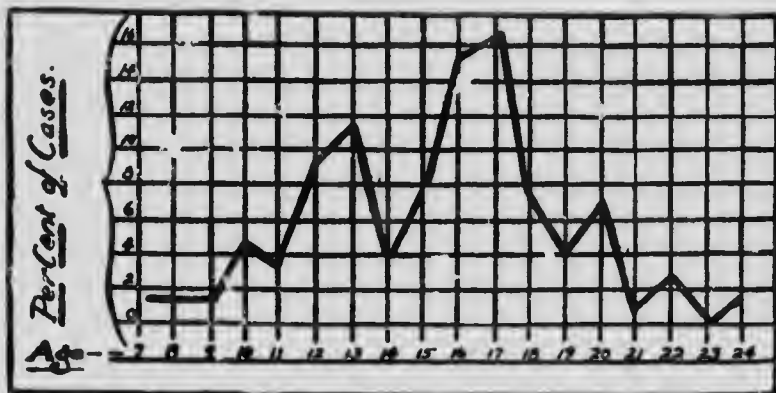


Give him time, give him tether. ' Hold                   rough  
these years and you hold him for life, and                   will  
thank you before he is twenty-five.

There are two features of adolescence which call for special action on the part of the home and of the Church.

Adolescence is the *period of crisis*. During these years the psychic forces seem to come to a focus: when the crisis is religious, we call it conversion. Conversions cluster about this period, and number in these five years more than in any other fifteen. Look at this diagram:



This diagram, prepared by Dr. George A. Coe, and published in his book on "The Spiritual Life," is reproduced by D. Schauffler in the *Sunday School Times*. It shows how high is the percentage of conversions during the period of crisis. Men are converted to God at twenty-one and thirty and fifty years of age, but they are few compared to those who come to decision during this converting time.

It would seem then the duty of elder Christians to very tenderly watch these movements and to give aid at the birth-hours of the man-soul. The Episcopal churches bring their young people to confirmation at this time: the annual revival meetings of Methodism gave a religious direction to the crisis and garnered successive companies of the young; and the growing and altogether desirable practice of a Decision Day in the Sunday school will help many to come to a right decision. But whatever method be followed, parents and Church should be solicitous that their young