

NEGLECTED AND FRIENDLESS CHILDREN.

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IN this latter part of the nineteenth century, more attention is being paid to the causes and sources of crime than ever before. Every day it is becoming more evident that in the past, much effort has been wasted in dealing with effects rather than causes, and the most advanced thinkers now fully acknowledge that to effectively grapple with crime and vice, thought and effort must be concentrated on the children of the poor. The governing power must come to regard the child as a future citizen, and must see that it has opportunities for education and for development along the lines of industry and morality. A child's education begins from its earliest infancy, and the State has a right to insist that its training shall be such as to fit it ultimately for the proper discharge of its duties and responsibilities. We all know the difficulties experienced in influencing for good the inmates of reformatories and penal institutions, the years of labor that have been exhausted in seeking to break the chains that bind the drunkard. How much more hopeful the outlook when we deal at once and directly with the little children, and implant in their young minds aims and aspirations that shall carry them safely through life!

Very little thought has been given to these children. They have been neglected by parents, neglected by law-makers, neglected by school boards, and only thought of by the faithful mission-worker, who, in the absence of suitable laws, and the lack of public recognition, could accomplish but little of a permanent character. It would not be too much to say that seventy-five per cent. of the criminals of to-day were made such in early childhood. It is true that occasionally a young man of good family and occupying a position of trust gives way to temptation and falls to the criminal ranks, but he seldom remains there, usually returning after a short time to law-abiding citizenship.

The habitual criminal is made such in childhood, and he continues to live by crime, not voluntarily so much as necessarily. His actions indicate the early training working to its logical conclusion. There are children on our streets at this moment who will almost surely be criminals. It is their hard and cruel fate. They are consigned to it by neglectful and vicious parents, and by the indifference and shortsightedness of the community, through its authorized representatives.

Are we justified in expecting other-



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