

tion here is not very high, and religious instruction is, strangely enough, not a cardinal feature of the system.

Concerning these complementary institutions of prison reform generally, the last but not the least advance in the penitentiary system, suggested to many thoughtful minds by the possibility that a large percentage of youthful delinquents were made so by their early surroundings and were thus almost irresponsible, and formed with the desire of preventing crime by cutting off its sources and hindering the relapse of the criminal at the expiration of his sentence, many grave difficulties present themselves, every one of which is calculated to defeat the object in view. There is the danger of throwing back on society a criminal who has been so well cared for that the approach of liberty will fill his mind with doubt and misgiving, and liberty itself, better defined as personal responsibility, become irksome and less preferable. Within the prison walls, a wise discrimination is necessary between the most promising and the most vicious inmates to prevent the former from becoming the dupes and victims of the latter by undesirable communication. Harsh treatment in some cases produces callousness while it becomes necessary in the general discipline to work out certain ones for special severity; kindness and sympathy towards others is easily misconstrued and thrown away and is liable to arouse a malignant form of jealousy in those less favored; the naturally unfortunate easily become the prey of the naturally vicious; and even in reformatories, a youth is found just as liable to become hardened under the most humane treatment as to lean towards honesty of purpose and purity of conduct, unless those engaged in aiding the guilty one in his moral reformation are thoroughly able to diagnose his mental failing.

Even the cottage plan in vogue in Lansing, Michigan, and one or two other places in the United States, is far from being adequate to meet the requirements of a perfect system of reformatory for boys addicted to secret vice, mendacious cunning, though perhaps it is superior to all others. This provides for a proper classification of the boys a thorough sy-

stem of industrial training, and the substitution of moral, for material restraints, which latter admittedly make the atmosphere of the reformatory too much like that of a penitentiary. Employment in practical farming and garden work is beyond question a step in the right direction, but in providing the means for giving a thorough technological training, the boy should be made to do as much work as is expected of any boy of his age on any farm or in any factory elsewhere. He should also be made to feel the acuteness of his position, and earn his discharge only by good conduct, his sentence being indeterminate.

### III.—DIRECT CAUSES.

It is a healthy sign of progress that the Reformer, after devoting his time, energy and thought to those rapidly-decaying and rapidly-spreading branches of the human tree, blighted by Crime and Despair, with the hope that a few might be grafted on the tree of Virtue, only to find his labors poorly recompensed, has seen the advisability of paying greater heed to the young saplings. It is probable that the root of nearly all his difficulty will be found in the competitive character of the public school system, and the lack of moral teaching therein. As the rate of industrial, professional, political and intellectual activity has become proportionate to the swiftness of electricity and steam, and an enormous production of wealth leads everywhere to a phenomenal increase of population, the desire to train the young mind in the most effective accomplishments in order that the youth may as quickly as possible throw himself into the great enterprises of modern life, to acquire wealth with the zest of an ambition that will never be satisfied, is terribly apparent. The massing of children in all large cities where the prizes of worldly success are striven for, instead of encouraging country life, may also be a factor in this degeneracy; and it might be added, if this is true, as many penologists believe, those States of America which have adopted the cottage plan for the reformation of young delinquents, are actually giving the preference to offenders over the innocent waifs and strays, and applying a remedy where