

## ENDOWMENT FORGOTTEN.

Then again, some business man, who has perhaps not given much in his lifetime leaves say ten thousand dollars to found an orphanage in perpetuation of his memory. The newspapers laud him to the skies, forgetful of the fact that the citizens have to provide the yearly maintenance, and thus contribute for all time to the glorification of the individual. There are a dozen institutions ready to take the orphan, who rarely needs public care, while there is not one institution available for the defective or the cripple, who stands in pressing need of such protecting care. There should be a central board, not only to pass on the establishment of new institutions but also with authority to assign to each its distinctive work so that all the needs of the community may be adequately met.

## SYSTEMATIC GIVING.

But even under the best conditions there must be two or three hundred thousand dollars provided annually for the maintenance of legitimate charitable work. A good plan would be for all business men and wealthy citizens to pay whatever they are disposed to give to a central committee having power to allot to each charity its fair share in proportion to the work it is doing, taking into consideration the amount received from municipal and government sources. This plan has been adopted with success by church denominations. The abolition of house to house collectors would be hailed with delight by all concerned.

## FAMILY DESERTION.

There is no more prolific cause of child dependency and delinquency than the desertion of their families by able-bodied men, and yet, until quite recently, there was neither law nor adequate machinery to cope with this long-standing and growing evil. To secure justice for herself and helpless children, a timid and sensitive mother has to make a charge in open court against her recalcitrant husband, and if he leaves the city there is rarely any effort made to bring him back and compel him to shoulder his obligations. The consequence is that the poor mother has to struggle along in penury and toil, her children either in public institutions or neglected on the streets while she is trying to earn their support. If, as we often say, the family is the pillar of the state, should not every possible precaution be taken to prevent the wholesale breaking up of families by parental desertion. A drastic law, and its proper enforcement with a private court of domestic relations would save many families from ruin, for if society were more severe in its condemnation fathers would not so lightly shirk their responsibilities. Heavily handicapped though they are there are many noble mothers all over the land who, while they lack many things—often food itself—still strive to keep their children together, giving them that priceless boon of love which no money can buy or institution provide, God bless them all—their children shall rise up to call them blessed!