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SHOULD WE SPARE THE
ROD?

BY W. L. SCOTT

HE work of the Children's Aid Societies in Canada is two-fold: (1) the care of neglected children, under the Children's Protection Acts, of which there is one in almost every Province; and (2) the treatment of delinquents under the Dominion Juvenile Delinquents Act and the various Provincial Juvenile Courts Acts.* It is of the work with delinquents that I propose to speak.

Quite apart from humanitarian and altruistic considerations, the methods to be pursued with respect to Juvenile delinquents are of great importance to the community; for the potential criminal if left to himself will become the hardened repeater of the police

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*Juvenile Courts are established under the Juvenile Delinquents Act passed by the Dominion Parliament in 1908, though in most of the Provinces there are also provincial Juvenile Courts Acts supplementing the federal legislation. The Dominion Act is not, however, in force universally, but only where it has been put in force by proclamation following a demand for it in the locality and assurances that proper facilities have been or will be provided for the due carrying out of its provisions. Alberta and Saskatchewan are the only provinces in which it is universally in force. The portions of the other provinces in which it is in force are as follows: In British Columbia, the Cities of Vancouver, and Victoria; in Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, the Dauphin Judicial District and the Eastern Judicial District; in Ontario, the Cities of Toronto, Ottawa, Stratford, Kitchener, Brantford, and Galt, the town of St. Marys, the Counties of Perth, Waterloo and Brant and the Judicial District of Timiskaming; in Quebec, the City of Montreayl; in Nova Scotia, the City of Halifax and the County of Pictou, and in Prince Edward Island, the City and Royalty of Charlottetown. The system should be more widely adopted, particularly in the Province of Ontario, where the Children's Aid Societies are so many and so active.