

and supplement the impression already made by a serious talk and words of advice.

After the trial comes her most important range of duties. She must see the child frequently, at first it should be every day, and by her personal influence endeavour to form it into what it should be. She comes into touch with the home, and occasionally reforms the whole family as well as the child. She visits the school, or the place of employment, and enlists the teacher, or the employer, in the work of helping the child. Whilst the keynote of all this is kindness, yet there is behind her the firm hand of the law. The child and its parents both know that on her report he may be sent to the reform school, and the knowledge adds greatly to her influence, and to the respect in which she is held. If all care fail, she brings the child before the Judge for commitment to an institution. If the home is so bad that reform there is hopeless, she recommends that the child be placed in a foster home.

The question of the sex of the Probation Officer is an open one. The feminine gender is here used because experience has shown hitherto that women, intended by nature for motherhood, are better fitted for the work than men. Moreover, it is important that probation officers should be chosen from the best class—should represent the highest order of men and women—and a better class of women than of men can frequently be got for the money available. Perhaps the best arrangement where a number of probation officers are employed is to have the chief probation officer a man, and most, if not all, of his assistants, women. It is important in inaugurating the system that the probation officers first appointed should thoroughly understand the work. For this reason the two Ottawa probation officers before entering on their duties spent a couple of weeks in Philadelphia studying the work as carried on there; and the first probation officer appointed in Montreal spent a week in Ottawa with a similar object.

It must be obvious from what has been said that probation is a most valuable addition to our juvenile reformatory agencies.

In Canada to-day a Judge or magistrate before whom a child is convicted of an infraction of the criminal law has practically only two courses open to him, either release on suspended sentence or commitment to an industrial school or