

A third case was that of L. F., a school boy, who was giving trouble at home, at school, and in the neighborhood. He was referred to the clinic by an attendance officer of the school. He had a step-father at home who was not very sympathetic with him, often beat him for trivial matters. He was disorderly in school, lied, stole, ran away from home and played truant from school, and was getting more and more under the influence of a boy who had once been sent to a reformatory. No definite diagnosis was made at the clinic, but he was regarded as having some psychopathic traits. As a result of several visits of the boy to the clinic and of the social worker to the home he improved in his conduct and school work at home and at school, and now for several months no bad conduct has been reported from him.

The boy was headed for a delinquent career. One cannot say that he would have continued in that direction, nor how far he would have gone, or that some other influence than that of the clinic might have directed him to better ways of adjustment. It looks at present as though he had been saved by the clinic from at least the possibility, if not the probability, of such a career. He has certainly been helped.

His step-father treats him better, and to the extent that he is less irritated by the boy, and himself behaves better to him the step-father has been helped.

The home atmosphere has been improved by the boy's better behavior, and thereby his mother and normal brothers and sisters have been helped.

The school teacher and the other pupils in the rooms where he was misbehaving have been helped; the morale of the whole school is better.

Just as he was adversely influenced by another boy, so he in turn might easily have been an evil influence in the life of some other child or children. They have been helped.

Those from whom he would have stolen had he continued in his maladjustments have been saved from the loss and annoyance. They have been helped.

The attendance officer, who has one less refractory boy to look after, has been helped.

The courts before whom he would in time have been brought in all probability, and the reform school to which he would have probably been sent, have been helped by having that one less case to handle.

The general orderliness of the neighborhood and the city have been improved by just the amount of misbehavior in which he would have indulged.

The tax-payers of the city and county have probably been saved the expense of the arrests, convictions and support in a reformatory