

dren from the homes of the upper economic group. Such families have an outlet in the boarding school, where families deem placement under such care is advisable.

We have, at the present time, a start in this direction. Relatives contribute as much as they can. The broadening of the base of intake would, of course, tend to democratize the campus in the sense of broader socialization. More than that, though, it would tend, I believe, to change the point of view regarding the placed child, on the part of the public.

We might keep in mind, in this connection, that public education developed in exactly the same way. Education was originally a matter of private enterprise. America's contribution to the world in this connection is perhaps its most blessed gift. There is no difference, in my mind, between the possibility of properly and adequately caring for the underprivileged in a social sense and caring for what might be the underprivileged in a strict educational sense. I submit this to you as a result of many years of strong feeling and active thinking on the subject.

Community Organization for Prevention of Delinquency and Treatment of Offenders in Younger Age Groups

Introduction

By PHILIP HEIMLICH

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PUBLIC opinion seems to be centered on suppressive methods for protective purposes rather than on curbing crime through scientific planning. No real effort is being made by public authorities or private agencies to avail themselves of the opportunities for doing preventive work, particularly with the younger age group, as is similarly being done with juveniles.

Let us review briefly the past history and the present situation of penal methods used. From 1910 until 1930, men were released on parole from State prisons of New York and were placed in charge of their respective religious denominations. In 1930, New York State created a Division of Parole which took over all pending cases. The religious denominations, however, continued to function in a more enlightened capacity concerning themselves with the problems of men in prisons, those released, and their families.

For example, prisoners are seen for the purpose of stabilizing them, helping them adjust to prison routine, encouraging them to better themselves on the basis of individual needs, by study, reading, working, and maintaining contacts with their families. Some inmates are assisted in making appeals for clemency, having warrants

removed, and in preventing or staying deportation. Wardens and chaplains are invariably enlisted in order to help bring about satisfactory adjustments.

The families of inmates are assisted on a case work basis where difficulties arise due to the confinement of the delinquent member, such as waning morale, relief, medical attention, placement of children and arrangements for visits to prisons.

In serving the released man, we find ourselves cooperating with the Parole and Probation Commissions of New York and other states. The services called for in these cases include: restoration to citizenship, securing licenses, reinstatement in labor unions, securing of legal aid, settlement of old charges, providing employment, relief, obtaining medical and dental care, and supervising New York paroles from prisons of other states.

The Adult Welfare Department communicates with agencies in all parts of the country where there are large Jewish populations, also with prisons where there are Jewish inmates, and wherever local men get into trouble while traveling about the country. Such services are not rendered by any one agency, therefore the Adult Welfare Department finds it essential to call on innumerable social

service organizations best equipped to handle particular problems. In a few instances, it was even found necessary to obtain the interest of similar agencies in other countries.

Unfortunately, attention is usually focused on an adult only after he has been brought into court. If convicted, he is either placed on probation or sent to an institution. Then the probation department, the prison, the parole officer or some private agency endeavors to treat the patient with the most effective restorative tools at their disposal.

At the present time there is a yearly crime roll of 400,000 adult offenders in the United States. If separated into two age groups—19-25 and 25 and over, taking the figures of New York State as a basis, we find that from

65% to 70% fall into the younger age group. Hence there should be no hesitancy or fear of failure on our part to promote preventive treatment for this class as is done for the juvenile delinquent.

Figures indicate the Jewish population of the United States is about 3½% and the commitments for felonies to State prisons and reformatories constitute a little less than 2%, totaling approximately 8,000. Along the same lines of reasoning, about 5,000 of these are in the age category of 19-25 years. It is with this group that preventive work can be done. At the present time there are only six private Jewish agencies located in the larger cities fairly adequately equipped, attempting to work in the field of adult delinquency. This is far too small a group to do a satisfactory job.

The Young Man in Court

By MEYER D. LEVIN

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THe procedure involved in handling a delinquent case in court is more or less left to the lawyer in many communities. In the older age group we often find a young man of seventeen or eighteen who has been arrested but whose family cannot afford the means of counsel and whose appeal is often made to the social service agencies. In a great number of instances it is at this point that we are called into the picture to render our services.

If you will bear with me for a few minutes, I will outline the procedure that is followed in Criminal Court cases. Let us take for example the case of a boy, A, aged 17, who has been arrested and charged with larceny. He is first taken before a magistrate who determines only from the evidence which is produced before him whether or not A should be held for action of the Grand Jury. If the evidence indicates it, the magistrate will hold the boy for action of the Grand Jury by fixing bail at some reasonable amount depending upon the seriousness of the charge. A either furnishes bail, which gives him the right to freedom until the time of his trial or, in default of bail, he is committed to our city jail until his trial actually takes place. The average length of time between indictment and trial of the offender is usually a period of six or seven days.

One of several things might happen during the ensuing procedure: First, the individual may go to trial without counsel; secondly, he may obtain counsel

while waiting disposition of his case; thirdly, some social agency may become interested in his case, depending, of course, upon whether or not the information and facts developed justify their cooperation and aid. In this final contingency our organization plays an important part in analyzing all of the institutional cases which are being held for trial and disposition in court. It refrains from interesting itself only in those individuals who are already represented by counsel.

While our contact is being made, the law is still taking its course through various channels. Following A's commitment to the Baltimore City Jail, his case is later presented to the Grand Jury. In some instances the Grand Jury finds reasonable basis for dismissing certain cases but they are very few in number. A great percentage of them are returned with "true bills" and then sent to the State's Attorney's Office where one of the assistants is delegated to return the indictment to be approved by the Grand Jury. When this is completed, the case is then set for trial before one of the judges of the Criminal Courts of our community. During the procedure the Executive of the social service group must act speedily. In contacting A at the institution he must try to develop through caseworking methods a summarization of many factors that have led to A's difficulties. It is necessary, if we are to do good casework, to obtain as complete a social history as possible in arriving at a decision as to what