



MONTREAL'S CENOTAPH

The memorial erected by the Daughters of the Empire in the metropolis, as a reminder of the sacrifices of war. It was unveiled on Armistice Day, and stands in Dominion Square.

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY AND ITS TASK

(Continued from last issue.)

Why do parents maltreat their children? Why do some human beings seem willing to exist in unspeakable filth? Why is immorality so common?

Some of these conditions, especially in outlying sections, may be due to ignorance, lack of contact with enlightened society. Some of the adult immorality, and a large part of juvenile delinquency, is probably due to lack of proper recreation. This is well known, and the playgrounds, the Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, etc., are doing a great deal to improve matters. There is, however, far too little opportunity for the older boys and girls to meet socially, in dances and other social gatherings, under wholesome surroundings. Mention should also be made of positions in which many young girls are placed, whose work in hotels, rooming houses, and other such institutions brings great temptations in their way. (Alberta Report 1915, page 40) It may perhaps be left to the public conscience to decide whether young women in domestic service are given the same amount of free time, and the same cordial welcome in our churches and at social gatherings as are young women in other kinds of employment.

Such causes as the above, however important, are not adequate to explain the facts. There remains by far the most serious of all, feeble-mindedness. Without by any means denying the reality of wrong-doing, it must be recognized that many persons are not sufficiently developed mentally to be responsible for their acts. "The definition in most common use is the one framed by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of London, and adopted by the English Royal Commission on Mental Deficiency. It is substantially as follows:—

"A feeble-minded person is one who is incapable, because of mental defect existing from birth or from an early age, (a) of competing on equal terms with his normal fellows; or (b) of managing himself or his affairs with ordinary prudence." (Terman - The Measurement of Intelligence, page 80)

One does not have far to look to find many such. Tests conducted in the public schools of Wolfville showed between five and six percent of feeble-minded children, and there is no reason to suppose that other communities of the province have a smaller proportion. It is fortunate that the greater part of such persons are more or less under the control of normal persons, but any or all of them might easily become a menace to society.

The most serious phase of this problem lies in the fact that mental defect is definitely hereditary, so that these persons, who are themselves incapable of self-control and ordinary prudence and as a result tend to multiply rapidly, legitimately or otherwise, hand down to the next generation the same unfitness for decent citizenship.

The contrast between good blood and

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bad was never shown more clearly than in the family known to infamy as the "Kallikaks". "Martin Kallikak" (so-called) was a young soldier in the American Revolutionary Army. On his way home after his discharge he seduced a feeble-minded girl at a tavern. Later he married a woman of good stock. Goddard has traced and published the records of both families, 496 descendants of "Martin Kallikak" and his wife; 480 descendants of "Martin and the feeble-minded girl. Of the former, all were normal but two, and those not feeble-minded; of the latter, 143 were distinctly feeble-minded, others below average, and none superior, and the list includes many drunkards, drug users, prostitutes, etc.

Another well-known family is that of the "Jukes". "Max", the founder, was born in 1720. "He was a drunkard who would not work; about whom little else is known. Of his descendants 1200 were identified as having been occupants of penal and charitable institutions, previous to 1874; none of whom were ever elected to office, served in the army or navy, or contributed anything to the public welfare; but on the contrary they cost society over \$1,000 each; or a total of \$1,250,000; 310 were in poor-houses, 2,300 years in all; 300, or over in four, died in childhood; 440 were viciously diseased; 400 physically wrecked

early by their own wickedness; 50 were notorious prostitutes; 7 were murderers; 60 habitual thieves, who spent an average of 12 years each in prison; 130 were convicted more or less often of crimes." (Quoted from Yerkes, Psychology, page 413)

"In 'The Hill Kolk', a Report on a Rural Community of Hereditary Defectives, recently issued by Florence H. Danielson and Charles B. Davenport, a chapter is devoted to the financial burden entailed by criminals and dependents of these family groups, living in a town of Massachusetts. To compare the amount of poor relief given to this family, the amounts paid in two decades were studied, with the following result:

Decade 1879, excluding 1888: Total aid to Paupers, \$15,964; Aid to the Hill Families, \$1,483; Percent of total to the Hill Families, 9.3 %.

Decade 1901-10: Total aid to Paupers, \$27,045; Aid to the Hill Family, \$7,873; Percent of total to the Hill Families, 29.1 %.

"This increase of poor relief of four hundred and thirty per cent in three decades illustrates graphically the growth of the burden. But this financial cost is but a small part, for turning to the court and prison records for the last thirty years, we find that at least sixteen persons from the Hill Families have been sentenced to prison for serious crimes during that time. The cost of these sixteen persons to the county and State through their courts and institutions has been at least \$10,763.43. The crimes committed included lewdness, rape, incest, adultery, assault, burglary, etc. About one third of the business of the court came from these families." (Quoted from a pamphlet issued in 1913 by the Mass. Soc. for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

It is hopeless to expect any Children's Aid Society to be able to correct such conditions as this. With proper public support, the Society can, as its records show, insure to normal children a decent home and an opportunity to acquire an education and a trade. It is helpless to deal with children who cannot be placed in any home worthy of the name, and who have not the ability to acquire either an education or a trade above the level of unskilled labor. Surely time has come for public action leading to segregation of the feeble-minded. With skilled institutional care, including specific moral training, they may become less of a social menace, partially self-supporting, and happy, but not useful members of society.

We appeal to the public for a thoughtful consideration of measures looking to elimination of the causes of social maladjustment; and for support of the Children's Aid Society in its work of protecting little children from cruelty and evil, and providing shelter for the destitute.

Fruit growers who cultivate horse-sense will eventually harvest dollars.

Sleeves on the new fall coats are very wide. Often they are heavily fur trimmed.

THE NOVA SCOTIA SANATORIUM CHRISTMAS LETTER

To Our Friends throughout the Maritime Provinces:

Another Christmas is close at hand, and, busy as you are with personal interests, we know there is a place in your hearts for the boys who are still paying the price of the war. They, and our civilian patients also, who are here, isolated from their normal surroundings but making a brave and cheerful fight for health, have had, each year, a glad celebration of the Season of Goodwill, which has warmed their hearts and filled us all with gratitude to those who have helped out with gifts. We confidently hope that, this Christmas, the spirit of giving will not be less generous than formerly.

Gifts of money, or of "treats", small "comforts", etc., reaching us from now up to Dec. 23rd will be greatly appreciated and personally acknowledged.

Several societies and clubs, including Red Cross Auxiliaries, Local Councils of Women, I.O. D. E. Chapters, Women's Instituted, etc. were kind enough last year to fill colored tarlatan stockings, from a dozen to twenty-five each, and so enable us to keep up our custom of giving each patient a real Santa Claus Stocking on Christmas morning. We should like to do it again this year. Then we have our Christmas Tree in the evening. This year we shall have about two hundred patients at Christmas time, about fifty of them women.

We specially request that individuals or societies intending to send a contribution will be kind enough to let us know, at the earliest possible date, just what we may count upon from them. This can be readily understood as necessary so that we may know what purchases we ourselves must make, before the Christmas season is upon us.

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