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Editorial.

THE DEFECTIVE AND DELINQUENT CLASSES.

The interest aroused in the cause of defective and delinquent children by the recent visit of Mr. Kelso, of Toronto, to various Nova Scotia towns, should be felt in special measure by members of the medical profession. It is the duty of every physician to identify himself with any measure intended to better the conditions under which any class of the people live. There is no public measure which should fail to receive the support it merits from the members of our guild. But we should be especially in sympathy with a proposition which has such distinctly medical and hygienic bearings as the treatment of defective and delinquent classes.

There could be no greater folly than to suppose that charities which particularly concern themselves with the control or the education of the moral faculty should be left to the supervision of religious organizations. The problems of vice resolve themselves largely into problems of degeneracy, and these again into problems of environment—and in environment nothing has greater influence in the production of crime than insanitary conditions. One of the greatest reforms made by religious organizations of late years has been the recognition of the fact that sound health is the best foundation for good morals. The practical evidence of this recognition is everywhere to be found in the gymnasia and allied armamentaria associated with various religious corporations. Apparently medical men are not as keenly appreciative of the part played by good health in the moral