

guardianship, there are also many children who, without removal from their home, need a little supervision and as many good influences as can be brought to bear upon them. Families, for instance, where the mother is employed during the day, or where the children, living in poor neighborhoods, are in danger of evil companionship. To help to tide such children over the trying period of childhood, and get them safely started in life's work, there are many useful aids, some of which, with some evils which are to be avoided, might be mentioned, as follows:—

*The mission kindergarten.*—As a preventive agency nothing but a mother's own good teaching can surpass the mission kindergarten. In this work the teacher is usually chosen because of special qualification and zeal. Little ones from three or four years up to seven are gathered from the streets and alleys, and taught to use both their fingers and their minds. In many instances they are saved from acquiring evil and untidy habits, and are given a suitable preparation for the common schools.

*Mission classes and entertainments.*—In every poor neighborhood mission work, especially among children, is productive of much greater result than usually appears on the surface. The love that is freely poured out in their service sinks deep into young hearts, and is almost sure to bear fruit in the later life. No mission worker among children should ever be discouraged.

*Boys' clubs.*—For growing and active boys of twelve to fifteen years of age there is room for many clubs, independent, or carried on in connection with churches and missions. Boys must be doing something, and if not induced to belong to some evening organization will learn much on the streets that is evil and hurtful. These clubs should not be strictly religious, but should lend books, teach topical songs, provide games and gymnastics if possible, and generally seek to win the boy's

interest by catering to his reasonable desires. The membership may be anywhere from ten to forty, and the founder may be any young man or woman interested in the best welfare of the growing boys of our country.

*Day industrial schools.*—In every large city there should be one or more day industrial schools. To these would be sent truants, or children unfit for the common schools, children getting beyond parental control, or those guilty of first offences. To this school the child goes in the morning at eight o'clock and remains until six o'clock in the evening, being provided with meals, and engaging in manual as well as intellectual work. Such schools would do away with the necessity for sending so many children to reside permanently in industrial reform schools at large expense to the country.

*Police stations.*—No child should be taken to a police station except in a very extreme case. The fear of such a place is the best deterrent, and the child who has once been confined there is likely to lose its dread of punishment, and to return again in a short time. The same argument applies with even greater force in the case of the police cell or the gaol.

*Police court.*—The trial of children and young girls in the open police court, can only be regarded as a barbarous proceeding, in almost every case confirming and hardening the offender. It is false economy; it is the greatest cruelty to the child; it is disastrous to the community in the end.

*Punishments.*—In meting out punishment to children for petty offences it will often be found that the fault lies with the parent. If it is the parent's neglect that causes the offence, then steps should be taken to protect the child. In other cases the speediest and most salutary punishment would be a birching sufficient to call forth tears and promises of repentance.

The business in which so many boys are engaged—that of selling news-