

to snatch a living without earning it honestly, whose mental faculties are all trained to take advantage of their fellow men; in whom a long apprenticeship in vice has completely deadened their moral perceptions. In fact I am sometimes led to think that as we have cases of physical "lusus naturæ", why not cases of moral "lusus naturæ". Are some not made to dishonour as well as honour?. Are there not inherited tendencies to vice?.

I have not wondered that many have become adepts in vice and deceit at so early an age when I have heard them tell of their exploits in "beating" their way from place to place, their plan to "raise the wind", their utter disregard of what we might call civilized comforts, having no objection to sleeping under a door step, a box, or some other similar place of shelter, in fact they take a pride in telling about their "bunking out".

Let us see what we have been doing for these poor unfortunates in the past. We have quietly waited, in the majority of cases, until he has committed some offence that the strong arm of the law takes hold of him, tries him, finds him guilty and sentences him for a certain number of years to our Reformatories, the Central Prison, or the Penitentiaries; and then commences our admirable system of reform(?).

We place him in some shop or gang under a keeper whose main object is to get all the work he can out of him; and is not, in many cases, particular about the method he uses, nor the example he sets.

We feed him at regular intervals, send him to bed at a certain time wake him again in the morning, to go through the same routine, and so he goes on day by day, just as if he were a beast of burden, driven to his work and with very little interest in it.

His work is all laid out for him, no scope for individual thought, no outlet for his mental energies except in concocting schemes to avoid work in which he has no interest, or to plot his escape.

What lessons of carefulness are inculcated?. What practical business habits are taught him, so useful toward making an honest living? What manners are taught to fit him for a place, however humble, in respectable society? Or is he only fit, when his sent-