

THE CHILD.

In no branch of philanthropic endeavor is sanctified common sense more essential than in work for the care and protection of children. Many a life has been rendered hopelessly unhappy; many a girl or youth has drifted into profligacy and crime through the unwise breaking up of the family, and the consequent loosening of the most sacred and helpful ties of affection and kindred. An all-wise Providence has decreed that not only should parents be the natural guardians and protectors of their children, but that the children themselves should be powerful agents in the saving and upbuilding of parents. Conversely, it is equally true that many children, by education and example, have grown up to follow the parental footsteps into the bar, the brothel, the poorhouse and the prison. Just as on the one hand it is sometimes the worst thing imaginable to break up the family, so on the other it is necessary at times to have the firm hand of the surgeon that cuts deep in order to save. Only after the most painstaking effort and when other remedies patiently and persistently applied have resulted in failure, should children be removed from the parental roof. There should be the fullest investigation, warning, entreaty, friendly assistance, constant supervision, and when all these have failed then there should be drastic action. For this special and all important work Children's Aid Societies ought to be well organized and equipped, and a trained director appointed at adequate remuneration to guide well meant effort. Improving the social condition of the family is the best way to permanently help the child. Nearly all these organizations are at present struggling half-heartedly along because of the lack of generous financial support. It is far easier to get money for six additional policemen than for the salary of one man to save children from wrongdoing.

WIDOWS AND THEIR CHILDREN.

Bitter in the extreme is the fate of a mother who is left a widow with young children to rear and her entire source of income cut off. Even though she may have been delicately reared she is forced to go out and work for her children's support and usually the only employment open to her is washing or scrubbing— toil that soon tells on her health and makes her a subject for the hospital. In the meantime her children are left without care or home training, and to her other sorrows is added the great sorrow of seeing her loved ones learn evil ways and drift into prisons or reformatories. Fully fifty per cent. of dependents and delinquents are created under just such conditions. Surely the time has come when public aid should be given to widows with young children so that they may remain at home as the natural guardian and protector of these future potential citizens. There are admitted dangers of pauperization, but a wise and careful policy could surely be devised so that incidental evils might be minimized.

THE CRÉCHE A COMPROMISE.

The Crèche is society's apology for compelling poor mothers to go out working by the day to support their children. It is fundamentally wrong to take a