

a place better fitted up for the educational comfort of the prisoners. The work carried on by the Association was very acceptable to the prison officials as it tended to maintain the discipline of the prison. As to the classification of prisoners no doubt a better system could be devised, but he had not been impressed favourably with the isolated cells' system in vogue in the Kingston Penitentiary. There was nothing that would so thoroughly stir up a prisoner's feelings as being confined in a cell without any communication with his fellows and without employment, except doing a little cobbling occasionally. It had the effect of making the men feel that as they had been made to suffer, that they would make society suffer when they got out of prison; in consequence, he doubted very much whether isolated cells were a wise thing, although for a refractory prisoner such punishment was all right. In the Mercer Reformatory, although called a reformatory, it was not one, as you cannot reform a woman in six months, many were sent there for two and three months, and only got sobered up in that time. Then, again, as to the classification of prisoners, it was hard to discriminate between prisoners unless you know their character and previous history. They had the more women convicted at different times for vagrancy, for theft, and for running houses of ill-fame. You can grade crime but you cannot grade character. They were arranging, nevertheless, to attempt the classification of prisoners in the Mercer Reformatory, and they would be very glad to receive the advice of those engaged in the work of the Association in respect to carrying out the attempt. Regarding the Refuge for Girls, they had authority to retain them for five years. They had qualified teachers in domestic economy and other branches of knowledge, and the girls were thoroughly instructed in baking bread, preserving fruit, making pickles, waiting upon table, gardening and everything of that kind. Girls when leaving that Institution had a knowledge of a girl's character and a woman's instincts, and were thoroughly able to make their way in the world. Girls were sent out from that Institution self-reliant