

This may appear to the casual observer a matter unworthy of consideration, but to the student of sociology it is a subject of the gravest importance, for here we stand before the heart of the whole matter and see the criminal in the making.

Keep Them Off the Streets

These children were but the product of their environment, during the time spent idly in the dusty, busy streets they had gleaned a knowledge of profanity, drunkenness and many unspeakable things of which they ought to be entirely ignorant, and which had warped and disturbed the beautiful purity and innocence of childhood till they resembled little, old, degraded and debased men and women. I would earnestly ask all parents who read these lines to consider well the moral danger they allow their children to incur, when they permit them to play haphazard around the city streets.

What is true of one large city applies more or less to all. Social workers are now everywhere awakening to the fact that, for a long time, much of the efforts and energies of our law-makers have been misdirected. We have promulgated laws, built penitentiaries and reformatories for the punishment of the criminal; we have seen to it that the individual, when he becomes guilty of breaking the law, shall suffer the penalty, but we have done little or nothing to order his earlier environment and training, to the end that he may become a friend, and not an enemy of law and order. Now, however, an alteration is taking place and the various countries are taking cognizance of the fact that the present welfare of the child is of paramount importance to the future welfare of the state; as a result every day sees some new law added to the statute books, giving more power to the various legislative bodies to deal with this vital question.

Health is Wealth

In this age of strenuous competition there is no better endowment we can give our children than that of "a sound mind in a sound body." One of our greatest thinkers has told us that "A nation's health is a nation's wealth." The nation that directs its energies to insuring the highest physical and mental standard for its coming men and women need have no fear for the future. Its future will be assured.

In this connection, public playgrounds for children are an important factor. Here boys and girls can enjoy well-organized, healthful, happy games under wise supervision, while developing their bodies and bracing their minds.