

Post-natal environment is of the utmost moment. It is while the child's brain is young and in the formative stage that it can be moulded as the potter thumbs his soft clay. In Omar Khayyam we read:

None answered this; but, after silence, spake,
A vessel of a more ungainly make:
"They sneer at me for leaning all awry;
What! did the hand, then, of the potter shake?"

The child is the damp clay and the parent or guardian the potter; and we can again say, with Omar:

In that old potter's shop I stood alone,
With the clay population round in rows.

Judge Rosalsky, of the General Sessions of New York, said, a short time ago, that the problem of the criminal comes largely to be one of the child. He said that 40 per cent. of the crimes in New York were committed by people under 20 years of age. Dr. Travis, a high authority on this subject in the United States, contends that 95 per cent. of youthful wrong-doers are normal mentally. Their normal nature is warped by bad environments while they are in the soft-clay stage.

Judge Rosalsky was very severe in his condemnation of placing children among criminals or committing them to reformatories. He held that of those placed on probation only 5 per cent. came back to the courts, while of those sent to reformatories 25 per cent. returned as wrong-doers, and of those sent to prisons no less than 40 per cent. became second offenders.

The poor tenement houses and the slums are powerful missionary agencies in the production of the future criminals of the country. To cure moral obliquity you must get them while young, as Dr. G. M. Gould said of Squint.

SOME MEDICAL PROBLEMS.

Sir James Barr, of Liverpool, is noted for his outspoken frankness. At the recent meeting of the Canadian Medical Association in Montreal he gave out a number of clear-cut and dogmatic assertions.

He contended that if the money that is now being spent in the treatment of disease was spent in its prevention there would not be the need for so many large hospitals.

He dwelt at length on the necessity for more care in the matter of children. The country that had a careful, selective death rate, but paid