

Dawn of Tomorrow

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WHERE DELINQUENCY BEGINS

Sober citizens with the welfare of society at heart, should give more consideration to the cause than to the cure of juvenile delinquency.

There is no avoiding the fact that juvenile delinquency is definitely on the increase in all parts of the country and in all classes of society.

To the credit of the various communities and states great study, effort and expenditures are being made to solve this problem.

But unfortunately more attention is given to caring for delinquents than to preventing them.

Unfortunately this does not account for the fact that the great majority of the youngsters who grow up in such environments become decent, law-abiding, moral citizens.

If the majority can do so, why not the minority?

Why is it that one or two boys or girls in a congested working class block will go bad while all the others stay good?

And how does one account for the fact that many sons and daughters of the very well-to-do living in fine homes in genteel surroundings also become juvenile delinquents?

Other authorities are wont to attribute juvenile delinquency to sub-normal intelligence and low educational quotient, but actually there are many times more subnormal youngsters than there are juvenile delinquents.

Some of the greatest civilizations have been run by illiterate people who, indeed, produced all of our basic inventions and discoveries, and domesticated our plants and animals before alphabets were born.

Most people are not very smart, not well educated nor do they live in the best surroundings, but nevertheless most people are disciplined, socially conscious and good.

The real reason why there is increasing juvenile delinquency—because parents are delinquent!!

It is more than significant that most delinquents come from quarrelsome and broken homes where parents have little responsibility and less understanding.

Because of this they develop hatreds, sometimes of the mother and sometimes of the father, depending upon circumstances in every case abnormal and unmoral.

Children crave love, attention and recognition, and when they do not get either at home, they seek these elsewhere.

Usually that "elsewhere" is with a gang of gamins or with some scheming adults who shrewdly diagnoses their psychological difficulty and exploits it.

They go to the streets or to someone else for what they should receive at home, and this leads to all sorts of trouble.

The harsh fact of the matter is that juvenile delinquency begins in the home and will never be cured until the homes are what they should be.

Whatever the home may be, it is made that way by the parents who are the heads of the home.

Good parents understand that marriage is a social affair, not simply an arrangement between a man and a woman, and they act accordingly.

If all parents were good parents who practiced daily what they preached there would be extremely little juvenile delinquency.

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LONDON NOTES

Rev. and Mrs. C. S. Johnson c London are visiting their son Beverly and family in Halifax, N.S. for several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Howson and family spent their vacation at Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe where they had an enjoyable time.

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