

years of its existence, drunkenness in ancestry was clearly traced in 4145 or 34 per cent., whilst in the case of 1245 the contrary could not be established. In the report of the Iowa Institution for feeble-minded children, a statement is made of the condition of the parents of these children. Where it could be ascertained, the parents of nearly 50 per cent of these were intemperate and about 12 per cent were epileptic. I had the opportunity of looking into the life history as far as it was possible, of the inmates of one of our institutions and found that about 50 per cent. came from homes where drunkenness prevailed either in one or both parents. Of the remainder very little could be learned, some were illegitimate, some came from other institutions, while of others nothing definite was known. These children were placed there at a critical time in their lives for protection from their base surroundings. It was surprising to notice the large number of mothers who were either feeble-minded or unfit in some other way to manage a household, which unfitness was indelibly stamped on the offspring.

Owing to the limited time at our disposal, I find it necessary to omit the discussion of such subjects as ignorance, disease, and crime, with special reference to the part played by each in creating and fostering the residuum.

Now if we are doing all that is possible to be done for the betterment of the unfortunate and the downfallen, and are using every means to prevent others from drifting into this great maelstrom, then this study has no *raison d'être*; but, if we are not doing for this class all that might be done, any suggestions looking towards improvement should receive consideration. The suggestions I am about to offer are made with some diffidence, as all of you who have thought at all on this problem have some definite ideas upon it. I submit the following, although you may not always agree with what I say, with the hope that it may awaken a greater interest in the lives of the poor and unfit, and result in action in the near future.

Discussing the question of poverty with some ladies, who have been engaged for some time in working among the poor, not only here but in other cities, I was informed that Halifax has a greater amount of extreme poverty according to its population than either Montreal or Toronto. But while we occupy this unenviable position among the cities of Canada, our charities reflect great credit upon our people.