

Concerning Education And Juvenile Delinquency

To the Editor of the Times.

Sir—In the light of the recent report on the appalling increase in juvenile crime in our Dominion, it seems important that this momentous national calamity should not be passed over in any thoughtless or unbecoming manner, for each and every one of us is in some way responsible for this increase and will be for its continuance. Our responsibility toward these delinquents lies in the lines of heredity, environment, education and treatment, for in every character, no matter what the degradation, slanders noble features.

Luckily we are not in the grip of heredity. No man is under obligation to accept any heritage. Those who cannot overcome by auto-suggestion can through daily suggestion. Environment is daily eradicating hereditary defects from our very eyes. The future of this nation of ours depends on the transmission of a miscellany of racial traits through contact with our true Canadian training and Canadian institutions. It should be the aim of education not only to develop every individual that he may use to the best advantage the organism which heredity and circumstances have given him, but to qualify that organism for the highest mental and moral expression, for the true wealth of this wonderful Canada of ours is not its number of men and women, but its financial standing, but the worth in brains in the way of treatment for these boys of ours much can be done, and is being done—not by punishment but real mental treatment for the cause behind their criminality is frequently more often than recognized, (especially by our legal authorities) some form of mental or moral disease for which our profession has no name specific. Our profession today treats patients, not diseases. The man today who claims to invariably cure consumption, cancer, Bright's disease, mental disease, etc., by one means, is an unscrupulous falsifier. Yet the falsehood is greedily assimilated by the public, for of all lies the easiest to swallow is a good and lie, when liberally coated with the matter of scientific truth. Therefore these boys and girls criminals of our time cannot be cured of their moral and mental diseases by drugs nor punishment. Only by an honest and sincere segregation, of the mentally and morally defective of our city, on a basis of man to man justice, and unswerving and conscientious help and treatment, can we hope to do any thing to lessen this juvenile crime, of which even St. John has its share, as witness our police court and Industrial (?) Home. It is in these institutions that one sees much of the results of our neglect of the moral and mental insanity of our city juveniles. Much seeming viciousness is really disease. Moral insanity that comes out at puberty, is characterized by incapacity for education, distaste for family life, marked peculiarities of character, extreme cleverness in certain directions, bad sexuality and criminality. Their crimes are often without object, and against people for whom they have no animosity. Only a very short time ago a young lad of some twelve years was sent here to the Industrial (?) Home for the reason that he had set fire. (Sent by his parents, too). I have my serious doubts that the lad was in any way or manner either morally or mentally responsible. I doubt if the responsibility had not more justly been put on other shoulders. This boy is a sick lad, suffering from pyromania, a motiveless mania for destroying things by fire, and is a true form of mental alienation. Was this sick boy given a medical examination for his mental condition before he was sent up for trial and punishment? Even in the English army it is considered a soldier's right to be examined by his medical officer before he is sent up for even a very minor offence, but our boys and girls? We do not seem to be advancing very rapidly in our ideas of punishment vs. treatment, in fact we are not as far advanced as the ancients, for we find all forms of punishment in vogue today for our poor defective children and precious little in the way of sincere, loving treatment for these little unfortunates.

Heredity and environment make us what we are. Heredity though, is but a drop in the whole. Heredity represents a mass of potent suggestion transmitted from ancestors through the medium of the so-called "heredity-carriers" or germ plasma, that unite to form the human embryo. What is called anti-natal impression is but suggestion to the forming self by the physical mother, while environment may be explained as suggestion to the formed maturing and educating self by surrounding influences. It is generally understood that physical characteristics, predisposition to disease, mental, moral, and spiritual attributes, insanity, and criminal tendencies, are heritable. It may not be so widely known that excess in the use of alcohol

and narcotic drugs induces in parents abnormal nervous states that are the direct cause of feeble-minded as well as "white-hot," or epileptic, idiotic, and even criminal children, the untoward tendencies being perpetuated under natural laws to the third and fourth generation.

Where lodges the responsibility for viciousness, profligacy, or crime in the child of the drunkard? And who would dare hold that the offspring of an inebriate mother, saturated with alcohol before their birth, are any way personally responsible for the nervous or moral diseases that come into this world with them and cling to them through life, unless a cure is instituted. Fortunately, in all these cases, there is a strong current of reversion setting toward the normal types and higher standards of reversionary ancestors; and this is the reason why direct suggestion is so potent an agent to oblige for inherited or acquired weakness or sin, and throw into relief the noble traits that slumber in every character.

It has been contended that in view of the inheritance of multifarious attributes, human beings of the present are but little claim to originality. With equal force it may be argued that for many of our acts, we are not morally responsible. In the romance, "The Veil," Dr. Holmes illustrates this point. The real aim of the story, as I remember it, was to "test the doctrine of original sin, of inherited moral responsibility for other people's misbehavior." Was Elsie, poisoned by the venom of the snake before she was born, morally responsible for the villainous moral sins which, transcribed into acts, became what is known as sin, and it maybe, what is known as crime? How far is a child responsible for inherited tendencies which he knows nothing about and cannot prevent from acting? I cannot but believe, with Dr. Holmes, that all the children who are morally poisoned before they see the light and act in accordance with natural tendency, are prone objects of divine pity rather than of divine wrath. To me they appeal with an unwonted interest.

In truth there need be no Elsie Venner, strictly such, these days, because the effects of anti-natal shocks are removable by suggestion. The influence of maternal impression upon the nature of an expected child, if not perfectly understood, is universally admitted. The dominant ideas, delusions, imperative fears of prospective mothers that menace the moral and mental health of self, inner, never-dying self, my real greater self, as distinguished from my smaller ordinary thinking self) am in no sense

doing it—but the inherited tendency to deviation from the divine law is the accountable factor in my wrong doing. I have had drinkers of all grades tell me, "I wish to God I couldn't get it" because they realized their ability to withstand the temptations which we legally allow. I remember in such moments have deplored their weakness and explained their position in the words of St. Paul. The conscience in direct line with God advises not to do, but the flesh, perverted and served in every wish, cries out to the other. The spirit may be willing, but the flesh is strong. And these two selfs of Paul correspond to our subjective or sub-conscious self, the pure spirit inherent in all, whether we will or not, which is swayed by impulses and intuitively resists any deflection from the perpendicular of truth, and the susceptible, continuously tempted self with its objectively contrived ego for gratifying the desires of the flesh. In the light of the experience of each of us we must recognize that we possess a duplex personality, which daily bears witness to the battle of selfs and questions not the doctrine of inherited propensity to do wrong, but of the inherited responsibility for that wrongdoing.

On this same principle, immoral attacks, inspired by the constant suggestion of wicked or misguided parents, certainly do not find place in the category of punishable wrongs (sins if you wish). The parent who forever worries, grieves, fears, scolds, raves, fattens on scandal, must induce depraved states in the minds of the children growing up about them, through the potency of incessant suggestion. They develop into selfish, jealous, narrow, uncharitable beings because their objective or conscious "intelle"ts have through their most suggestive years been expressed in these false views of life like opinions, responsible for their malice, aversions and hates, their mental preference and loves, is so truly a legitimate question for discussion.

Possess Good Health By Looking After THE BOWELS

A free motion of the bowels, once or twice a day, should be the rule of every one, as half the ills of life are caused by allowing the bowels to get into a cramped condition. When the bowels are allowed to become constipated, the stomach gets out of order, and the liver does not do its work properly on account of holding back the bile so that it does not pass through the bowels, but is allowed to get into the blood, thus causing a poisoning of the whole system.

If you would escape constipation, flatulence, indigestion, headache, sick and bilious headaches, heartburn, floating spots before the eyes, coated tongue (bad breath), the nasty irritable bleeding and itching, and protruding piles, you should keep your liver stirred up by the use of Milburn's Lax-Liver Pills.

These pills, being purely vegetable, keep your liver working actively, helping it to resume its proper functions, and thereby removing the bile that is circulating in the blood and poisoning the whole system.

Mrs. H. Barrows, Enfield, N. S., writes: "I was troubled with sick headache and constipation. One day a friend told me of Milburn's Lax-Liver Pills. I got two vials, and found they had great faith in them."

Milburn's Lax-Liver Pills are 25c a vial, at all dealers or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co. Limited, Toronto, Ont.

INDIGESTION

Lumps of undigested food causing pain. When your stomach is acid, and is gassy, sour or you have heartburn, flatulence, headache or dyspepsia, here is speedy relief—no waiting. Eat a tablet or two of Pape's Diapepsin and instantly your stomach feels fine. All the indigestion pain, gas, acidity and misery in the stomach caused by acidity ends.

Pape's Diapepsin tablets cost little at any drug store but there is no surer or quicker stomach antacid known.

Small portable mills are being sent to various points in the province. They cut across sections of roots and stumps. Up to three hundred slabs an inch thick are obtained from each root. The grain is beautiful and takes a good polish. The round slabs are practically unbroken, and are used as seats for chairs and other things. The market price for slabs runs up to six dollars each—or nearly \$1,800 for a whole sized stump.

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SAVING THE STUMPS

Victoria, Feb. 9.—A big hoost for clearing of land is expected to follow the start of a stump-using industry in British Columbia, according to provincial officials who have been conferring with R. Crooke, a stumping inventor. The industry which Mr. Crooke is es-

ablishing uses all the waste of stumps and roots which are usually burned, and thus makes profitable the pulling of stumps.

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BLACK SQUARE Sale Begins WE OFFER YOU The Greatest Shoe Sale Ever held in this City And we promise you many amusing surprises. You will be well repaid by attending the First Day of this Great Sale and Every Day. The Black Square Lucky Shoes See These in Our Windows And Read More About Them in Tomorrow's Papers. WIEZEL'S CASH STORE SUPERIOR FOOTWEAR 243 UNION STREET

Whizz a minute and walk a Mile That's tobogganing—a swift slide down hill, and a long walk up hill. A cold is generally like that—it comes quickly and easily, but it is a hard uphill pull to get back to normal health. SHARP'S BALSAM of Herchound and Anise Seed assures a rapid recovery from colds, coughs, and other bronchial and pulmonary affections. It has been the most popular and reliable cold remedy in the Maritime Provinces for the last 70 years.