

ive sunshine and street scenes of every sort with indeed much the same sounds, both in quality and amount. In the streets the means of locomotion are the same and at a little later age the objects which impress themselves, from the newsboy shouting his cries to the food vendors, become the chief mental impressions from this external world and are much the same for all people. Similarly at school, the kindergarten, the lessons in class, the mode of teaching, the drill and calisthenics are everywhere the same forming a type of education, common in fact to millions of minds in a great city like New York. Succeeding this a few leading papers continue the educative process for those who are old enough to read and from illustrations like "Buster Brown" to the last striking expression of the baseball reporter, the mind of the adolescent American is being padded out only to be completed by the transient presentation of an underworld, which has for many hitherto only been hinted at in newspapers, but is now visualized through concrete illustrations in the "Movies."

If I am right then it is inevitable that thought—the product of mind which groups through association individual impressions, repeated until they rise into consciousness and there become concepts, which through differentiation become well defined ideas—must primarily deal with those material issues which fit the city dweller to cope with his immediate environment and in the great mass of the people cannot receive adequate impressions and evolve ideas regarding affairs, foreign to city life and still more regarding problems which are world-wide or supra-mundane. Remembering that at least 80 per cent of the population of our cities are dependent upon a daily wage, utilized almost wholly for their immediate wants, and that they are influenced directly, physically, mentally and morally by their social environ-

ments, we need not wonder if a type of feeble-mindedness is the outcome, relatively common when compared with those in a population brought up in the open with Nature supplying daily her wholesome sensations in a normal environment.

Remembering, too, that the mind, made up of presentations from infancy of a city world around it, is incapable of displacing such readily and of receiving those from natural objects foreign to it, we can see how, where as in the United States 12,000,000 were added between 1900 and 1910 to a city population of 32,000,000, the difficulty of our problem increases enormously with every decade. How we are to check the degenerative process or antidote the tendency seems to me to be one of the problems toward which the chief energy of public health workers everywhere today must be specially directed. To illustrate, as I write this millions in New York City are shut within its walls with a plague almost as mysterious as that of Athens in the days of Pericles as described by Thucydides, while the strike of thousands of car men and the threatened strike of five hundred thousand railway employees are each so many assaults upon emotional nervous systems already overwrought and exhausted in the unprecedented high temperatures of long July days, productive of malign effects upon hundreds and thousands of individuals unequal to the strain. Multiply these conditions for the many millions of people of all our great cities and towns and we are forced to ask ourselves, *Cui bono?* For what good? Are all future generations to be ever and increasingly the creatures of such environment, where the individual personality becomes almost lost or is a pawn in the game where capitalistic knights and kings hold all the moves? I cannot believe that such a fate is either necessary or inevitable in a world whose ethical progress is or ought to be ever upward. Outward and laterally into fresh