

similar institution. There is also commitment to gaol or penitentiary; but that should never be resorted to. For a child the gaol is nothing but a school of crime. Yet there are in Canada at the present time more than one hundred children serving sentences in adult penal institutions! But assuming that the magistrate recognizes the evil of commitment to gaol he has still only the two alternatives of release on suspended sentence or commitment to a reformatory institution. Too high praise cannot be given to the work being done in some Canadian industrial schools and juvenile reformatories: but at best they are no more than a necessary evil. They are endeavouring to accomplish an extremely difficult task, that of collecting bad children from all over a Province and endeavouring to reform them together. What wise parent would place a naughty child with other naughty children in order to make him better? The children compare notes as regards their respective criminal achievements, and there is bound to be considerable glorying in evil. Moreover friendships are formed which persist after release and do nothing but harm. It is within the knowledge of all who are engaged in child rescue work that children frequently come back from these institutions worse than they were when they went. There are other objections. However it is to be regretted, it is none the less true that a child once committed to an industrial school is marked for life. It ought not to be so, but it is. Moreover a domestic home, and not an institution, is now recognized as the best place in which to bring up a child. Children brought up in an institution become "institutionalized," are wanting in initiative; and are largely unfitted, owing to lack of experience and other causes, for making their way in the world and for creating for themselves happy domestic homes. Finally there is the expense of maintaining children in industrial schools, which is considerable, and which usually falls on the public. There must of course be such institutions. There will always be cases which cannot be dealt with otherwise. But in no instance where such a course can be avoided should the industrial school be resorted to.

Release on suspended sentence without more is, in the majority of cases, equally or even more objectionable. Children are, as has been pointed out, the product of environment. Yet when a child, who has started on the downward course, is released on suspended sentence, he goes back to what has