

"Mental Hygiene leads us to the schools, and my sympathy goes to school teachers. Whenever we have a new idea, we educate school teachers to carry it out. And so, we have to tell them that theirs is the greatest joy in life—that their position is so important to society that it seems a shame to distract their minds by such material things as better salaries. We always say such things to people whom we need to carry out noble and aesthetic undertakings."

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"Twenty-five or thirty out of a class of fifty public school children are as a rule average. The teacher can count upon them doing what they ought to do—learning their lessons, washing their hands, and so on. Then there are the bright little boys and girls. They are very dangerous under our educational system. They ask questions the teacher ought to be able to answer. They ask why the teacher said one thing one week and another thing another week. The whole system of kindergarten and elementary training is designed to discourage children of this kind because they are annoying to teachers. And so, we set traps, catch them and get rid of them. They go out into the world and make a success. We are not responsible for it."

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"In eight university centres psychiatrists, psychologists and mental hygienists are giving attention to undergraduates. It appears that there are many mental hygiene problems presented by college students. Undergraduates get upset in many ways—some can't study—some become bashful and retiring—others become morbid and sulky—others develop bullying habits, and so on. The mental hygienist attempts to interpret the college student's behaviour—his way of concealing from himself facts that ought to be faced. Many college students become disturbed when they first come away from home—from being great and important people in local communities to become rather modest and insignificant in the larger university setting."

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"When the mental hygienist begins to devote attention to college students and school children, he is forced to deal with parents. There are those who feel that parents are quite hopeless—who feel that you cannot do anything with them and that you might as well concentrate your efforts on children with the hope of making some impression on the rising generation. But that does not take into account the fact that children have to go home to their parents. So it is necessary to undertake the task of training parents."

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"Child Guidance Clinics are being established to influence parents. The children referred to these clinics present diverse problems—uncontrollable passions—peculiar habits, and so on. I visited a Child Guidance Clinic and had an illustration of its work. A child was being studied who had a passion for putting things up its nose. I don't know whether an old snuff-taking ancestry was responsible. At any rate, the parents were anxious because sometimes they could extract articles from the child's nose and sometimes they couldn't. The problem for the mental hygienist was to get the child interested in some less hazardous and less exciting form of pleasure. The child was about five years old and I have often wondered concerning the outcome. Perhaps if the child had been provided with only croquet balls for its amusement it would ultimately have become discouraged."