

THE PROBLEM OF CHARITY.

By J. J. Kelso.

There has been in the past too much of a tendency to create in this country a social system that renders charity necessary and indispensable, instead of formulating laws and moulding public sentiment so as to make charity unnecessary. We are, through lack of proper organization, perpetuating the social customs of older countries notwithstanding their demonstrated evils, and failing to recognize our opportunity and responsibility to give Canada something better in the way of social legislation than the world has yet known.

Among charitable institutions and societies there should be co-operation, consideration and general harmony of effort to ascertain the cause of dependency. This is desirable from an altruistic as well as a business standpoint. Each organization seems to go on its own way, proud of its large numbers and jealous of any criticism or interference in its noble work.

Now is it not a fact that almost every day large manufacturing concerns are amalgamating whereby factories are closed and dividends are trebled? This is done in order that the best financial results may be gained with the least possible outlay.

Such a combine of charitable societies is rarely heard of although the desirability of it is probably more important since human lives are concerned that far transcends material gain.

It will be evident to right thinking people that a multiplicity of charitable societies makes it easy for people to become pauperized.

In a young country especially, we should learn to place less reliance on refuges, orphanages, reformatories and prisons, remembering always that character must be de-



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veloped and can only be developed amid the trials, difficulties and temptations of daily life, necessity stimulating to greater exertion, and hope pointing to a better day.

CHARITY SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE.

All giving to the poor should be guided by wisdom.

Charity may be more harm than good.

Harmful when it tends to encourage laziness and dependence.

Helpful when it stimulates to renewed energy—gives fresh courage and hope—inspires to a life of honest and self-support.

Charity should be constructive.

Just laws properly administered will do more for the poor than paying poor wages and then making up the deficiency with a Christmas turkey.

The municipality should see that the worker has a decent house in which to bring up his family; employ under healthful conditions, reasonable hours of labor, fair wages, opportunity for recreation under clean auspices, schooling and protection for his children.

COURSE IN CITIZENSHIP.

Introduced by JOHN BRADFORD.

As an experiment Mr. Bradford, of the Y.M.C.A., Montreal, introduced a series of simple lectures in one of the elementary schools of the city. The lectures, given by different speakers were very successful, and the idea is worth following in other centres.

- 1.—**The Modern City.** Steps by which the city came into existence. Increase in population, *For.* Reasons—Invention of Machinery, Transportation Location of Canadian Cities—Reasons. Montreal—Location, Resources—Leading Characteristics.
- 2.—**The People of our City.**—Illustrated. Size compared with others. Different nationalities—What brought them here. What each contributes to City life. Map showing location different races.
- 3.—**How Our City is Governed.** City Charter—different Boards and Officers. To whom responsible—present officials. Effect of public opinion of government and the action of officials—influence of women on government of our City.
- 4.—**What the City Owes to You.** (a) Safety; Police and Fire Protection. (b) Comfort; Building regulations, street cars, lighting. (c) Health; Inspection of Food. Pure water supply sewage system, etc.
- 5.—**The City and Recreation.**—Illustrated. (a) Outdoor; Playgrounds; Parks; Boulevards; Boating; Bathing, etc. (b) Indoor: Commercial and Non-Commercial Amusements; Moving Picture Shows, Regulation Films, etc. (c) How ought the recreation of our City to be improved?
- 6.—**The Industrial Opportunities of Our City.** (a) Leading occupations of the people—occupations and industries open to boys and girls. (b) Location of factories and establishments. (c) Laws governing employment of women and children—aids and hindrance to their enforcement.
- 7.—**Cultural and Religious Opportunities in Our City.** (a) Schools, Libraries, Museums, etc. (b) Churches and Church Life—Strong and weak points, our responsibility. (c) Location of above—Need that should be met.
- 9.—**Agencies for Relief.**—(a) Charity Organization Society. (b) Assistance Publique. (c) Hospitals — Hosp. Social Service. (d) Homes, etc.
- 9.—**Corrective Agencies.**—(a) Juvenile Court. (b) Shawbridge Farm.
- 10.—**Our Place in City Life.** (a) As Scholars. (b) As Workers. (c) As Citizens.

INFANTILE PARALYSIS IS DANGEROUS!

Under the above heading the Metropolitan Life Assurance Company is issuing broadcast a leaflet on Infantile Paralysis which contains some good sensible advice. Below are a few extracts:

Don't Let Your Children Die Through Ignorance of How to Protect Them.

Infantile paralysis is one of the most contagious diseases known.

Keep your children clean. Bathe them frequently. See that they keep their hands particularly clean.

Be sure that each child has its own clean handkerchief.

Keep your children away from places where the disease exists.

Keep your house unusually clean. Don't allow a fly in it. Keep your garbage bucket clean and tightly covered.

Have a general house-cleaning. Throw away all useless knick-knacks and rubbish. Use soap and water generously, and let nature kill the germs with sunshine and fresh air.

It is not difficult to recognize typical cases of the disease. Here is a common picture: A child, previously perfectly well, complains of a little stomach trouble or diarrhoea. It is feverish, restless and irritable. In the morning the mother finds that the child cannot stand or perhaps that it cannot move its arms.

Parents should be on the lookout for all cases of illness in their children. No matter how mild, it is advisable to seek a doctor's advice. Don't be misled by patent medicine advertisements. The country is already being flooded by announcements of quacks who want to sell their stuff. None of their medicines are any good. Camphor will not do any good. See a doctor!

All cases should be immediately reported to the Department of Health.