

The Residuum.

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I have been asked by your secretary to contribute a paper to your association on some aspects of social life. To me has been allotted the task—or rather the privilege—of speaking to you on the seamy side of life, or as it has been called in your notice slip, the residuum—that which is left over as unfit for the building up of a strong, healthy and vigorous community.

The subject is a large one and the ramifications in all directions so extensive, that I shall only have time to treat briefly a few of the phases, passing over many others entirely.

If we wish to study the problem of the residuum to any advantage, to see its magnitude, to find out the causes that have produced and are still producing it, to trace its debilitating effects upon society, and to suggest remedies, we shall have to take off the lid and look into this seething caldron. In doing this we shall discover many things that are by no means pleasant or agreeable. But I presume all present have passed beyond the days of childhood and even of adolescence, and are looking seriously on all social problems. If in the discussion of this subject it is found necessary to call a spade a spade, I wish you to remember that the surgeon who fails through indifference or timidity to strike deep enough to reach the source of the trouble might almost as well keep his lancet in his pocket.

You will have noticed in your slips, a tentative division of this residuum into, *Poor, Unfit and Criminal*. As these different classes spring from the same soil, we may for our present purpose group them all together under a general name, *Incapables*.

Incapable of keeping pace with the march of modern civilization, through some physical, mental or moral defect, some fall out by the way exhausted by the struggle for existence, others unwilling to submit to honest toil to obtain a living, become veritable Ishmaelites, their hand against every man and every man's hand against them.

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