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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SEATTLE
JUVENILE COURT FOR 1913

Why Children Go Wrong

COURT METHODS, MOTHERS PENSIONS
AND COMMUNITY DANGERS

By

ARCHIBALD W. FRATER

Judge

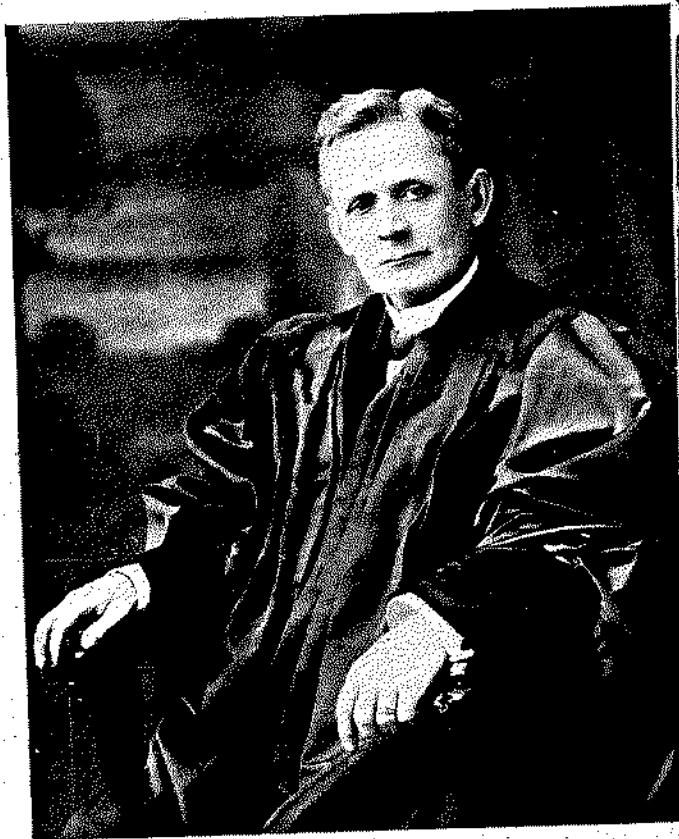
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOME
PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITIONS

By

LILBURN MERRILL, M. D.

Director of Diagnosis

JANUARY 1, 1914
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
500 Ninth Avenue



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Court Methods, Mothers' Pensions, and Community Dangers

By JUDGE ARCHIBALD W. FRATER

I

THE year's record in the juvenile court has been one of substantial progress, devoid of sensations. We have gone on in the even tenor of our way, the Court and Officers all striving to perform our several duties in the manner that would do the most good and provide for the best welfare and happiness of the greatest number of people.

There have been no innovations in procedure. We have had the additional work entailed under the Mothers' Pension Law. In spite of the fact that this increase in the volume of work has not been offset by a proportionate increase in the working staff, we have, on the whole, increased the general efficiency of the juvenile department, and we believe the work done has been of material benefit to those with whom we have had to deal. It is not pleasant to take children from their parents, or to place boys and girls in institutions, but there is compensation in the performance of duty. We can conceive of no higher purpose as public officials or private citizens,

than the performance of acts which contribute to the reformation of delinquents, the charitable relief of dependents and the rehabilitation of society.

THE STUDY OF CHILDREN

Our department of diagnosis which we established in connection with this court two years ago has attracted much notice among people interested in the care of delinquent children. We have been asked many times as to its merits and whether we would recommend the use of the plan elsewhere. Two years continuous demonstration has proven its usefulness. To all such questions we therefore answer that the scientific study of a child's physical and mental condition prior to the Court hearing is of undoubted value, provided the study is made by an educated and experienced diagnostician, and the judge presiding in the court is sympathetically interested in his work and knows enough to apply common-sense methods in the adjustment of the various conditions which scientific inquiry cause to be presented to him. If the Judge who presides in a juvenile court is contented with the methods of the past, or is either too indolent or too obstinate to apply new principles and new methods, my advice would be to retire him before making an official provision for physical and mental diagnosis.

This is a new era. "Advancement" is the watchword. The children's court is a departure from former methods in dealing with youthful offenders, and it is a forward movement. All of our Courts and Judges must keep apace and advance in methods of procedure in the interests of honesty, equity and humanity.

NEW STATE INSTITUTIONS NEEDED

We regret the dilatoriness of our State officials in not pushing the erection of the Girl's Training School and the addition to the State Institution for Feeble Minded, appropriations for such improvements having been made by the last legislature.

We are especially handicapped in disposing of mental defectives for the further reason that the County has no place for their temporary detention. A building should be erected in connection with the County Hospital for these unfortunates, where they might be cared for under proper supervision until they can be received at the State Institution. We acknowledge the sympathetic support of many civic organizations, especially of the good women of Seattle, and would suggest that here is a splendid field for further good work.

II MOTHERS' PENSIONS

Our mothers' pension department for the relief of destitute women who are mothers, has been in operation since June 13, 1913, when the law became effective. The Act, so far as necessary to an understanding of its provisions, is set forth in an abbreviated form as follows:

SEC. 1. In every county it shall be the duty of the County Commissioners to provide moneys for the support of women whose husbands are dead, or are inmates of a penal institution, or insane asylum, or who are abandoned by their husbands and such abandonment has continued for more than one year, or because of total disability of their husbands, when such women are destitute and are mothers of children under the age of fifteen years.

SEC. 2. The allowance to each of such women shall not exceed fifteen dollars per month when she has but one child under the age of fifteen years, and five dollars a month for each of the other children, if any, under the age of fifteen years.

SEC. 3. Such allowance shall be made by the Juvenile Court in counties where such court is held, and elsewhere by the Superior Court, and upon the following conditions: (1) The child or children for whose benefit the allowance is made must be living with the mother of such child or children. (2) When by means of such allowance the mother will be able to maintain a home for her child or children. (3) The mother must, in the judgment of the court, be a proper person morally, physically and mentally for the bringing up of her child or children. (4) No person shall receive the benefit of this Act who shall not have been a resident of the County for at least one year.

SEC. 4. Whenever a child shall reach the age of fifteen years its allowance shall cease. The court has discretion at any time to discontinue or modify the allowance to any mother for any child.

SEC. 5. Any person procuring fraudulently any allowance for a person not entitled thereto shall be deemed guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

SEC. 6. Proceedings to obtain the benefit of this Act shall be instituted in the same manner as proceedings in the Juvenile Court. Petitions shall be investigated by probation officers, charity commissioners, or other persons having knowledge of the facts; no officer of the court, or county officer, shall receive any fees for service rendered in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

A certified copy of order of allowance shall be filed with the County Auditor, who shall each month draw his warrant on the current expense fund for the amount allowed, and it shall be the duty of the County Treasurer to pay such warrant out of funds in the current expense fund of the County.

The first and most important step in the development of this department of the juvenile court was the selection of a pension officer whose duty it is to hear all applicants, and, when in his judgment the facts warrant, to receive petitions and thereafter report to the Court with his recommendations. Comprehensive blanks are prepared and every reasonable aid is given petitioners in presenting their cases to the Court, we taking the view that the Court stands in the position of "first friend" to destitute petitioners in like manner as the Court is the protector of youthful delinquents.

We have been most fortunate in procuring the services of Mr. J. A. Sigurdsson, a man of estimable character, as pension officer. He has shown very marked ability in dealing with applicants and his

recommendations thus far have been uniformly correct. He has furnished the following summary of the work in King County for the period ending December 31, 1913:

Petitions received.....	185
Petitions deferred and dismissed.....	61
Petitions pending.....	25
Petitioners granted aid.....	99
Total monthly allowances.....	\$2012.50
Average monthly allowance.....	\$20.32
Women and children receiving aid.....	390

In order that this innovation in the method of public charitable aid shall not be discredited without a fair trial, it has required the utmost care, patience and discrimination in dealing with the applicants. The undeserving will apply, but reasonable care will detect them. We have not had to exceed three applicants whom we believe were in any manner guilty of intentional fraud.

We have been many times requested to state whether or not we approve of this law. Our answer to that is, much depends upon its administration. We would respectfully call to the attention of those, if any, who may be opposed to the law the foregoing summary, and especially to the fact that two hundred and ninety-one children were enabled to remain in their own homes, while under other circumstances we do not know how many would be placed out in foster homes or in institutions, and we do not think

the monthly expenditure of \$2,012.50 in maintaining ninety-nine homes will prove to be a serious shock to the tax payers of King County. Our citizens are too generous, and we believe they will share with us the belief that the law, as an experiment, is amply justified.

Whatever changes we may consider necessary, after further observations as to the law, will be made in due time previous to the convening of the next session of the legislature.

III

COMMUNITY DANGERS

The community is falling short in its work of citizen making in precisely the way fathers and mothers are losing out with their children. Picturesque thoroughfares with their jostling throngs and luring lights place upon society a moral responsibility to protect the young from their unwholesome influences.

Unfortunately society doesn't realize that the twenty and more boys who have been brought to the court this year for consorting with licentious "drunks" about the lower part of town will tomorrow be less efficient citizens as a consequence.

One of my officers informed me that he frequently observed groups of twelve to fifteen-year-

old boys along the streets below Yesler Way at midnight being solicited by drunks. Every man knows that a boy is never safe at the entrance to a saloon. And yet, he has seen ten-year-old boys jostle past drunks and through the front entrances of bar rooms. He has seen as many as six little fellows under fourteen years swarming about a swaying crowd of drunks at the very doors of the worst resorts on Washington Street. They were after "easy money." The newsboys know there is plenty of easy money to be had. Because of it the district is an unsafe place for any child.

On a recent night one of my officers noticed a gentleman and his twelve-year-old son walking along First Avenue South on their way to meet an incoming boat. At the corner of Jackson street the man left the boy at the curbing while he went across the street to make an inquiry. The gentleman had no more than gotten across the street when an intoxicated man approached the child and offered him some money.

In the presence of such dangers, as soon as a policeman sees an unprotected boy in the district he should take the youngster by the ear and lead him up to Yesler Way. Such a method followed with eternal vigilance is the only means by which boys can be kept away from the dangers that will persist

there so long as the character of the population is what it is.

Someday perhaps society may do even a more sensible thing and modify the entire bar-room evil and provide the army of homeless men down there with better encouragement to live wholesomely.

PLAY CENTERS

Another situation wherein society is at fault in failing to safeguard her children is on the playfields.

During the year we have frequently received reports of immoral conduct among children at the play grounds. Two or three of the complaints were of illicit relations among fifteen and sixteen-year-old children. One was that a girl of thirteen who was conspicuously lewd, had spent much time there contaminating little boys by circulating suggestive notes and deporting herself in an unbecoming manner. One boy acknowledged that he had frequently used obscene words while conversing with her, and then added emphatically in reply to my remark defending the girl: "Oh, she didn't care; she talks that way herself and encourages the kids to be vulgar."

The presence of such a child, or, indeed, one of more subtle immodesty, can turn an otherwise good playground into a menace.

It is not pleasant for this pen to record incidents

of this sort. Were it not for the fact that similar observations are made by others and are causing many parents to keep their children away from the playgrounds, I should omit these observations.

Someone will doubtless remark in reply, that any recreation place, whether it be the street, school yard, or elsewhere, may be deserving of like criticism. All of which is true. But the playground is built by the community for play, and should be conserved for its legitimate function. When we construct a municipal field and bid for the play hours of the community children, we assume the responsibility of safeguarding their moral welfare.

We would have these children's recreational centers to be the safest, most wholesome spots in our community. If they survive they must be such. Much of the danger can be obviated by placing arc lights on the fields. The additional expense that would be incurred by such an arrangement would prove to be the best sort of economy.

No other city of Seattle's size in the country has made such notable progress in the development of recreation facilities. Adequate provision for making them serve a maximum of usefulness will naturally require additional funds or a readjustment of expenditures. The Board of Park Commissioners are building with a foresight that will win increasing gratitude from the community in coming years.

They must have the support and cooperation of the people in these matters relative to the use and protection of the grounds.

PUBLIC DANCE HALLS

There are indications that the municipality shall some day offer a substitute for the public dance halls. The limited space of this report does not permit of more than a reference to the influence of such privately managed amusement resorts in the development of delinquency among young people.

The women police of Seattle who assist many delinquent girls without official court procedure, have dealt with 112 girls this year who stated they met their men companions in the public dance halls and were taken by them direct from the dance to hotels.

In most instances the girls who have come into the juvenile court through the influence of public dances have been characteristically over-developed physically. All of them further obscured their youthfulness by dress. The difficulty of excluding such juveniles from these resorts is admittedly difficult. Hence it would seem that the only way such girls can be controlled is by efficient police supervision maintained for the general suppression of prostitution.

The municipal dance hall may not obviate every danger but it might offer many advantages over the present system.

MEN SHOULD BE NIGHT MESSENGERS

Night messenger service is absolutely objectionable as an occupation for boys under 21 years of age. There is no good reason why boys should be used after 6 p. m.

It is contended that boys are in no way exposed to unfavorable influences in this service. The facts indicate to the contrary. At least two 14-year-old boys have come to our knowledge this year who met and consorted with prostitutes while delivering messages. If a survey were made among all boys thus employed in the community other similar experiences would be revealed. The experience of every messenger boy who has been on a night shift for any length of time will substantiate the fact that many of the calls from rooming houses bring the messenger into direct contact with prostitutes. Messenger boys detect the character of such folk who may be entirely unknown to their immediate neighbors. The tradition that messenger boys are wise guides still applies, probably, to many Seattle boys who are engaged in this objectionable night messenger work.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF NEWSBOYS NEEDED

Newspaper vending has led to delinquency mainly by encouraging boys to remain downtown until late hours at night and by subjecting them to the influence of objectionable street associations.

The street life of a newsboy in a great city is usually precarious. But let it be understood that the vocation is not without benefits for the boy who is on the street to sell papers. The problem is to find ways and means of safeguarding such legitimately employed boys from the influence of vagrant boys and men loafers who always tend to congregate at newspaper "alleys" or otherwise come in contact with young boys unless restrained. Such loafers are usually those who have themselves been newsboys for a number of years. Some of them by seniority, if not by physical aggression, get control of the street corners which they hire out to younger boys whom they thereby keep under their control.

The benefit or peril of the newsboy situation will depend upon the sort of control that is maintained over the harmful element. Police supervision does not reach them. The management of the papers can improve conditions by forbidding the use of their premises by these fellows, but this action under existing conditions would jeopardize the sale of

emergency editions. It is therefore not practical to expect that the situation can be radically improved through the direct influence of the newspapers themselves.

The solution of the matter rests with the rank and file of the boys. There is no agency that can exert so constructive an influence among the newsboys as can a well superintended club of their own organization. Such associations have been in existence in several cities for a number of years and have proven to be valuable safeguards against offensive conditions which always tend to dominate the newsboy field unless excluded by the social integrity of the entire group.

An association of this kind should be strictly democratic in character, and should be maintained for the social and moral good of its members. Social club rooms should be provided in the downtown district, easy of access from the newspaper offices. A man superintendent should be placed in charge. He should be a man preeminently of moral force among boys. He should not be a dictator. He should be a moral dynamo, but so clearly human that none of his "youngster brothers" would even suspect that their energy would be short-circuited by too much restraint.

Constructive social work through such an association can do more at citizen-making among the

street boys of Seattle than can ever be done by the juvenile court. The sensible citizen knows that it is economy and good sense to save the boy before he goes wrong.

It is inevitable that the incoming immigration tide about which much is being said will bring with it to Seattle a large number of boys. The experience of every city that has received such a foreign population shows that the first notable indication of their presence in the community is an increase in the number of dirty, neglected boys about the downtown streets. The street at once becomes the crucible. These children join the ranks of the newsboys. If they are not protected, the development of delinquency is inevitable.

On the basis of personal knowledge of conditions elsewhere, I'll venture the prediction that every thousand immigrant families who enter Seattle will, within one year of their residence among us, increase the volume of juvenile court work 10 per cent.

Much of such potential delinquency can be forestalled through the social work of a newsboys' association. It would be the one organized social agency, outside the public schools, which would have immediate contact with these foreign boys.

At the outset a fund of \$5,000 a year will provide for the rental and maintenance of club rooms and the salary of a superintendent, and make possible

a preventive social work among street boys which would be of eminent value to the community.

We would request a careful perusal of the further pages of this report, including the statistical information, all of which we think will prove to be interesting, illuminating and instructive.

The Responsibility of the Home

By DR. LILBURN MERRILL

I

ARE BAD BOYS BAD?

SOME years ago a now distinguished jurist was confronted by a group of boys. They had been "pinched." A row of towseled beads twisting about nervously in front of the bench caught the attention of the Judge and he called for the testimony of the arresting officer.

The "Cop" arose and revealed suitable physical proportions at the side of his prisoners. They were a noteworthy "catch." Hours of clever maneuvering had got the youngsters in his trap. Their presence bore testimony to his skill. Hence his legal diction befitted the occasion.

"Yer Honor," said he, "these boys, residing in the city and county of blank, state of blank, did, during an early hour of the night of blank day of August, rob the house of John Doe, situated and located at a place commonly known as midway in the alley between blank streets, in the city of blank, said county and state, and did then and there willfully, unlawfully, felonously and burglarously break and enter the aforesaid premises, and did, with

intent, commit a crime and take therefrom six pairs of pedigreed pigeons."

For the first time in the hench career of this young magistrate he heard the testimony for the prosecution of the offenders with the focus of his eyes noticeably relaxed and his mind off in other realms. Throughout the hearing he sat penetrating the veil that had, for fifteen years, been obscuring the trail of his boyhood.

The prosecutor rounded his climax. He was sure of a conviction. Then followed that ominous silence when men await a verdict.

The old bailiff was awakened by the silence and rapped for order. Meanwhile six young culprits with faces besmeared by tears and dirty coat sleeves, awaited the word of the Court committing them to the state school. But the sentence was not passed.

"The case will be continued until the afternoon," said the Judge. "In the meantime the prisoners will remain with the Court. We are adjourned."

An hour later in the chambers back of the court room the Judge was surrounded by a group of six dirty little boys who were helping him live over again a night during his boyhood when he and his gang raided the very same pigeon roost, which was, even in that far-away day, owned and guarded by the aforementioned John Doe.

There is significance in the confession of useful men that they spent time being bad boys. The recollection is vivid with some; with others a film of forgetfulness has fallen over the past and to the best of their knowledge they shared few of the delinquencies of Yankee Badboy. There are men who have forgotten. Others would gag these ghosts of their past and when confronted with the delinquencies of modern boys they seek to thrust into their countenances signs that express surprise and consternation.

The sedate manner in which illustriously an-censored folk feature the retouched picture of a grandsire, is after the fashion men idealize their childhood. The humanity of youth is obscured by glimpses we catch of our divinity. We forget how tangible were our weaknesses. We forget that we followed the trail of atavistic instincts.

To have lived unerringly through the golden age and carried into manhood the physical, mental and moral wealth of a flawless childhood is common only to the career of the exceptional man. Men have generally climbed along the same trails, and the lacerations that left scars were received in stumbling where the danger was greatest and there was no helping hand.

That the childhood of distinguished good men of the past and present was influenced by most of

the weaknesses that distinguish the young delinquents of today is the frank acknowledgment of most revealing biographers.

Within every man's heart lives the memory of boyhood faults and sometimes of deeds which we wrongly term crimes. The young doer of a crime we call a criminal, and we are hypocrites. Our hearts would tell tales on us. We look on at the sad plight of a youth in custody. Atrocious culprit! exclaim folk who speak with no depth of wisdom beyond the perversity of gossip. Not atrocious, but sadly weak and illfavored, says my heart, and I would fain take the hand of my brother.

Most delinquent children are what we are except for friends and the grace of God. To condemn them is a greater crime than the offense of any child. Society is the culprit.

The young malefactor is neither good nor bad. He is what others make him. That is the justice my heart would claim, and the acknowledgment is recorded in every life.

II

EVERY CHILD IS AS GOOD AS THE HOME HE COMES FROM

The one outstanding fact revealed by the study of the children who have appeared in the juvenile

court during the last year, is the inefficiency of parents. Eighty-five per cent. of these children were apprehended for conduct and conditions of neglect which, in most instances, would have been avoided if fathers and mothers had safeguarded the children with a reasonable amount of affectionate companionship.

In our clinical classification of court children according to the social influences which have been most seriously to blame for their condition, these cases have been divided into two groups. The condition of 628 has been attributed to "parental neglect" and 393 were assigned to the influence of "unwholesome companionship." This division merely names the negative and positive influences which we have observed in the career of nearly all of these socially unprotected children. The division is suggestive, however, in showing how large a number of children have been harmed through evil associates.

This separation into two groups should in no way detract from the vital fact that the source of trouble is in the home. Generally speaking, there would be no chance for a child to be led wrong by companions if fathers and mothers kept themselves informed of their child's whereabouts.

If a survey were made this month among Seattle parents, not one among every hundred would be

able to name their child's intimate companions or tell anything definite, of personal knowledge, concerning their character.

If you doubt this statement, quiz yourself, and then question your neighbors.

Time and again parents have had to learn from the Judge of the children's court that their 13 or 14 year old daughters were joy-riding, or otherwise consorting with boys during night hours when the parents supposed they were protected in the homes of girl friends.

WHY GIRLS START WRONG

The tragedy in the children's court last year has centered about the girls who, in many instances, were encouraged to offend by the carelessness of their parents. It is true only a few of these parents willingly assented to the girls' wrongdoing, but the careless attitude of indulgence and vicious indifference made the others no less responsible.

The dozen and more little school girls who have come to the knowledge of the Court, after being wronged through no more seductive influences than candy and the carressing approach of men old enough to be their fathers, has revealed the pathetic thoughtlessness of their parents, who in every instance had provided for the child's material needs,

but had forgotten that the foremost impulse of her soul is to love and be loved.

It has been stated that girls need protection from within more than do boys. We hear, also, that to be forewarned is to be forearmed. We may not be sure. Facts are helpful. Physiological information given to the child in proportion to her curiosity and the awakening of physical functions is certainly appropriate. But the intellect of the child will not restrain the emotions. The movement of the child's heart and feet are never secure except a father or mother be near to guide. There can be no intellectual substitute. If the heart of the mother does not provide the safeguarding grip of love, the street, and amusement resorts collateral to it, will provide companions. And when the girl drifts aimlessly into the street it ill-becomes us to debate whether she or the boy is the aggressor by flirty glances or suggestive dress. That both are on the street impelled by healthy blood and normal impulses, but without moral and mental maturity sufficient to guide, places them both in danger.

The trouble with many girls begins when their interests start to wander beyond the front gate (or more likely, perhaps, the apartment house steps). Forthwith the curious youngster who is impelled by her social impulses strikes out after them.

Some parents have so little concern that they do not trouble to inquire whether she is out or in. Others feel an awakened sense of responsibility, and start out in pursuit. But a parent at the rear of a child is always flirting with failure, for a runaway child is never captured when gripped at the collar from the rear.

It is inevitable that girls will cross the threshold. The tragedy of modern times is the fact that so many are crossing at the pubescent age, dressed maturely, if not immodestly, and permitted to join the common throng without moral restraint.

The one safeguard for a child who would go exploring for social adventure outside the threshold of her home, is with the parent who has the devotion of heart to run away with the child.

A BOY NEEDS HIS FATHER

All of this may be said with equal emphasis in regard to boys. Though here criticism needs to be directed towards fathers.

A boy comes to the age when he is preeminently in need of companionship, and the only parent within hailing distance of his heart is his mother. And more than likely she is dizzy from many revolutions in her kitchenette.

The soul of a boy should be valued above knick-

erbockers and three meals a day. There should be far more about a child to appeal to a father than the fact that the boy is run down at the heel and in need of a hair cut.

It takes more than money to train up a child in the way he should go.

Men pretend to confer a just tribute in turning youngsters over to their mothers. The fact is, they are sometimes more concerned about conferring the job. Such shifting of responsibility is unjust. The man knows that mothers are endowed by nature for the upbringing of children, and he flatteringly says, "Let mother do it." So mother shoulders the unfair burden and goes on, meekly and faithfully, cooking, washing, patching—and what not—to the close of her weary day. Then all too frequently there comes to her the reward of having an officer at her door who tells her that her son or daughter has gotten into trouble and is, at that moment, in the custody of the authorities.

What is the trouble? The officer perfunctorily explains that the boy has been stealing or the girl was found consorting with dangerous companions. Is that the trouble? No, the officer mentions only the symptoms. The boy has grown beyond the mother's thought. Pubescent blood is rushing rampant through his veins, and no moral force restrains him from following his impulses.

Such a child is not receiving a square deal. Nor is the mother.

Society should condemn any man who complacently turns from the task of nourishing his child's soul. The job belongs as much to him as to the woman.

While saying this let it be emphatically added that society must likewise condemn any vocational injustice which would deprive a father of the time he should have for companionship with his children.

Is it ignoble for a father to be tender hearted? Do gentleness, simplicity, kindness and love connote strength in women and weakness in men? I think not.

Twelve years is long enough for any boy to remain solely in his mother's hands. I know of mothers aplenty who have shouldered the double burden and given to the State full-grown good citizens. But for some years I have watched thousands of boys pass through the juvenile courts charged with delinquency, and I have looked back of their offenses and seen the youngsters stumbling along the trail of life being morally lacerated because they were deprived of the chummy, guiding hand of a father.

There is nothing unnatural in this demand of the boy for man companionship. It is physiological. His life is enlarging and as he turned away from the

nursery play and sought the companionship of knee trousers, just so he now turns to the man whom he instinctively feels to be his matured self.

With full knowledge of the excuses offered by busy fathers, I know of no good reason why a father should be deprived of the fun of tramping across country with a hilarious youngster and a can of fish-bait, or why he may not legitimately swelter in an afternoon sun, munch peanuts and otherwise enjoy a ball game in company with his boy—even though he must use Sunday for the recreation.

Physical and Mental Conditions

By DR. LILBURN MERRILL

I

FUNCTIONALLY NERVOUS CHILDREN

IF it were permissible to generalize in describing the physical condition of juvenile court children I should say they are neurotic. In those courts that exclude children apprehended merely because of inordinate legal restraint, the neuropathic type will be conspicuous.

Neurotic children are the product of inferior heredity and social neglect. So intimate, indeed, is the relation of these influences to the child's development that a study of a given heredity and environment will frequently enable the examiner to forecast as accurate a description of the child's temperament as may be made from an inspection of the child himself.

The neurotic temperament may not, however, be so clearly defined and diagnosed as can, for example, a case of physical precocity. Where a boy is overgrown it is easy to get his weight and height and at a glance know how much he is physically developed beyond the standard for his age. The nervous system is not susceptible of being so standardized.

Instability is a term we frequently use in discussing a child's nervous symptoms; but at present there is no standardization of nerve phenomena which will enable such a term to represent a definite pathology.

The study and diagnosing of neurology is, therefore, largely dependent upon the perception of the diagnostician. In no other phase of child study is there so important a field. Nor is there any other part of the child's constitution which is so inaccurately known. This is due to the fact that skillful diagnosis is dependent upon keen inspection which is possible only after extensive study of such children.

It should be clearly understood that the writer's classification of this group of physical defectives is a broad one. As defined, the term "functional neurosis" is meant to indicate a condition of nervous depletion and instability of the emotions which is due to inheritance, hygienic neglect, or both.

Such children are usually undernourished. They present pronounced nervous irritability which is not attributable to the fear and excitement occasioned by their being apprehended, though their symptoms are always aggravated or otherwise somewhat obscured by their being taken into custody. Under such circumstances one would expect them to be mentally excited but they are not necessarily emotional, for in many cases fear has become dormant following frequent contact with the police. When observed

under favorable conditions these children present a broad range of nerve symptoms including drowsiness, listlessness, mental dullness, moral apathy, irritability, restlessness, vicious temper, night terror, hysteria, choreic movements, tics, twitchings, exaggerated reflexes, vaso-motor symptoms, and irregularity of pulse.

But all of this is of less interest to the average reader than a discussion of the causes and methods of correction.

While we have stated that these neurotic symptoms are dependent upon a neuropathic inheritance, we should not lose sight of the fact that the predisposition to irritability among these children causes them to be more easily influenced by masturbation, cigarettes, and other vices. They are peculiarly susceptible to influences which afford sense pleasure.

The stolid, robust child may be as venturesome in sense and sex indulgences, but the child with a more irritable nervous system is sooner victimized by habit because his system offers less resistance.

We shall be apt to develop a fallacy, however, if we overemphasize the constitutional basis of such excesses, as masturbation, for example. Where nerve excitement is induced by such peripheral irritation in any child there is grave danger of its resulting in permanent injury.

It is entirely appropriate to cite sex irritation in this connection for, doubtless, there is more functional nerve derangement among delinquent children due to sexual irritation than results from any other hygienic influence.

EXAMPLES OF NEUROTIC CHILDREN

Case A. Girl. Age 13. Pronounced nervous irritability; undernourished. A neurotic inheritance from both parents had been aggravated by long-continued peripheral irritation induced by immoral relations with a man who presented symptoms of senile dementia. A younger brother of this child, who also has been in court, was choreic. His condition, which was similarly aggravated by bad personal hygiene, has been much improved after six months wholesome living at the Parental School. The girl was discharged to her parents because no suitable institution was available.

Case B. Two brothers. Aged 10 and 12. Father a neurotic alcoholic. Both boys under-sized, nervous and mentally retarded three years each. They were chronic runaways and were apprehended several times for stealing. Both were committed to the Parental School where they have been for two years and are now up to grade in their mental development and physically are entirely healthy and somewhat above the average in symmetrical growth.

Case C. Boy. Age 12. Two years below grade physically and mentally. Emotional. A chronic truant and frequently involved in stealing. Drank three to five cups of coffee a day and consequently ate only half as much food as his body re-

quired. Committed to the Parental School, and during nine months has added 16 pounds to his weight and improved in mental vigor proportionately.

Case D. Girl. Age 12. Mother insane and father an inebriate. Child brought to the court following sex relations with other children. She presented a slender, anaemic physical development, and an unstable nervous system. Mentally she was retarded three years. Following her commitment to a girls' home she has attained a normal physical development, and has lost the somatic indications of her neurotic constitution. She continues mentally defective, though in a lesser degree than formerly.

Case E. Boy. Age 15. Normal physical development. Extreme nervous irritability and moral instability due to sex irritation and the use of cigarettes for three years. He was brought into court for stealing. Probation supervision failed to control his hygienic errors which, likewise, resisted the influence of a good home. If the parents had detected the boy's habits earlier the neurosis would probably have been averted. Institutional treatment was needed but at the request of the parents he was placed on a ranch.

Case F. Boy. Age 12. Arrested for stealing and constant disorderly conduct at school. Physical condition revealed a typical neurosis induced by a fixed sex habit which, in turn, was encouraged by a phimosis. Months of probation supervision failed to secure satisfactory results until he was circumcised, after which the objectionable conduct at once disappeared.

Case G. Girl. Age 15. Formerly choreic. At present emotional and very nervous under restraint or criticism. Her

nervous irritability is mainly the result of bad personal hygiene. The resultant sexual precocity has not been restrained by her home and consequently her social relations have been very harmful. Committed to the House of Good Shepherd.

Case H. Boy. Age 9. A thin, nervous, easily excited little chap who spent most of his time playing truant, stealing and attending moving picture shows. In addition, the child was involved with vagrant men whom he had "worked" for easy money. A circumcision was performed and the mother advised.

Case I. Boy. Age 13. Physically under-developed one year; poorly nourished. All nerve reactions sluggish. Mentally dull and listless. The child presented an interesting combination of a degenerate type of neurotic constitution and mental deficiency. He was committed to the Parental School.

The treatment for a functionally neurotic child must, first of all, provide a radical adjustment of the hygienic life. He must have intelligent and sympathetic supervision constantly. He should sleep much. The diet should consist of as large a quantity of easily digested food as he is able to assimilate. Much of his time should be spent out of doors in wholesome exercise. Finally, to supplement the above, he should receive surgical treatment for all anatomical sources of irritation, such as phimosis, adenoid growths, enlarged tonsils, etc.

No group of court children have been so greatly benefitted by institutional treatment as have the

functional-neurotics. And the happy results secured for them have been largely due to the regular hygienic life they have been compelled to live while under custodial care.

II

PHYSICAL PRECOCITY

The second physical aspect which has been apparent among delinquent children is physical precocity. The northwest Pacific coast abounds with big children. Pioneer blood seems to be healthy.

This early maturity and superb physical development would, under favorable conditions, be the best sort of a safeguard against harmful influences which operate so destructively among less-favored, neurotic children. But environmental conditions interfere, and Nature's good work is made an avenue for harm.

Overgrown children need the out-of-doors of the woods and the open range. When restricted to the city they seek their associates among physical equals and all too often are led directly into delinquency. The outcome is not surprising for social life appeals irresistably, and being without maturity of judgment equal to their physical impulses, they are always in danger of being led into social excesses.

A child of this sort very naturally tends to drift toward the street and expect the privilege of being

out nights according to the custom of adults. Time and again parents who have come into court with a physically overbalanced girl have blandly remarked to the Judge that they didn't see that there was any danger since the child was "so big."

The forms of delinquency presented by these physically precocious youth correlate with interesting uniformity. Among the year's cases all the girls were involved alike in sex relations. The boys, having a wider range of social intercourse were brought into court for sex offenses, intoxication, vagrancy, truancy, and mischievous adventure.

EXAMPLES OF PHYSICAL PRECOCITY

Case J. Boy. Age 13. Wt. 155 lbs. Ht. 5 ft. 10 in. Stole an automobile with another overgrown boy companion. Placed on probation and later absconded.

Case K. Girl. Age 14. Wt. 153 lbs. Ht. 5 ft. 5 in. Ran away from her home with an adult woman and consorted with occupants of a Greek rooming house. Committed to the State Training School.

Case L. Girl. Age 13. Wt. 148 lbs. Ht. 5 ft. 4 in. While serving as housekeeper for her father and other children of the family she encouraged a man acquaintance to visit at her home while the other children were at school. Committed to the House of Good Shepherd.

Case M. Boy. Age 14. Wt. 139 lbs. Ht. 5 ft. 6 in. Intoxicated in company with a group of men. Advised and discharged.

III

MENTALLY DEFICIENT CHILDREN

The mentally defective child is always at a disadvantage in his social relations. While the strength of his physical instincts is usually about equal to that of his fellows, he is more likely to come into contact with the authorities by reason of his inability to inhibit his impulses and to discriminate with judgment between favorable and dangerous situations for the commission of offenses.

Among the delinquent children who are brought before the Court may be seen many grades of mental deviates, but there is only one type of the feeble minded who come to us in such numbers as to indicate that they constitute a distinct delinquent group.

The intellectual condition of children in this group is not markedly below grade, though they present a definite mental retardation which is usually congenital in origin and sufficient to incapacitate them from assuming intellectual responsibilities common to persons of their age.

The psychologist has little difficulty in diagnosing their deficiency, and classifies them as morons or high-grade feeble-minded. It is unfortunate that

their real condition is not so understood by parents and other adults who come in contact with them, for their "sinful proclivities" which persist in spite of the most painstaking advice and guidance of their guardians is a source of much distress to parents and others.

Sometimes an observing adult may notice something unusual in a child of this sort and speak of him as "peculiar;" but more often he is rated with other children of his age and measured by moral standards accordingly.

There have been 111 of these mentally incompetent children brought to the court during the year. Each child has presented an individuality of disposition in the same degree that so-called normal children are differentiated one from another, with the one notable exception, however, that the defectives are weak in judgment and have not sufficient intellectual restraint to make them dependable in their judgment. It is not surprising, therefore, that 69 of these mental defectives have been repeaters. They are no more amenable to the reprimand from the Court or the advice of a probation officer than they are to the admonitions of their parents.

The following brief case histories have been selected from the year's list and present a fair illustration of the variety of such cases with which the

Court has had to deal, and the difficulty encountered by the Judge in trying to provide them with institutional care.

EXAMPLES OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES

Case N. Boy. Age 13. Mother and two other children of family feeble-minded. Brought into court for truancy, petty stealing, malicious destruction of property, and assaulting a smaller boy whom he had thrown to the ground and was in the act of crushing his head with a large rock when an adult interfered. Discharged to his feeble-minded mother.

Case O. Boy. Age 16. Vagrant for three years; had been securing money under false pretenses from individuals and charitable organizations. Arrested several times by the police. Discharged to parents who said they would remove to a farm in another state.

Case P. Boy. Age 16. Arrested while on a vagrant escapade with two boy companions (one of whom also was feeble-minded). The three fellows had lived for two weeks in a shack and looted a large number of houses for provisions. Following the court hearing when this boy was discharged to his parents, it was learned that he had previously committed burglaries and thefts in another county.

Case Q. Girl. Age 16. Incurable at home; assaulted members of the family with flat-iron, knives or any article at hand during spells of vicious temper. Discharged to parents.

Case R. Boy. Age 13. Accidentally shot and killed a man companion while they were hunting. Discharged to his mother.

Case S. Boy. Age 16. Idling about the city and country burglarizing and stealing. Formerly in the Parental School for ten months where he had been committed from this court for truancy. While there, and likewise when at the Detention Home pending hearings, he was perfectly honest. But when without restraint in the community he seemed to find it impossible to resist the suggestions of delinquent companions. Discharged to his mother.

Case T. Girl. Age 15. Consorting with boys whose relations she solicited. Committed to the State Training School.

Case U. Boy. Age 15. Consorting with vagrant men whose relations he solicited. Frequently complained against for stealing. Formerly in the State Training School where he had been committed from this court. Shortly after being remanded to his parents he stole some money from them and ran away. He was arrested in another town for vagrancy and returned to the custody of his parents.

Case V. Boy. Age 10. Malicious mischief about the community; set fire to several houses. Committed to the Parental School.

Case W. Boy. Age 14. Ran away from home in company with younger boys and was later arrested for stealing. Committed to the Parental School.

Case X. Boy. Age 15. Frequently ran away from home following spells of vicious temper; exerted a bad influence over younger boys and was rapidly becoming vagrant. Discharged to his mother.

Case. Y. Boy. Age 17. Arrested for burglarizing four houses from which he stole an assortment of female wearing apparel. A case of sexual inversion. Committed to the State Training School.

Case Z. Boy. Age 17. Burglarized a residence and stole only a black velvet gown which he had admired when it was worn about the streets. On two occasions he followed the owner until he learned her address. The next night he burglarized the house and stole the fancied gown. The boy was found to be a victim of fetichism and was referred to Dr. Stevenson Smith, psychologist, of the University of Washington, who later reported the young fellow much improved, following a course of suggestive treatment.

Among the above cases it will be noted that only a few were provided with institutional care. The Court does not favor turning these children back into society where they shall inevitably again become involved in offenses which will be harmful to both themselves and their fellows. But there is no other course open to the Court so long as the community does not provide an institution for their care.

The law justly forbids the commitment of defectives to the State Training School, though in a few instances exceptions have seemed to be justified, and commitments have been made accordingly. While the restraint and employment provided at that school have been notably beneficial to those committed, subsequent experience has shown that the

presence of such children works a hardship upon the school administration and interferes with the welfare of the majority.

Several defective boys who were under fifteen years of age have been committed to the Parental School. But here again the same difficulties have been encountered.

If the State Institution for the Feeble Minded were not overfilled some of these perplexing children would, doubtless, have been sent there. But only a few might have been so disposed of for the reason that our defective delinquents are usually not of a low enough grade to be placed with the children in that institution.

Fortunately the larger number of mental defectives who come to the juvenile court are boys, and most of them are of school age. In view of this fact the situation can be greatly relieved by adding to the Parental School a cottage for mentally defective delinquent boys. Such an extension of that institution would render to the community a service whose value would be entirely disproportionate to the expense involved.

Ultimately the State shall have to provide a custodial institution on the Western slope for feeble-minded children, wherein special provision should be made for the care and training of defective delinquents.

DISPOSITION MADE OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO THE COURT

	Boys	Girls	Total
Parents and children advised and discharged.....	189	109	298
Placed on probation.....	61	11	72
Advised and fined.....	11	2	13
Absconded.....	4	...	4
Dismissed.....	5	3	8
Wards of Court pending further hearing.....	...	8	8
Cases adjsted by Director of Diagnosis.....	407	69	476
Committed by the Court to:			
Custody of Individuals.....	44	17	61
Edwin Briscoe Orphan Boys' Home.....	3	...	3
Girls Home and Training School.....	...	7	7
House of Good Shepherd.....	...	31	31
Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart.....	...	3	3
Parental School.....	83	...	83
Parkland Children's Home.....	...	4	4
Seattle Children's Home.....	8	3	11
State Institution for Feeble Minded*.....	1	4	5
State Reformatory.....	2	...	2
State Training School.....	15	4	19
Washington Children's Home Society.....	35	29	64
Wayside Hospital.....	...	1	1
Western Washington Hospital for Insane.....	1	...	1
Y. W. C. A. Protection Home.....	...	12	12
Total.....	869	317	1186

*Three of these feeble-minded children are in the County Detention Home awaiting admittance to the State Institution.

CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION ACCORDING TO SOCIAL NEGLECT

These figures include all of the children brought to the juvenile court during 1913.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Parental neglect. A condition of poverty, depravity, moral indifference, or the absence of a sympathetic social relation between the parent and child which makes the home inadequate in safeguarding its children.	365	263	628
Unwholesome companionship. Social relations with either children or adults which conduce directly to delinquent conduct, or which lead to situations offering unusual opportunity for delinquency.	349	44	393
Mischievous adventure. Sporadic offenses committed in a defiant spirit of malicious mischief which is characterized, for the time being, by a total disregard for the rights of others.	100	7	107
Inordinate legal restraint. Artificial restrictions of conduct which any child may at times disregard and thereby be subject to arrest.	55	3	58
Total.....	869	317	1186

CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION: PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CONDITION

These figures include all of the children brought to the juvenile court during 1913.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Functional neurosis. A condition of nervous depletion and instability of the emotions which is due to inheritance, hygienic neglect, or both.	105	26	131
Physical precocity. A condition of premature physical growth which, being disproportionate to his normal mental development, throws the child out of balance.	12	17	29
Mental deficiency. A condition of mental retardation which usually is congenital in origin and sufficient to incapacitate the child for assuming intellectual responsibilities common to persons of his age.	87	24	111
Moral deficiency. The congenital absence or weakness of those social instincts which in the normal person inhibit to a certain degree the egotistical impulses, resulting in criminal propensities which are not amenable to discipline.	2	5	7
Psychosis. A condition of mental unbalance, characterized by anomalies of judgment, mobility of the emotions and consequent erratic, unstable conduct.	2		2
Negative	661	245	906
Total	860	317	1186

REPORT OF DETENTION HOME FOR 1913.

THE number of children cared for and the volume of work done in the Detention Home during the last year has been 50 per cent greater than during 1912. Though the statistical record of the probation department does not show a proportionate increase over 1912, the work done has been more extensive, due to the more serious nature of cases handled. This has resulted in the detention of a larger number of children, and in many instances for longer periods than formerly. Furthermore we have been obliged to care for several dependent feeble-minded children during the greater part of the year awaiting their admittance to the State Institution.

A laboratory for use in the physical and mental study of children has been established in the Home during the year. The work which the diagnostician and consulting specialists have heretofore done in the probation office is now done in a well-equipped consultation and examining room.

The general efficiency of the Home has been increased by the appointment of an assistant to the Matron. The continued cooperation of the School Board in providing a teacher during half of every school day has been of benefit to the children and assisted the management generally.

STATEMENT OF POPULATION

Number of children received	1083
Average period of detention	7 days
Average number of children daily	19.62

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Salaries of Matron, Assistant and Cook ..	\$1881.55
Food supplies	1465.54
Sundry supplies and repairs	685.10
Light and water	129.88
Total disbursements	\$4162.07



ALL JUVENILE CASES ARE HEARD PRIVATELY IN THIS ROOM

