

same is true of the Barnardo children, and those sent out here from Great Britain by other rescue societies. Dr. Snedden, as a result of a careful study of the reform schools of the United States, concludes that it is impossible to prove that heredity has any influence in the making of juvenile criminals, since there is in every instance ample in the environment to account for the result. Dugdale's investigation of Criminals ("The Jukes"), convinced him that the "tendency of heredity is to produce an environment which perpetuates heredity." Professor Swift ("Mind in the Making"), says: "Investigation of the lives of reform-school boys always leaves the impression that, with possibly a few exceptions, they are quite representative of the average, active, normal boy, and the investigator usually ends his work with the overwhelming conviction that, after all, probably the only reason why he and his boyhood associates did not graduate from the same sort of an institution was the difference in their environment." And again: "In the light of recent studies in suggestion it is impossible to say where the influence of heredity ends, and that of social suggestion begins. Much that has been ascribed to heredity may be the result of social suggestion." Dr. Travis ("The Young Malefactor"), after an exhaustive study of the question extending over six years, and carried on both in Europe and America, concludes that at least 90 per cent. and probably 98 per cent. of first court offenders are normal; that not only all the normal offenders, but some of the morbid and abnormal delinquencies are due to environment; that the chief cause of delinquencies is the non- or semi-functionary home; that the treatment of the normal delinquent should be primarily the influence of strong personality exerted in the atmosphere of a home, natural or foster; and that the abnormal delinquent should be subjected to special treatment and isolation. If, then, delinquent children are purely, or even mainly, the victims of circumstances, why treat them like adult criminals? If it is good influence that is wanting, why not endeavour to supply it, instead of resorting, as is so often done, to vindictive punishment, which experience has shown to be of no avail in eradicating the evil?

If it is environment in childhood that counts in the making of criminals, the true and only way to cope with crime is to improve the environment, when it is capable of improve-