

THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT.

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In an interesting article recently published on the subject "Our Human Misfits" it is pointed out, with much effect, that, however we may profess to believe in the preponderance of good over evil in the world, our real working creed gives the lie to our profession; and especially our methods of dealing with the criminal minority of the community are on the whole decidedly panicky.

All the crimes by which modern society is terrorized are the acts of a paltry one-fiftieth of the community; and, moreover, these crimes are not the acts of men resourceful in either intellect or physique; but, on the contrary, are the "petty, pitiable feeble dodgings, and evasions and cheatings by those who cannot win according to the rules of the game, or are unable to play the hands that have been dealt to them."

Visit any penitentiary and you are at one and the same moment struck with pity for the feeble and half witted creatures they call criminals, and with the wonder how society ever came to dread them so. Instead of quietly and rationally and confidently setting ourselves to solve this problem of the "two per cent. of human misfits," we have rather gone on making laws for the whole community that are applicable to less than two per cent., teaching our boys that every man will cheat who ever gets the chance, that "to be good is to be lonesome" etc., etc.; and always holding out to our youth the jail and the policemen as dangerous possibilities. There is indeed, much truth in the contention that our criminal jurisprudence and police administration have been constructed on the two principles; firstly—That every man would be criminal if he dared unless restrained by force of fear or punishment; Secondly—that all who violate the criminal code do so deliberately, voluntarily and must be punished accordingly.

Suffice it to say for purposes of this paper, that the passing of the Juvenile Court Act, the establishment of Juvenile courts all over this country and the tremendous success that has attended the