

'BAD' CHILDREN NEED EDUCATION

Help Rather Than Punishment Is Prescribed

When the schools extend their beneficent supervision over misbehaving children sufficiently far to reach the point to which the courts in their kindly treatment of juvenile delinquents have gone, then the day will be here when a perfect arch of sympathetic instruction is reached and humanity will advance that much more rapidly. This point was one of the strong ones urged by Prof. Thomas D. Eliot, of Northwestern university, in his radio talk Wednesday night over WMAQ, Chicago Daily News broadcasting station, on the topic, "The New Day in the Treatment of Children."

The speaker is professor of sociology at Northwestern university and both he and his father before him have made a searching study of correct training of misbehaving and delinquent children. In his speech Prof. Eliot referred to the comparative modernity of sympathetic education of juvenile delinquents. He said that probably Charles Dickens with his *Oliver Twist* had contemporaneous novels stimulated the beginnings of the child welfare movement. In the old days (indeed, in our own colonial times) children were unmercifully abused and persecuted, he declared, for such misdemeanors as a desire to play.

"An Act of Mercy"
Even as late as 1876, the Northwestern professor recalled, Jess Pomeroy, a boy of 15, was convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged. However, "as an act of mercy," Pomeroy's sentence was commuted to solitary imprisonment for life.

"After forty years," said Prof. Eliot, "during which time he is said to have seen only his guards and his mother, he was at last permitted by the enlightened government of Massachusetts to mingle with his fellow convicts. That he was still human is proved by the fact that he had repeatedly tried to escape and that he had learned seven languages. Yet, the circumstances of the original crime were such that a modern juvenile court would undoubtedly have sent for a doctor, a specialist in mental diseases, who might have salvaged him."

Two years after Pomeroy was sentenced to solitary exile the Bay state enacted the first probation law, the professor pointed out. This was followed by gradual improvement in all reform schools but as late as 1919 the federal Children's bureau reported that in every state in the Union could still be found counties where children were being put in jail.

Not Punishment, But Help
"The next milestone of progress in the treatment of misbehaving children was the establishment of separate courts for children in Australasia, in Canada, and at the opening of the twentieth century, in the United States," continued Prof. Eliot. "The juvenile court does not seem to punish the guilty but to help the neglected, the tempted and the fallen."

He cited vivid examples of how this protective supervision benefits misbehaving youngsters, and disagreed with those sentimentalists who say when they hear of a vicious child, "Oh, he's never had a chance; he's not responsible,—turn him loose." Answering this, the professor said: "On the contrary the more irresponsible a person is shown to be, the more the need of education or re-education; the more thorough, therefore, the treatment which the scientist prescribes. The child must be made to realize the seriousness of the situation so that both he and society may be protected."

Educators throughout America are now striving mightily to help the delinquent, subnormal and misbehaving child, the professor declared.

Education, the Need
"The juvenile court built the bridge out from the criminology side as far as it could toward non-compulsory educational treatment for misbehaving children," he concluded. "The schools have been building out from the educational side and now it only remains to join hands across the little gap between the courts and the schools. The keystone will be set in the arch, and the erring steps of childhood will be guarded and guided along the highway by education rather than by punishment."

THE DESTROYER
Silent are the harmonicas of the cicadas,
Stilled, the tender leafings,
Livid, the hard-crustured barks;
From the westward comes the dismal
moan of distant drums,
Faintly sounding and resounding,
Dim—but surely, ominously rolling comes
The angry thump of destructive drum,
Sweeping life to senseless scum.
Grim Scar-eyes will sear all in his ruthless
sway;
Leafings and cicadas, and the hardened
barks
Dallied too long in their blithesome way.
E. F. L.,
Wilmette, Ill.

Hold Health Clinic at Evanston Next Tuesday

A health clinic conducted by the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute will be held Tuesday, November 25, at the City hall, Evanston, from 10 until 2 o'clock. A specialist will be in attendance and the nurse of the Grosse Pointe Health Center will assist in conducting the clinic. These clinics are held regularly twice every month. A Child Welfare conference is held every Wednesday from 2 to 4 o'clock at the Grosse Pointe Health center. A child specialist is in attendance each time.

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There are 41,000 Red Cross nurses in the United States ready, at all times, to serve their fellow citizens. The value of this reserve was proved during the World war when it was

possible to supply nurses immediately without setting up a new organization. In the 192 disasters which occurred in the United States last year, many of these nurses were called upon for service.

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