

and street associations that have warped their lives. An analysis of the committals of the past year shows that nearly sixty per cent. of them came before the authorities for larceny. Many of these had one or more previous convictions. While I would not be understood as implying that these lads are confirmed thieves; still the fact remains that the habit has become pretty thoroughly fixed and requires more than a few months training and discipline to overcome. These are the lads who, if not restrained early in life, will in the years to come, swell the numbers who crowd our prisons. It is true there are fewer temptations in their present surroundings than in their former environments. With many of them it crops up in the School-room. A boy for some reason does not know the prescribed lesson and in order to stand in well with his class he resorts to what is familiarly known in school room phraseology as "cheating." In principle it is stealing. He copies from his neighbor or his text-book and passes his work in as his own. He has not only taken what is not his but practises deception as well. Many parents think this is but a trifling offence. A father reprimanded me for administering, what he thought, rather severe discipline to his boy for a second or third offence of this nature. "It is what every boy did if he had the chance." Well, from my experience of Public School children, I am very glad to know that every boy does not practise theft and deception in his school work. There are other ways in which these lads give way to their failings. A more fortunate lad receives some gift from his friends, and when he wishes to make use of it, it is not there. Some one has taken it. You see these boys in their neat uniforms; you admire their skill in drill and handy-work in workshops. But there is no use glossing over the facts. They are not all honest boys. They would not be here if they were.

Then closely allied with this weakness, is another viz. falsehood. It has been said that all children pass through the period of "white lies" that we should expect them to catch this the same as they do the measles. I am not prepared to say how far this is true; but I do know we cannot afford to discriminate between the "white lie" and the deliberate falsehood. Are our boys given more to falsehood than the general run of boy? Assuredly. From