

ment, and when that cannot be accomplished, to remove the children to better surroundings. The rights of parents are sacred and ought not to be lightly interfered with, but they may be forfeited by abuse. Paramount to the rights of parents is the right of every child to a fair chance of growing up to be an honest, respectable citizen. What chance has the daughter of a prostitute, if left with her mother, to be other than a prostitute, or the son of a thief to be other than a thief? And why should this girl be condemned, through no fault of her own, to a life of prostitution, or that boy, unwittingly, to a career of crime? The State, too, has rights and ought not to stand idly by while children are trained, either by evil example or by neglect, to disobey her laws.

The Juvenile Delinquent Act supplies a practical application of this reasoning, and may be said to be based on three principles:—

1. That probation is the only effective method of dealing with youthful offenders.
2. That children are children even when they break the law, and should be treated as such, and not as adult criminals. As a child cannot deal with its property, so it should be held incapable of committing a crime, strictly so called.
3. That adults should be held criminally responsible for bringing about delinquency in children.

Other features of the Act are:

4. Trials of children before a judge specially selected for his fitness for the work.
5. Incarceration of children awaiting trial (when necessary), in detention homes instead of gaols.
6. Sentencing of children (when probation fails), to industrial schools, or reform schools, and not to gaols and penitentiaries.
7. Supervision of probation work by a voluntary committee of citizens, who would also offer advice to the Court. Where there is a Children's Aid Society the committee of such society is intended to be the Juvenile Court Committee.

The reform which the Act seeks to introduce is marked not alone by a change of procedure or the adoption of new methods, but most of all by the introduction of a new spirit and a new aim. The judicial attitude towards the child has hitherto been that of punishment and repression. The atti-