

tained until such time as a thorough examination can be made by the Medical Officers, and the home surroundings looked up by the Probation Officers. The medical and psychological phases of this work are carried on under the direction of Dr. Kelly, who is famed for his works on juvenile delinquency. The child receives a thorough medical examination, and is also examined from the psychological standpoint, so that the standard of intelligence may be gauged. One phase of the work which should be carefully remembered by those dealing with juvenile delinquents (and it is the phase to which Dr. Kelly calls particular attention), is the unsettled condition of a child's mind during the period of approaching puberty. From comparison of hundreds of cases, it has been learned that a child may be truthful and honest up to the age of puberty, and then may suddenly develop marked features of dishonesty and lying. If the child is guided carefully for a couple of years until this stage of development is passed, the tendency so suddenly developed will, in many cases, disappear and the boy or girl will develop into a young man or woman showing all the qualities of a good citizen. In Chicago it was found that in many cases medical treatment effected an almost complete change of character in the child.

The close connection between truancy and physical and mental defectiveness is apparent from the fact that the following are placed among the leading causes of truancy:

- (a) Defective eyesight, hearing, articulation, circulation, respiration, digestion or nerves, any one of which may cause a feeling of discomfort in school and a desire for the open air.
- (b) Mental deficiency—which causes a slowness and dullness of perception and makes a child unable to keep up with others of his own age.

IV Recommendations:

- (1) That a small composite Committee be appointed, consisting of two or three representatives from organizations in the city interested in work with boys and girls, such as the London Advisory Committee, Children's Aid Society, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the W. C. T. U., the Salvation Army and the Board of Education or Teaching Staff of the city.

This composite Committee should work in close touch with the Police Magistrate and the Police Force. The Committee could then arrange that the city be divided into districts. The plan would be to have in each district a number of people who would take active interest in any boy or girl reported to them as requiring attention. This could probably be worked largely through the churches. When a delinquent is reported to the Police Magistrate, it would be a simple matter for the Committee working in conjunction with the Magistrate to arrange for someone getting in touch with the delinquent in a friendly way, and doing everything possible to lead him into a better way of living. This must be done quietly without the delinquent knowing that he is being looked after by any organization.