

periods of from one to two months or more, and they have either been sent back to their parents, or foster homes found for them, and the reports of their subsequent conduct have been most satisfactory, showing that these children have profited by their stay in the Home. We have had some backsliders, of course, but after further efforts have been made—even some of the worst of these have been softened and guided into the right path.

PROBATION OFFICERS.

The Chief Probation Officer is Mr. Billiarde, Superintendent of Neglected Children, a gentleman who brought ripe experience to the discharge of his onerous duties, and he has certainly performed these duties most satisfactorily. Staff-Capt. McAmmond is Mr. Billiarde's chief assistant, and these gentlemen are kept busy.

What they don't know about truants and mischievous boys of the city is not worth knowing.

In nearly every instance when boys plead guilty to offences for which they are charged before me, after inquiry and a talk with the boy, and reprimand where necessary, the boy is ordered to report to me or the Probation Officer every Saturday at an hour named.

The Officers also visit the home and talk with the parents, report the home surroundings, and if further efforts are needed to also reform the parents, the necessary steps are taken. The home of the child is not visited by a uniformed policeman, but by a man in every-day civilian clothes, and this man is a friend paying a visit to the family. He may be somewhat curious and ask leading questions, but it is all well-meant, and in the majority of cases as soon as the parents understand that the visit is made in the interest and for the welfare of their child, or children, they seldom offer objection, and on these visits being repeated the Probation Officer is warmly welcomed.

The underlying and all-important feature of this system is to keep in touch with the boy or girl, and to have first-hand knowledge of their home surroundings.

The only boys we could put in a class by themselves as being truly bad boys, or evidencing vicious propensities, are the eight