

children's court, and in the city of Toronto, in 1904, there were 499 little offenders summonsed to the children's court. Is not the necessity for a children's court a disgrace to civilization?

Man's inhumanity to man has stood out in blazon letters through all the ages. Apparently only a calamity, or an impending calamity will arouse mankind, individually or collectively, to a sense of their duty toward their fellowmen.

It is only within the past two years that Great Britain has been aroused from her national somnolence by what seems to be a threatened national calamity—the mental and physical degeneracy of her people. This matter was brought up in the House of Lords, in July, 1903. In discussing the subject, Lord Meath and the Bishop of Ripon drew the attention of the Lords to the lamentable condition of the poor. The Duke of Devonshire admitted that Great Britain's military and industrial outlook was being seriously threatened. The outcome of this debate was the appointment of a Royal Commission to ascertain the cause of the rapid inroads of degeneracy. Sir William Anson, Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education, in bringing the matter before the Commons, stated that there were 60,000 children then in attendance in the London schools who were physically unfit for instruction. The statement was made by Sir Frederick Morris that 60 per cent. of the men who applied for admission to the army were physically unfit. The cause of this degeneracy, as found by the Royal Commission was, for the most part, improper care in childhood, malnutrition, improperly cooked foods, inferior in quality and insufficient in quantity, unsanitary homes, over-crowded and badly-ventilated rooms.

It was found that 50 per cent. of the children in London were improperly cared for, underfed, irregular hours, insufficient sleep, on the streets at all hours of the night, when they should be in their beds. Referring to the schools, they felt that while compulsory education had been of benefit mentally and morally, it was not physically. Children, half-nourished, poorly clad, long hours of confinement in over-crowded, badly-ventilated rooms, closely confined to work for hours at a time, much of which would be of no future use to them.

Let us now pass on to the improper care of the child mentally. Many of you are no doubt familiar with the inscription on one of the most famous public monuments in Paris, which reads as follows: "After bread, education is the great necessity." The "ideal education must aim at the develop-