observation can suggest, a failure is recorded. Is it any wonder that such lads turn out badly when they leave the school? However, it is not all discouragement with this class of inmates, for some of those who appeared to us for a time the most hopeless, have turned out well.

There is another phase in our work to which I wish to direct your attention, and that is the placing of boys on farms who have very little taste in that direction. Boys who have spent the first twelve years of their life in the city do not readily take to farming. They will remain on the farm until their term at the school expires when they invariably return to the city. Their parents