

### SAFEGUARDING CHILD CALLED FIRST DUTY

#### National College Students Hear of Tremendous Problems With City Children

"During the last twenty-five years movements for human betterment have centered about little children, and a new approach to the old problems of crime and delinquency was made when we began to understand all those problems as they apply to little children," said Miss Jessie Binford, director of the Juvenile Protective association, Hull House, in addressing the students of the National Kindergarten and Elementary college this week.

"The educational, medical and scientific forces are trying as never before in the history of the world, to safeguard children, but in a social service organization we have a rare opportunity to see whether we have failed in the home in the school, in the community life, not only to give the children as they grew up those things which are going to nourish them and permit them to grow as all children should, but we also have an opportunity to see those influences which are demoralizing and even vicious."

#### Unwanted Children Problem

Miss Binford told of the work of the association in investigating complaints from teachers, parents, neighbors and from the children themselves "A day in our office would picture for you very vividly many of the phases of life in this great city of Chicago with which you are not familiar—scenes from neglected, misunderstood children, through the adolescent years which are so sensitive to impressions and impulses, and on into adult life.

"Among the most urgent cases which come to the attention of the association are those of unwanted children, abandoned by their parents, passed along from one family to another, sent to school irregularly, beaten, ill-treated, living with immoral adults or put into homes whose keepers are cruel and often insane. The association tries to remedy conditions in such homes, as well as taking the individual child and placing him in a proper home."

In speaking of another group of children, those who come from "broken" homes, undermined by drink or gambling or deserted by father or mother, and also of children living

under horribly crowded living conditions, Miss Binford said "The hardships which little children endure in trying to come to school, to be clean, to get there on time in the face of perfectly impossible conditions, are frequently unguessed by the teacher."

A third group of children which frequently comes to the attention of the association, are those in fairly good homes, who present behavior problems which completely baffle their parents.

#### Responsibility With School

"All these things place added responsibility upon our schools," continued Miss Binford, "and not unless we begin in the early school years of the child's life, not unless teachers are equipped to at least detect these problems and ask for help with them, are we going to be able to progress very much with juvenile delinquency."

According to Miss Binford, many

cases of early delinquency point not only to conditions in the home and school, but in the community life—obscene literature, movies and vaudeville which distort all ideals of life and undermine the work of the home and the school, child labor, gangs under the patronage of politicians, inadequate facilities and ineffectual handling of problems of delinquency which finally reach the police courts.

"Home and school and community life may safeguard children or they may contribute to their delinquency and crimes. Do not think that these are conditions which do not affect us or our children, or that they do not exist in your community or school. As Julia Lathrop has said, 'No child is so highly placed that he can be safe, or so humble that he can be overlooked.'"



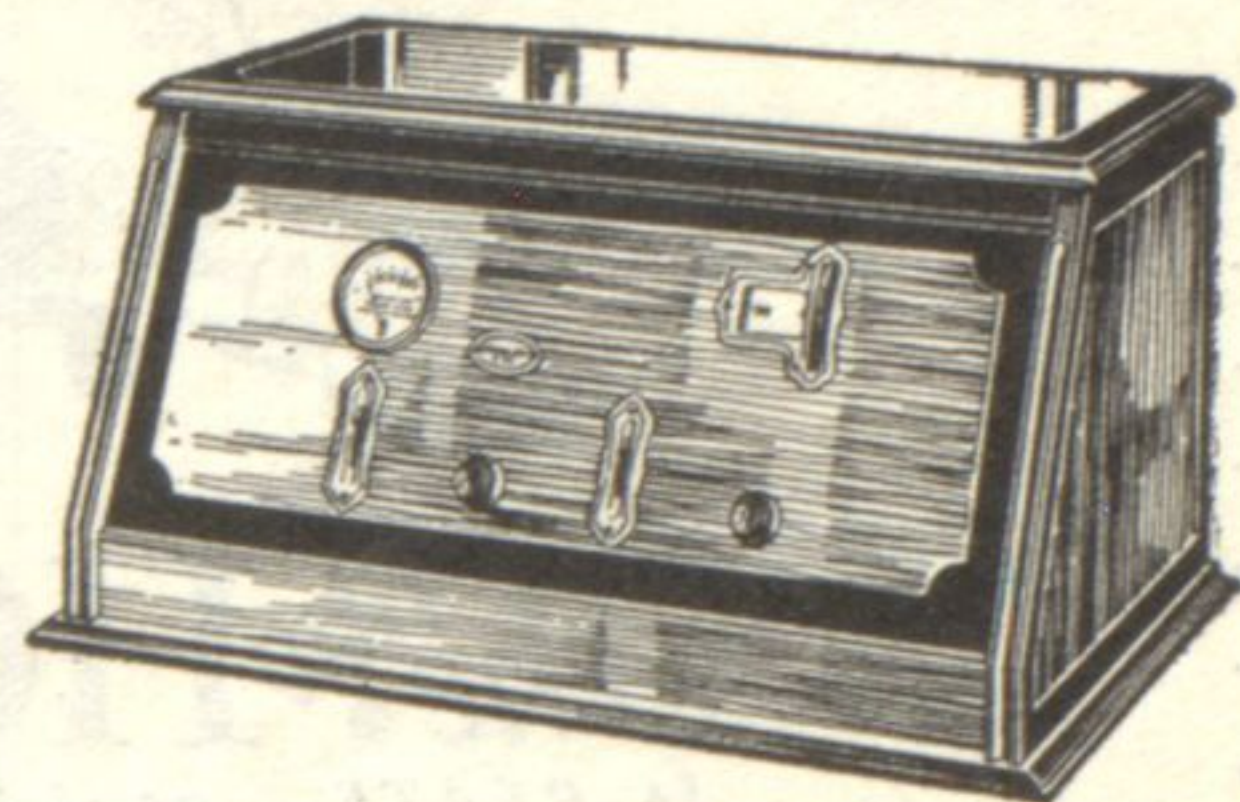
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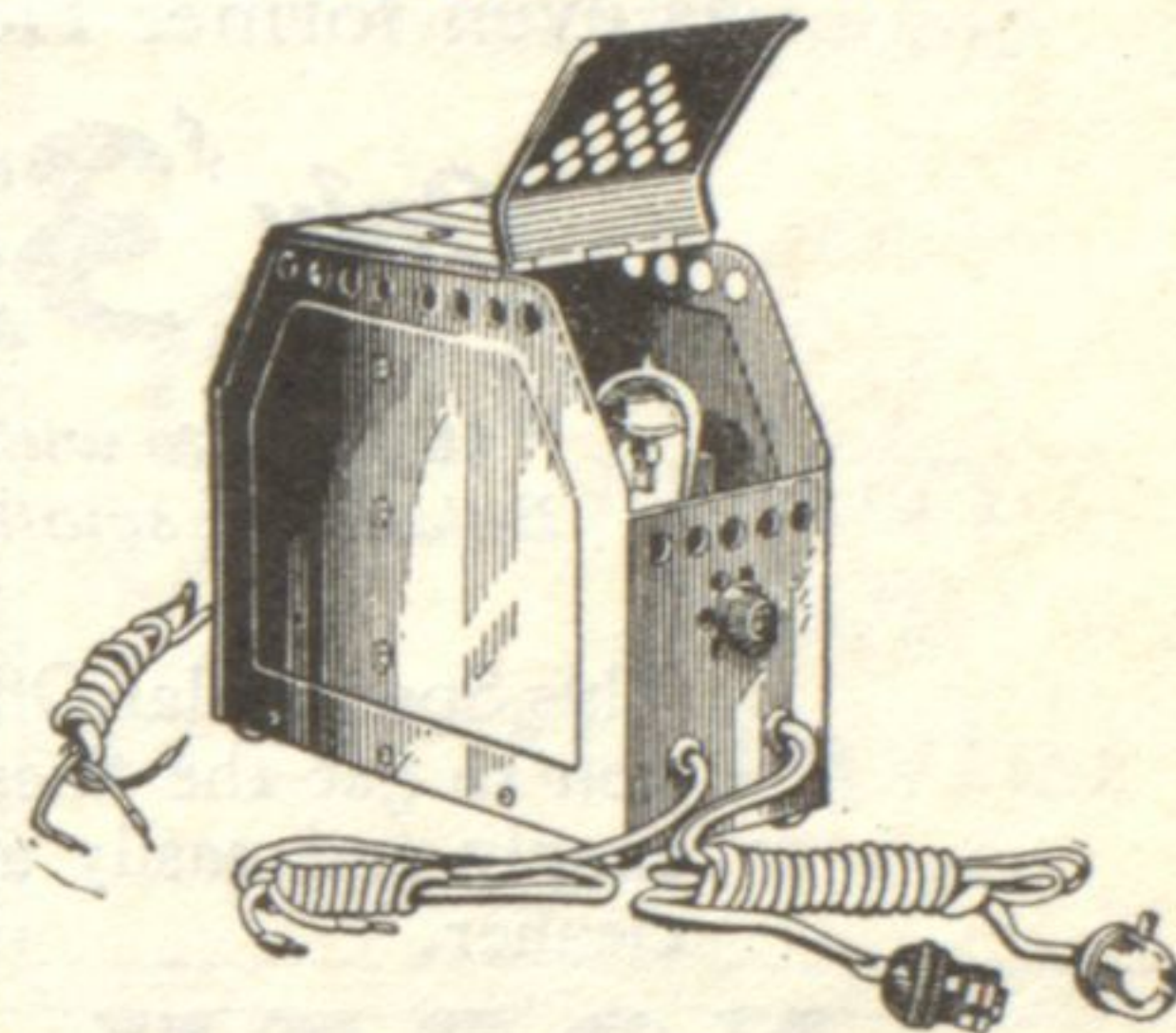
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