

friendly visits to the probationers, not in the capacity of an informer, but in the capacity of a friendly visitor, and he does what he can to place the probationer on a higher plane of life and living. At the end of the probationary period the probationer appears in court and if the report of the officer is favorable the person on probation may be discharged or the probation may be continued. If the report is unfavorable the probation may be continued or the person may be committed either to prison or to a House of Correction.

While in Boston I made it my business to look into the practical working of the probation system. I accompanied the probation officers while making their early interviews with prisoners in the police cells awaiting trial. I made the rounds with one of these officers outside to ascertain the truth or falsity of the statements made, and I followed the cases as they were afterwards dealt with in court. I also attended the weekly probation court held for the purpose of dealing with cases whose term of probation has expired.

Besides this, I interviewed the chief probation officer and several of his assistants—two of whom are ladies—regarding the working of the probation system. I also interviewed others who are in a position to judge regarding the results attained by the system of probation. As a result of this investigation and these inquiries my conclusions are as follows: That from 80 to 85 per cent. of those placed on probation for petty offences, and about 45 to 50 per cent. of those placed on probation for drunkenness are either reformed, or at least are not known to be again arrested. It is claimed that 80 per cent. of all those placed on probation are reformed, but unfortunately the statistics are not compiled in such a manner as to demonstrate this. I found, however, that there is a consensus of opinion among those who are in a position to know that the probation system in Massachusetts is giving great satisfaction. The Secretary of the Massachusetts Prison Association said to me that although the statistics are not as complete as they might be, "we know that probation is doing a good work." I found, moreover, that there is now a bill before the State Assembly which when adopted will extend very materially the scope of the probation law.

I visited the State Institution for the treatment of dipsomaniacs, which is situated at Foxborough, about thirty miles from Boston. It is on a farm containing 100 acres, most of which is under cultivation. The hospital is on the cottage plan, and there were 198 patients under treatment the day of my visit. Dr. Woodbury is the superintendent, and he has one medical assistant. The institution is thoroughly equipped, including gymnasium, baths, lecture hall, etc., etc., at a total cost of about \$200,000. The income is about \$48,000 a year—\$13,000 of which is from municipalities,