

reference to the very admirable work that is being done in Ontario by Mr. Kelso and his staff of workers. They have established between thirty and forty Children's Aid Societies in various parts of the Province. The duty of these Societies is to receive complaints in regard to neglected or destitute children, cases of alleged cruelty to children, incorrigible children, and persistent cases of truancy; to take charge of them, and with firmness and kindness and proper nourishment, hope to reform them, and, where necessary, to secure proper foster homes for them. Representatives from the shelter in Toronto are in daily attendance at the children's court to look after the little offenders, that they may not become mingled with the hardened criminals, realizing, as they no doubt do, that they are there as a consequence of having been sinned against rather than sinning.

In support of this work the Ontario Government contributes the nominal sum of ten thousand dollars. With this and bequests, the Society in Toronto has dealt with over 14,000 cases since its inception, and in the last nine years the inspectors of the Society have dealt with 6,388 police court cases affecting the interests of children.

We have, therefore, a very good nucleus in this Province for the establishing of the more comprehensive system which I am endeavoring to set forth in this paper, for the accomplishment of which the government and the profession must co-operate.

Psychologists assure us that mental, moral and physical degeneracy go hand in hand. This is well attested by observations made in the children's courts in the various cities. Insufficient and improper feeding, badly ventilated homes, environments of filth and dirt, constitute the very hot-beds in which criminals are bred, and from which the criminal ranks are filled, and our streets, lanes, and alleyways, after nightfall, are the schools in which they receive their training, the younger from the older. Here their bad habits are acquired, their plans laid, and from which they graduate, and yet those in authority are doing nothing to keep our children off the streets at night and out of the schools of vice. The highest and noblest aim in the treatment of degeneracy, crime and vice, as in treatment of physical disease, is prevention.

In Chicago, in 1902, there were arrested for breaches of the law, 13,090, under twenty years of age. Of these, 3,785 were under sixteen. In New York City, in 1903, there were 7,647 children under sixteen had judgment passed on them in the