CHARITIES AND CORRECTION.

Several Interesting Papers on Practical and Important Subjects.

SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

"The Reclamation of Children of "hildren," by Rev. Mr. Dana-Child-Saving Work-Children of Shinbone Alley.

Yesterday Morning's Session.

The members of the conference of charities and correction assembled yesterday morning shortly after 9 o'clock. Congratulation were exchanged and all seemed pleased with the progress being made and with their Sunday spent in Omaha. There are a great many in attendance who were at the annual conferences for several years past.

There is a notable vacancy in the Illinois delegation, which was filled by a distinguished American tourist, now inspecting the corrective institutions of Canada. When the conference assembled in the senate chamber in St. Paul last year Warden McGarrigle, then of Chicago, made an eloquent address, in which he pictured the methods in use in the Cook county hospital. Dr. Arthur B. Ancker, city and county physician of St. Paul and Ramsay county, says it would be unfair and unreasonable to expect McGarrigle to attend the conference this year, but if he had attended he could furnish a valuable fund of information on the apprehension

and detention of the criminal classes.

Bishops Whipple and Ireland, who were active participants in last year's discussions, were expected in Omaha, but have not as yet appeared. Mrs. Dins-moor will especially remember Bishop Ireland, on account of the pleasant, yet earnest effort he made to have this year's conference held in Raleigh. He did suc-ceed by his splendid persuasive powers in convincing a good many wavering delegates that it would be a great benefit to the country, on account of the moral effect, if the conference were held in a southern state. Mrs. Dinsmoor took the stand and eloquently advocated Omaha's claims, and when a vote was taken a majority favored Omaha. Bishop Ireland then moved to make it unani-

A prominent and experienced delegate in the treatment of vicious classes is Judge W. H. Murray, the corporation counsel and city attorney of St. Paul. He, with P. H. Kelly and M. Doran, are the democratic triumvirate of Minnesota Ignatius Donnelly, has time and again sought to overthrow them, but has as often been compelled to seek Nininger and the Baconian cipher to blunt the keenest of his injured feelings, on account of his repeated discompture. Judge Murray is accompanied by his wife, and both are earnest workers in the cause of charities and correction. Albert S. White, of Columbus, O., is also a tireless worker in this field. His specialty is the treatment of youth, and his years of experience have well fitted him for his work. Nearly every delegate is a prominent individual and the assemblage is thus remarkably distinguished. Several papers were read this morning; among them being the follow-

Rev. W. McG. Dana, chairman of the committee, read the following paper:

PREVENTIVE WORK.

The great question of the hour for those intent upon making the world better and saving the young from joining the great army of criminals is this of preventive work. "An of criminals is this of preventive work. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." and while there is much that is heroic in the efforts we see made to rescue and reform wrong-doers there is far more virtue and good sense shown in endeavors to prevent wrong-doing. In the downward path which leads to a criminal life the first step is by far the most important, and just at this point is where the utmost effort should be expended. From my observation during my recent visit to England, I was impressed with the emphasis being put upon this sort of work. Its economy is now recognized as never before, which leads the state to assist such organized movements as aim to check never before, which leads the state to assist such organized movements as aim to check crime at its fountain head. Its hoperulness, too, is admitted, for you can more readily prevent than cure crime if you will begin soon enough. Its wisdom is also now more generally acknowledged and a se result work among the young of every character is meeting with marked favor and generous support. An English prison official of large experience (Chapiain Clay, of Preston prison, England) says "I am led to believe in respect to actual though undetected delinquency that 58 per cent first practised dishonesty when under fifteen; I per cent between fifteen and sixteen; 8 per cent under seventeen, eighteen or nine-14 per cent between fifteen and sixteen; 8 per centunder seventeen, eighteen or nine-teen; and 20 per cent under twenty. This would go to show that most criminals began on a career of dishonesty when under twenty years of age, and more than half when under lifteen. Preventive measures, therefore, applied before these ages could surely hope to be exceedingly effective in staying the development of crime. In the early part of our century the extent of juvenile criminality in Great Britain was something annualing opment of crime. In the early part of our century the extent of juvenile criminality in Great Britain was something appalling. Young people were systematically trained in vice, and were employed to operate where adults could not. Even boys of twelve, fourteen and sixteen were sometimes hanged, and a noted instance of a child named Leary is on record who commenced at the age of eight by stealing apples, and, progressing through thefts of a minor kind, became at last the head of a gang and was at the age of thirteen sentenced to be hung, but got off with transportation for life. There were said to be 200 flash houses in London frequented by 6,000 boys and girls who had no other occupation than that of thieving. Now look at the advance made. In 1816 when the population of London was under a million and a half there were in its prisons alone 3,000 inmates under twenty, half of these were under seventeen, some were nine and ten, and 1,000 of these children, so to speak, were convicted of felony. Now with a population in 1884 in England and Wales of 27,000,000, there were at that date only 275 prisoners under sixteen, and 3,226 between sixteen and twenty-one. Eleven years after Howard published his "State of Prisons," the Philanthropic society's Farm school, now located at Rei Hill, Surrey, was founded, i, e., 1788 or 1789. Fngland's first prison reformatory was established at Parkburst in the 1sle of Wight and in 1849 there were about 700 young persons confined therein; on December 31, 1864, only and in 1849 there were about 700 young persons confined therein; on December 31, 1864, only fifty-eight when it closed, and since 1886 there have been no juveniles in any government convict establishment. The English authorities make this distinction between a reformatory and an industrial school: The first is a place of punishment for a convicted of supersons. ities make this distinction between a reformatory and an industrial school: The first is a place of punishment for a convicted offender as a place of training, and reception into a reformatory must be preceded by a period of prison confinement of not less than ten days. The industrial school, on the other hand, is purely a preventive or training institution, from which the conviction for certain crimes will exclude a child. Chaplain Horsley, a man of very extended experience and observation, said to his bishop when asked what were the greatest hindrinces of religion: 1. Drinking; 2. The British parent; 3. The British employer; 4. The respectability of the church. It was a sad commentary on the second of these hindrances that statistics showed that of those sent hôme after serving their time in Feltham Industrial school, 23 per cent were speedily reconvicted, while of those otherwise provided only 5 per cent went wrong, and the reformatory in Connecticut by its own reports conforms to this experience. Here are both the forces of environment and heredity working disastrously on the children of parents who are them selves vicious or who make their homes anything but schools of virtue and abodes of safety. Hence in Engiand, and growin somewhat in our own country, is the idea of transplanting the children of such to new homes meeting with greater favor. What show is there for the boy or girl whose

cleanliness and at once introduce new and better ideals of tife. Then when you vise to manual and the tife. Then when you vise to manual and the treatwinning powers of those who avail of their advantages, and if our educational system can be made more practical by having grafted upon it manual training in its various forms. It will do far more than it has hitherto to fit you out for an upright, industrious life. I asked John Bright when at Rochdale last June whether he attributed the decrease of criminals in the United Kingdom solely to the superior prison system of his country. He said no, but rather to the increase of the agencies for securing a good education for the once-neglected part of our population, as by "the board senoods," so the said of Hope; or phanages, and all those institutions that preventive work has called into existence. Along these lines we can operate even far more successfully than neretofore. The report of manual training in common schools made to the New York board or education declares that the leading purpose of such training in European countries is "to foster industrial skill and to produce specialists, artisans, in order to advance the interests which manufacturing nations have in domestic and foreign trade," and adds, "it is admissible into our schools only as means of the standard of the

ful life. As philanthropists and formers we have much to with all those agencies which mise to imbue the youth with noble it mise to imbue the youth with noble ideas and strengthen them to resist the influences calculated to lead them astray. Prisons are grand institutions and necessary, and we have yet much to learn in reference to how they shall be constructed and administered, but schools are grander which deal with young life before hopelessly warped and mastered by vicious propensities. The kindergartens, the kitchen garden, industrial and technical schools are the best investments society can make. Life is too precious to be wasted, and those born to a lot of temptation and freighted from the start with every disadvantage call loudest for our sympathy and help, and it is in redeeming such that we lessen the criminal class and make useful members of society of those who else would have become pensioners on its charity, or have become pensioners on its charity, or the inmates of the penal institutions crime has made necessary, the support of which, too, is a growing burden on the party politic.

Child-Saving Work. Mrs. Fairbanks addressed the meeting

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Conference: The chairman of your committee on child-saving work must respectfully report as follow: One subject for the hour is expressed

in two words: Child-saving work. This suggests that all our children are in danger. They must be rescued, for upon them depends the future well-being of our great commonwealth. The great body of children who have homes need saving as well as the comparatively small number who are homeless and

To save the average child from idleness, ignorance, suffering and crime is a field of labor so broad that it can justly be called the most important work of the

The problem of how to "save the child and give the state the man" is far from being solved, though great advancement is being made in this direction through

faithful, untiring, intelligent effort.

As to child-saving work, in its strict sense, Mr. Letchmich's able paper on "The Children of the State," presented to this conference two years ago, and Miss Virginia Smith's excellent report of one year ago covers so much of the ground, and has been brought before you so recently, and so ably, that little now is

of child-saving work there are but two diversions—the old, old—preventive and cure. Under the head of preventive work comes the causes of vice in children. Are they heredity, ignorance, in-temperance, poverty? And can the cure be found in compulsory education of an industral and moral nature, truant laws, custody of homeless children?

We present for your consideration a few short papers, whose authors write from large experience, and deep research, and then give what has been so much desired in our past lessons, plenty of time for the discussion of each special topic, as well as other subjects suggested but not falls treated.

not fully treated. One of our committee, Mrs. F. H Pierce, whose efforts on behalf of chil-dren have been attended with remarkable success, gives us the following suggestions, drawn from her experience of nineteen years in the children's home of Davenport, Ia.:

MRS. PIERCE'S REPORT. DAVENPORT, July 23.—The child saving work is to me the most important work of the age.

Our hopes are in the children. Elevate, educate and christianize them, and the world would soon be redeemed from the evis we are now struggling with. We would take courage when we would realize what universal attention is being given to the subject. The good people of

wonder what may arise to contend with. The secret of saving children, it seems to me, should begin with the mother many years before the birth of the child. Preparation for motherhood is so sa-cred, who can comprehend it?

Should not all daughters be made sol-emnly familiar with this subject? Do we not as mothers fail to do our whole duty in this respect to our own, and to those whom we might influence? Would that mothers could be aroused to the fearful responsibilities of their posi-

complished through friendly visiting. Many a mother not properly trained herself would be glad to know of a better way of teaching her own little ones, and cheerfully consent to their going into school.

I would gather every child into the Sabbath school. Organize Bands of Hope, Sunbeams, Wide-Awakes, sewing schools, cooking schools, etc. "Gather the children in."

In a great variety of ways the better nature of children may be developed by coming in contact with pure minds. coming in contact with pure minds.

I often think how much talent lies dormant in children because we do not make the effort to reach it. We must get down to the mind of the child, put ourselves in their places, appreciate their condition, anticipate their wants, and gently lead them along.

The power of control which we may have over them, should be a hidden

have over them, should be a hidden power. Wisdom from above should direct. The homes of needy children (needy being used in its broadest sense), should be frequently visited, and the par-ents labored with, and after all natural means have failed, children removed into good families so far as they can be se-

The greatest caution should prevail here. My experience teaches that most people who want to take children into their families, do it for their own sake and not for the child's good. Many of the above class of children as well as the homeleless orphans need be taken to homes adapted to their condition and age to fit them for such fami-lies as they should enter.

These homes should most emphatically be conducted on the cottage plan, little families of from fifteen to twenty, with everything made as homelike as possible, children graded according to age and capacity and presided over by a good, motherly, Christian woman, whose duty it shall be to care for them as nearly as her own as possible.

As soon as better homes and influences

in families offer I would remove them to such, though many children are better off in institutions properly conducted than in families. It is usually only the better class and

most attractive that are in demand. The crippled and uncomely are less liable to imposition in institutions than in families. In our experience of nineteen years in one home, we felt that 95 per cent. of all our children grew into re-spectable citizens. I would make it unlawful for any child to go to a poor

Above all things I would emphasize personal work with children and young people. Numberless are those who have people. Numberless are those who have gone astray because of no one to lead them in a better way. This is particularly true of working girls. How many such are saying to-day "Nobody cares for me," and the result is that many warm hearted girls are going astray. A kind word to such at the right time would be like apples of gold in pictures of silver. For such I would suggest pleasant places of resort, reading rooms, amuseplaces of resort, reading rooms, amuse ments, etc., and a hearty greeting as they visit these places. Organize them into societies such as Lend a Hand, or "Ten times one is ten," get them to work for each other, stimulate them to sympathy for each other, and a feeling of responsibility for their cases. bility for their class, and they can reach many that no one else can.

Reclamation of Children.

It is believed by the pioneers in this noble work, that home adoption has been a great factor in the saving of children. In Ohio, where homes have been estab lished long enough to test the matter by statistics, it has proved a blessing to both the child adopted and its foster parents. The earlier the child, who has been born amidst poverty and vice, can be secured, the more easily is the ob-jective point attained.

So far as experience goes in the re-clamation of children, the indications are that a large majority of children who have been early domiciled in the several homes of the state, and especially in the Franklin county home, are sought for by those desiring to adopt them as their own. Though there is no special officer whose duty it is to huntout proper homes for the children, the appeal of the officers in charge to the citizens generally, to in-terest themselves in providing homes for those who have been fitted to enter them, has, of later years, been generally re-

It has been suggested that in older and more populous centers than this, that there is a tendency to retain children in the institution, and that institution life is encouraged by those who have become personally interested in the children. The extent of this influence in older

states and communities cannot well be ascertained with any degree of certainty. ascertained with any degree of certainty, in the newer states, and especially in Ohio, such a tendency does not prevail. In this home there has not been the slightest indication of a desire upon the part of the children who have been properly trained and educated, to remain in the institution, and one of the first duties of teachers and attendants is to inspire in the minds of their charges, ideas of self-support and independence.

Objection has been made by those de-siring children for adoption, to accept those whose parents, either of them, were criminals or paupers, believing that vice and crime are inherited. The superficial student of history even, would have little if any doubt that such belief is a popular delusion. A profound and patient investigator of this question savs: delusion. A profound and patient investigator of this question says: "The progress of the child is one of opportunity. It is improvement after birth; not of internal power, but of external advantage. The child born in a civilized land is not likely, as such, to be superior to one born among barbarians, and the difference which ensues between two acts of the children will be caused, so far as we know solely by the pressure. so far as we know, solely by the pressure [Continued on Second Page.]

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idea of transplanting the children of such to new homes meeting with greater favor. What show is there for the boy or girl whose home is in the overcrowded tenement, where no principle of modesty or even morality can be taught or observed. The most effective parents as well as to its immediate subjects, for free kindergartens have, it is found, a reflex influence on the home whence their publis come. They go back with new views of



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