

The court, after a careful review of all the evidence, can give the parents a further respite if they appear at all concerned, or a legal order can be made transferring the custody of the child or children to the guardianship of the Society.

### THE CHILDREN'S SHELTER.

When this is done, or if a child has to be cared for pending a final decision, the Society cares for its wards in what is known as the Children's Shelter. This is the modernized form of the orphanage. It is simply intended to be a temporary children's home where boys and girls can come under refined and pleasant home influences and get some idea of right living. It is a clearing house, rather than a permanent home. Under the Act no child is supposed to be kept there longer than three months, and as a rule a month suffices to arrange for the child's future, either by return to its own natural parents, or transference to a foster home. Often a boy or girl who has been accused of petty theft or some other misdemeanor can, by a short stay in the shelter, be encouraged to avoid wrong-doing and settle down to steady, reliable conduct. The shelter can be of service in this direction only where the man and woman in charge are possessed of the gift of influencing child life. No one should be engaged in work for children anywhere unless they are constrained by that great love and sympathy for needy and erring children that can leave its indelible impress upon the child heart. Children are won to goodness, not by prison bars, nor by the plentiful use of the rod, but by those gentler and more effective weapons that appeal to the inner conscience, and the force of which is evidenced in tears of true repentance. Bad boys are merely good boys who have strayed into side paths and who may, in nearly every instance, be guided back to the main road if only the right persons do the leading. Our aim, not only in this pamphlet, but throughout the entire work, is to find the right persons and to impress upon every citizen that possibly he or she is possessed of all the necessary qualifications if only they would hear the appeal and use their talents for the reclamation and up-building of every boy or girl who may come their way.

### MAINTENANCE OF CHILDREN.

While children are in the shelter as wards of the Society the municipality is under obligation to pay the board, the usual amount being \$2.00 per week. This makes the work of the Society lighter and the funds raised from benevolent sources should be used for the employment of a wise and discreet agent, who would act as the executive officer of the Society in the daily and hourly routine that is necessary if the