

The peace of the neighborhood and the good order of the city have been better by the removal of that one disturbing element.

Though the tax-payer may have to support him in the school for feeble-minded for the rest of his life, it is the consensus of opinion that it costs the tax-payer less in the end. This, however, is a long and complicated story which I shall not undertake to tell here.

Another case was that of L. B., a moderately young woman, unmarried, solitary, peculiar, hypochondriacal, continually "picking on" her fellow employees. She had worked in a laundry for the same kind-hearted employer for seven years; many a time he had pulled her from behind boxes and barrels where she had hidden, to send her home at closing time, and he had often had to patch up her quarrels with the other girls. He was finding it harder and harder to keep other employees on account of the trouble she made, and he did not want to discharge her because she threatened suicide if he did. She had been to nearly all the physicians in the city without avail to get relief from her various hypochondriacal symptoms. She lived alone, and had no relatives who would assume any responsibility for her.

At the mental clinic, where she had been referred by a physician she was regarded as a case of arrested dementia praecox, and efforts were made to help her to better adjustments, or to go voluntarily to the State hospital for mental diseases. As these were unsuccessful and the trouble she was making for her employer and the other employees grew greater, she was finally committed to the hospital.

Who was helped? She herself was probably no better satisfied or happy, perhaps she was more resentful; yet even if so, she was at least in an environment in which her maladjustments were understood, and she was saved from the necessity of competing at a disadvantage and under the certainty of failure, with more normal-minded persons. She is really better off in the hospital, though she may not think so.

Her employer was benefitted, not only by relief from the anxiety that her behavior had long caused him and from the loss of time and diversion of energy caused by his having to settle quarrels between the patient and other employees, but by saving of expense due to lessened labor overturn and more efficient work by his employees when they were freed from the frequent annoyances by the patient.

The physician who referred her was benefitted by the advantage of consultation with a specialist in a field with which he was not familiar, and by learning of the value of such help to him in the solution of a difficult problem.

The boarding-house keeper where the patient lived was possibly saved the undesirable notoriety and attendant troubles which might have come to her if the patient had carried out her threats of suicide.