

JUVENILE COURTS NOT CRIME CURE

SO SAYS PROF. ELLIOTT

Discusses Question, Are Courts Coddling Crime? Tells Why System Has Failed In Past; Suggestions

Juvenile courts can not stop crime as things are at present because the community does not actually understand the functions and limitations of these courts, according to Professor Thomas D. Elliott, of the sociology Association of Policemen today. Professor Elliott's topic was "The Policewoman in the Prevention of Delinquency" and he said in part:

Are Courts Coddling Crime? "Juvenile courts used to be the last word in the prevention of crime. But crime is not prevented by calling it delinquency, nor is delinquency prevented by calling it 'behavior.' We still have an egregious crime situation in the original home-town of the juvenile court. Does this prove that the courts are coddling crime and that what is needed is more police?"

"If by 'police' is meant a reign of terror, 'no.' Repression alone has proved itself inadequate. It merely makes criminals more careful.

"On the assumption that the police stand for terror, it is often advocated that they have nothing to do with the juvenile court; and this is probably a wise yielding to the present state of public opinion when it comes to the uniformed officer.

"But if in the police function we include the protective and preventive; and if among the police personnel can be included trained social workers of either sex, detailed to such work, the police will be carrying out the spirit of the juvenile court, but will be going through and beyond it, back to the normal non-court agencies of the community. The more of that sort of police, the better.

Why It Has Failed "The juvenile court has failed to stop crime because the community has overrated its possibilities, and has failed to recognize its limitations; and because the court has in most places failed to secure from the community the necessary reforms which would really prevent delinquency. At the same time, the juvenile court is a step in the right direction, and must be thanked for pointing the way to the proper handling of behavior problems before they reach the court.

"The courts should have ample jurisdiction, but should not use it except where persuasion fails. Nor should probation officers clutter their work and confuse the public's attitude toward court functions by accepting and trying 'unofficial' cases. Those cases which can be handled out of court

should never come to court at all; or, if they do, they should be referred straight back to the appropriate educational and protective officers.

"Among these protective officers, policewomen are outstanding. "Policewomen can and should achieve reputation as advisers in behavior problems. Visiting teachers can care for those in school, but working children and minors need equivalent protection. Policemen, trained as juvenile police, should share this task for the boys.

How Handled "Children who present the sort of situation that leads so often to delinquency should be brought first, not to the station-house or court, but to an adjustment bureau in the schools, or (if a non-school child) to the protective officer, for social case work. The technique of such work should be as careful and as 'socialized' as that of family-welfare or hospital social work. The court is available in case persuasion fails to reconcile and adjust the situation.

"In addition to such work, the policewoman has a unique opportunity to secure the abatement of conditions and resorts conducive to delinquency. Some day, our laws may give to juvenile courts the right to enjoin and close such places on the ground of imminent irreparable damage to children's character—a protection now granted chiefly to property. Policewomen, in touch with the causes of delinquency, could then apply for summary proceedings against persons contributing to delinquency without demonstrating actual ruin of character; they could close the stable door before the horse is stolen."

SAYS COLD SNAP GOOD FOR HEALTH

A "cold snap" or a "cool spell," at any time of the year is good for you, according to Ellsworth Huntington, climate expert and research associate at Yale. In "What the Weather Does to Us" in the June Scribner's Magazine Dr. Huntington says:

"A drop of temperature at all seasons and under practically all conditions is stimulating and healthful. The low temperature which follows such a drop in winter is by no means healthful. The change is what gives the stimulus. This is reasonable. A

cold douche gives a pleasant and stimulating reaction even in winter, but let cold weather pour over a person for fifteen minutes and he may get a chill that will end his days. On the other hand, a rise of temperature is generally, although not always, accompanied by a high death-rate and poor work. This is readily understandable in summer, but in winter the reasons are not so clear. The secret apparently lies partly in the fact that the advent of a warm day is systematically the signal for heating our houses and factories too much. It takes time to adjust our fires and our stokers to the new conditions."

EARLY AMERICAN FURNITURE IS FAD

Early American furniture is now being shown in the Antiquarian galleries in the Hutchinson wing of the Art Institute. Quite a number of beautiful examples of various objects, such as chests, desks, chairs, couches, chests of drawers, highboys, lowboys, tables, etc., as well as objects of art, such as samplers, paintings, composites, mirrors, etc., have been lent for the exhibition. The Metropolitan Museum of Art of New York has lent some fine and well preserved chests of the third quarter of the 18th century, and many other objects. Mrs. James Keeley also shows a beautiful chest of drawers, and some 18th century tables and chairs. Walter Forbes Miller

shows some fine Chippendale chairs. Others who have contributed interesting objects to the museum are Mrs. Emma B. Hodge, samplers and composites; Robert B. Allerton, needlework picture tapestry; Mrs. Potter Palmer, floral pieces; Mrs. William Munroe, chairs and William McKee, a pair of lamps.

Now that the Norge has come safely back to land, we are sorry that we didn't have the opportunity to make the trip with her.

Captain Amundsen reports that the undiscovered country he traversed was absolutely uninhabited—he didn't even spot a single filling station.

We don't know who is going to claim the zone around the North Pole, but we know who will finally get it, and his name is John Bull.

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