

in a career of crime, violated, openly violated, the law of the land, and passed for trial before the authorities. In fact, it only deals with, and its provisions only apply to, that part of the criminal population who are under sixteen years of age, and who are convicted delinquents. The seething mass of depravity and crime in the country, which the strong arm of the law has not been able to reach successfully, is untouched by this Bill. The Bill deals with one class of criminals—at three stages in the lives of these juvenile delinquents: First, It provides that a boy under sixteen convicted of any offence for which an adult could be sentenced for three months and not more than five years, and where the Court is satisfied that a due regard for the material and moral welfare of the boy requires that he should be committed to the Reformatory, the Court may send him there for five years. Second, Where a boy is, on summary trial, convicted of any offence, and where the first sentence is fourteen days imprisonment, the Court as a judge, if satisfied that the boy's material and moral welfare requires it, may send him to the Reformatory for a period of five years. Third, If a boy is sent to the Reformatory for less than five years, the boy may be detained for a further period not in all to exceed five years. So far the provisions of the Bill are in the right direction. My object is to endeavour to induce the Minister of Justice to carry its provisions still further. Now, if the hon. gentleman's object is to restrain the criminal and prevent the commission of crime, if he desires to rescue from degradation and shame the classes who are entering on a life of crime, he must extend the provisions of this Bill. The hon. gentleman knows how much can be done by dealing with juvenile offenders just on their downward career, before they are hardened in crime and become outcasts from society. The hon. gentleman has only to read Peirce on juvenile offenders, to see what can be accomplished by legislation in this direction, and by the work of philanthropists under the protection of the law, and having them in reformatories protected by law. The work that has been accomplished by these reformatories in England, the United States and on the

Continent, is perfectly marvellous. The numbers rescued, through the instrumentality of these institutions, from lives of shame, degradation and crime, borders on the fabulous. The first minds in the State, the leading philanthropists, the great orders in the Church, the leading and most intelligent and cultivated of the men and women of these countries, have lent their best energies to the noble work of reclaiming the waifs and abandoned of society from lives of degradation, and making them useful members of the State. The success has been simply wonderful; so wonderful that the sympathy and assistance of the Government of Great Britain and other countries has been secured to these reformatories. The work has not been limited to restoring to society and to useful places in the world, the convicted juvenile delinquents. The best efforts of these institutions has been directed to the prevention of crime; to prevent the fatherless, the motherless, the outcasts, the waifs, the abandoned, the street arabs and gutter population from sinking lower and lower in the social scale; rescuing them from the career in which they have entered, and uplifting them from the filth and degradation in which circumstances have placed them; educating and Christianising them and giving them a fair start in life, and thus saving them from a career of crime, and the State the cost of convicting and punishing them. And it is because this Bill only reaches a limited class, and is intended to punish the criminal rather than prevent his becoming a criminal, that I venture on the suggestions I am about to make, and I hope the hon. the Minister of Justice will consider these suggestions, and incorporate them, or at least some of them, into his Bill. It will be observed that this Bill only reaches juvenile offenders who have been convicted. There is another class of delinquents to which I wish to draw the attention of the hon. the Minister of Justice, and to which I think he ought to extend the provisions of this Bill, namely, the class of offenders who are brought before the Courts charged with crime, who are notoriously degraded, notoriously associating with the criminal classes, notoriously vagrant and notoriously living the lives of vagrants and thieves, but who escape conviction from various