

10. **The labors of philanthropy.**—Of late years legislation has made long strides forward in the race with crime. But criminal jurisprudence cannot effectively grapple with the originating causes of crime. These are too often beyond the jurisdiction of the law makers. As an eminent penologist says: "If you would prevent the growth of noxious weeds pull up their roots and do not fancy you are accomplishing much by merely cutting off their tops." In other words the best way to abolish the effects is to abolish the causes.

The great aim should be to stop the supplying of the class of confirmed criminals. Prisons are better than penitentiaries for juvenile offenders, but prisons are not as efficacious in accomplishing reform as institutions established by practical philanthropists. Prisons and penitentiaries in their very names involve a permanent odium. The system existing in Nova Scotia by which juvenile offenders are sent to a "Home" or an "Industrial School" established years ago by philanthropists is most successful. The results of the labours of such philanthropists who fully recognize their fraternity with the fallen, cannot be overestimated. The moral and practical training in these institutions has produced most beneficial results. The founders and benefactors of these homes—often the first real home the inmates ever had—have saved thousands of children from being drawn into the ever-flowing stream of criminality. Unpromising material has thus often been turned into respectable citizenship and the results of squalid surroundings and bad company have been overcome because the boy or girl has been "caught young."

It is indeed the highest form of Christian benevolence to have rescued those who were once hopeless and helpless, but who now find their feet going in safe paths and their burdens lifted. Much yet remains to be done particularly in our cities. There will always be social wreckage where the shoals are so many.

In our cities there are many boys whose homes are cheerless and who go out on the streets because there may be some attractive company there. Efforts should be made by establishing boys' clubs to offer such boys something as a substitute for the street.

There is one source of evil as to which little is said and no legislation tried. The person who sells liquor to a minor is punished by fine or imprisonment, but the shop keeper goes unpunished who sells a dime or five cent novel in which the hero is a terror to all