

grounds or the laxity in the enforcement of certain laws? Quite a number of boys who get into trouble are from poor, but decent homes and in many instances their parents have made a gallant and honest effort to bring these children up decently. But the odds are sometimes too great against these parents and in spite of their good example their children fall foul of the law.

I must say that I am often amazed that so many fine citizens can possibly come from some of the hells that are camouflaged by the name of home. How would you have turned out if your father had been a drunk—there was seldom enough to eat in the house—your mother was worn out and semi-invalid from struggling to keep her seven children decent? What sort of a man would you have been if your home had been filthy and cold and overrun with vermin and the spectre of debt had been ever hovering over your family? How would you have turned out if you had had nowhere to play but a narrow street and no one to advise you but the gang on the corner? And yet there are thousands of fine young men today who are honest, clean, respectable citizens who came from just such an environment as this — but do you wonder that some boys, from such surroundings, get into the juvenile court?

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There is no doubt that a vast amount of good is being done through education. Our colleges and schools should be congratulated on the splendid effort that is being made to direct the lives of their pupils.

But do you ever stop to think of how these efforts are being nullified by some of the literature that is being continually thrust upon our boys and girls? Many of our news-stands are crowded with the worst type of magazines — cheap, degrading illustrated publications, many of which are educating our children in immorality; crime and the ways of the underworld and glorifying the records of notorious gangsters.

Boys who constantly read these periodicals often idolize these criminals and racketeers and consider them as heroes whose example they might well emulate, while youngsters who have personal problems of their own get the worst kind of mental stimulation from these suggestive illustrations. Unfortunately this kind of magazine is becoming increasingly popular and their numbers have approximately doubled in the last year or so—and if you don't believe this type of literature has a most serious and definite effect on young boys. I wish you could listen in on some of the revelations that have been confided to me by scores of youngsters — just let me give you a few of the titles of articles taken at random from magazines that are prominently displayed and sold in our streets:—

(Here Mr. Owen gave a shocking list of titles, adding that other titles had been brought to his attention which he would not care to mention at that meeting).

I recently sent one of these illustrated papers to Ottawa and asked for a ruling on it. I was advised that the pictures were undoubtedly

"I endorse every word that Mr. Owen Dawson says."
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