

1924

Notes and Abstracts

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Recommended Citation

Notes and Abstracts, 14 J. Am. Inst. Crim. L. & Criminology 466 (May 1923 to February 1924)

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NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

Broken Home and Delinquent Boys.—Broken homes caused by parental trouble and misfortunes, such as divorces, separation, desertions and death of one or both parents, are primarily the contributing factors leading to delinquency in the majority of boys between the ages of 10 and 17 years committed to the State School for Boys, at St. Charles, according to a recent survey made at the school.

Out of 632 boys, of an average age of fourteen and a half years, 99 had stepfathers, 73 stepmothers, 159 mothers dead, 156 fathers dead, 65 divorced or separated parents, 33 deserted by fathers, and only 4 deserted by mothers, the small number of maternal desertions being a tribute to the love and affection of motherhood. There were 266 boys whose mothers and fathers were living together. The histories indicate that many of the boys have back of them a bad ancestry and around them thriftless family groups.

In the boys interviews there seemed to be a general willingness to talk and the questioning brought out descriptions of all varieties of childish misconduct from those who stole apples and watermelons to the theft of high priced automobiles. The offenses in the majority of cases of the delinquencies were trivial and undertaken in a spirit of mischievousness or adventure. There were few cases where there was intention or desire to injure anyone.

The offenders were classified in four main groups. First, offenders against property; second, wanderers (runaways from home); third, sex offenders, and, fourth, miscellaneous. Sixty-five per cent, or 411, were offenders against property, 16 per cent, or 103, were wanderers or runaways from home, 8 were sex offenders and the remainder, 17 per cent, were classified in a miscellaneous way. Many of the charges were breaking and entering houses and stores for miscellaneous plunder, such as clothing, food, candy, cigarettes, etc. Many of the boys were in wrong through association with gangs, junking, etc., which are held as serious offenses by many of the municipal authorities.

The boys classed as "wanderers" or "runaways from home" attribute their trouble to the "deadness" of the small towns, which gives them a desire to roam about and see the country. The group of sex offenders is probably larger than reported by the boys because there seems to be some hesitation in speaking of these charges. The miscellaneous group covers those sent to the institution as a preventive measure, many of the boys being committed for stealing butter, eggs, coal, etc. In the majority of cases these articles were used by the boy's family, and the boy was considered bad by his parents only when caught.

Another classification of the offenses of 632 boys is:

Burglary, 156; general robberies and thefts, 138; stealing automobiles, 42; stealing bicycles, 45; hold-ups, 9; bumming away from home, 103; general delinquency, 36; picking pockets, 2; murder or attempted murder, 2; assault and battery, 4; rape, 7; forgery, 13; truancy, 63; carrying concealed weapons, 2; snatching purses, 6; attempting to wreck train, 2; dynamiting fish, 1, and running away from home and taking girl with him, 1.

In the burglary cases, twelve admitted using guns in connection therewith. The general robberies include most all cases of theft, such as stealing in stores, freight cars, money from parents, etc. The majority of places entered were stores; hardware and gun stores were broken into to secure guns, several candy stores were looted; the garage was entered to steal tools with which to build a boat; one restaurant was broken into to steal cigarettes; one boy went into a residence to steal wine; several school houses were broken into; jewelry stores were entered; one boy broke into a caboose, but did not have any idea of what he would find or take. One boy who claims fifty burglaries is seventeen years old, and had been sent to the Parental School in Chicago four times and to the Chicago and Cook County School once before being committed to St. Charles.

Bumming away from home includes cases where running away resulted in delinquency, outside of burglary and robbery.

The murder classification includes one boy who shot another by accident, and one admitted attempted murder with a knife.

The truancy classification covers boys who did not go to school and most of these cases come from down state because truants in Cook County are sent to Chicago institutions.

Of the hold-ups, four used or carried guns. There was one case where both an automobile and gun were used. Of the pickpockets, there was one case where a man's pockets were robbed while he was in swimming.

Of the number questioned, 260 admitted having been in other institutions as follows:

Parental School, 79; Chicago and Cook and County School, 94; Orphanage, 46; Glenwood, 14; Soldiers' Orphans' Home, 15; and miscellaneous institutions, 12.

Of the nationalities, the boys answered the roll call as follows:

Irish, 90; English, 31; German, 68; Italian, 21; Polish, 77; Croatian, 3; Dutch, 15; Colored, 78; Bohemian, 14; Austrian, 7; Slav, 12; Scotch-Irish, 15; Half Indian, 2; Greek, 1; Jewish, 12; Armenian, 3; Swedish, 14; Russian, 2; French, 13; Belgian, 3; Lithuanian, 24; American, 77; Scotch, 7; unknown, 42. In cases of Dutch-Irish, French-Irish and German-Irish, they have been classified as Irish.

The religion is classified as Catholic, 234, or 37 per cent; Protestant, 386, or 61 per cent; Jewish, 12.

The information given here may be misleading in some cases, because it was all gained from boys and sometimes their statements are not reliable from a mathematical standpoint, but in the main it is considered that most of the boys told the truth. The questioning of the boys began on August 1st and continued to October 6, 1923, and covers some of the boys who have been paroled and discharged during that period.

The Federal Census Department has recently given out statistics on marriages and divorces, comparing the calendar years of 1916 to 1922. These figures show that there were fewer divorces in 1922, compared with the marriages, than there were in 1916. The percentage of divorces compared with marriages in 1916 was 14.6 per cent, while in 1922 it was only 12.4 per cent. In this same six-year period the population of the St. Charles School has decreased approximately one hundred boys; therefore it might be said that

the Federal Census statistics are reflected in the decreasing population of this school. It is a ray of hope for the youth of future generations.

To know these delightful so-called bad boys, one must actually live among them and be in daily contact with the Tom Sawyers and Huck Finns, because many of the boys here have the same mischievous and adventurous spirit as these two heroes of the Mississippi River. There is some good in all boys, no matter how bad they are considered, and it is our constant effort in building and moulding character to capitalize this good in every conceivable form.

The survey confirms the opinion that the majority of the young Americans in the St. Charles School for Boys are "more sinned against than sinning."—Frank D. Whipp, Managing Officer, State School for Boys, St. Charles, Ill.

Delinquents and Parole Prisoners to Have New Clinics.—Four free clinics where medical, neurological, psychiatric and psychological examinations and treatment are to be given by well known specialists in each branch will be opened today (Monday, October 1st) by the Jewish Board of Guardians supported by the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies, it was announced by Joss Perlman, Executive Director of the Committee on Outside Activities, under whose auspices the clinics were organized and will be conducted.

These four clinics, which will be conducted on the most modern scientific principles, will be available to all men and women under the supervision of the Jewish Board of Guardians, including juvenile delinquent or pre-delinquent cases girls on probation from Cedar Knolls School or boys from Hawthorn School, both maintained by federation as educational and correctional institutions; and unmarried mothers cared for at Lakeview Home, a federation endowment. The Jewish Board of Guardians is legal custodian of all Jewish men and women on parole from penal or correctional institutions of New York City and State and these persons will also be examined in one or more of the clinics. Cases will be referred to the clinical administration by the courts' probation officers, Big Brothers or Big Sisters, social workers, teachers or in rare cases by personal request of the patient.

"Proper treatment of behavior problems," explained Mr. Perlman, "necessitates comprehensive study of the physical, pathological and mental aspects of the children or adults who are to be assisted by us. The day of punitive measures exclusively for the delinquent or incorrigible person has changed to the day of curative measures. No correctional work can be done without scientific understanding. The clinics opened by the Jewish Board of Guardians will provide a groundwork of true knowledge on which our social workers may decide how best to assist our cases."

The Committee on Outside Activities has devised a "treatment cycle," further explained its executive director. When a complaint is referred to the committee a trained psychiatric worker will interview the child (or adult) for his own story and also all other persons concerned before determining if the case really represents a problem. If accepted, it will be assigned to a social worker, who will obtain a social and developmental history of the child's (or adult's) individual life at school, at home, and in its industrial environment, not omitting the facts of heredity. Meanwhile the child will be sent to

the medical clinic for a physical examination. Reports of the worker and the physician will be presented to a psychologist, who will examine the patient to determine if further treatment at the neurological or psychiatric clinics is needed.

All reports are co-ordinated by the original investigator. Two trained case consultants who are psychiatrists will check up and confer on every detail of every case. Together with two supervisors under Mr. Perlman, the "treatment cycle" will omit no important step for a complete understanding of the case.

The clinics will be open daily and will be absolutely free. Contracts with hospitals have been made to care for those patients who need further treatment. According to Mr. Perlman, many hospitals have volunteered free treatment and the Board is prepared to assist if a patient is unable to meet the financial burden.

One of the features of these clinics will be the absence of the customary hospital atmosphere. Attendants will not wear uniforms and everything will be done to make the patients, the majority of whom are children either chronologically or mentally, feel at ease so that the best results in all mental and psychological tests may be obtained.

The inauguration of this clinical system on such a comprehensive scale is the result of the three years' successful operation on part time of the psychological clinic which is now being expanded to a full time clinic. Sessions are under the direction of Miss Mary K. Hathaway.

The Psychiatric Clinic will be under the direction of Dr. Dudley Schoenfeld of Mt. Sinai Hospital, also affiliated with federation. Dr. Bernard Glueck, Director of the Bureau of Children's Guidance, will be the consultant. Psychopathic and psychoneurotic cases will be treated and endocrinological work (glandular treatment) done by Dr. Spencer Strauss of the Post Graduate Hospital.

Dr. N. Thomas Saxl, pediatrician of the Post Graduate Hospital, will be in charge of the Medical Clinic. Dr. Saxl's father, Dr. Joseph Saxl, who has just returned from Brazil, expressed his enthusiasm on the opening of the clinics by offering his services as an assistant in the Medical Clinic. They will treat cases showing physical disability or ailments, but every new case referred to any of the clinics will also have a thorough physical examination. The clinic will take its own Wassermann and Smear tests and its own urinalysis. Consultants in the Medical Clinic will include Prof. Roger Dennett, head of the Children's Department of the Post Graduate Hospital, and Prof. Linnaeus La Fetra of Bellevue and Post Graduate Hospitals.

The Neurological Clinic will be under the supervision of Dr. Max Schultz of the Post Graduate Hospital.

Mrs. Joseph Hardy is chairman of the Mental Hygiene Committee of the Jewish Board of Guardians and chairman of the Neurological, Psychological and Psychiatric Clinics. Mrs. Cecile Sperling is chairman of the Medical Clinics.

Mortimer L. Schiff is President of the Jewish Board of Guardians, and Mrs. Sidney C. Borg, Chairman of the Committee on Outside Activities, towards which Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies has appropriated \$110,956 for 1923.—From Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies, N. Y. City.