

TO SAVE THE CHILD

Women's Clubs of Chicago Tackle an Important Problem.

TWO MEETINGS ARE HELD

What Is the State's Duty Toward the Children of the Poor?

A Representative Gathering in Central Music Hall Discusses the Question.

"The Child Problem" was what the members of the various women's clubs of Chicago wrestled with yesterday afternoon and last evening.

In the afternoon, women interested in children packed the assembly-room of the Woman's Club, No. 15 Washington street, and listened to papers and addresses bearing upon every phase of the street problem, which is growing year by year to be more and more recognized. How to make good citizens of the boys and girls that are growing up in the congested districts of the city, how to provide for a betterment in their chances of education, what means to being forward for the recreation and health of the little ones, were all discussed, and discussed; members of the audience contributing liberally to the suggestions offered toward attacking the evil for which the meeting convened.

In the evening a more meeting was held at Central Music Hall, where the same subject was vigorously handled and many ideas were advanced, which contained demonstrations of great approval on the part of the hearers. Mrs. Mary McDowell of the Chicago University School Settlement at the stock yards came forward in the afternoon with a number of ideas novel to Chicago's child life, but in some instances in operation elsewhere, and Mrs. Corinne Brown conducted the proceedings with a vigorous speech, concerning the responsibility of wealthy corporations, on account of their refusing to pay their taxes, thereby "robbing the citizens annually of more revenue for the administration of public affairs than the most vicious municipal government could steal through its system of office."

Scattered among the large assemblage of women was to be seen a small sprinkling of men, and these took as active a part in the discussion of the subject matter of the papers and addresses as did the women.

Mrs. Laura J. Dixon.

Mrs. Dixon called the afternoon meeting to order and introduced Mrs. Laura J. Dixon as the first speaker. Her subject was "State Care of the Child," which the speaker represented was the only solution of the problem of caring for dependent children. The idea of placing the orphan and destitute in charitable orphan asylums was deprecated and the speaker declared that the principles of the American government were violated when the state ignored the claims of its children. The mismanagement of the state had forgotten these little charges, and it was time, in the opinion of the speaker, that the mothers of the land united in strong effort to have the dependents properly cared for. It was shown there are at present in the penitentiaries of Illinois some 100 or more children, and the question was asked as to the provisions in these institutions for the physical training of the small prisoners. The reply was that in only one of them were the children compelled to employ any of their physical ability for work. This, it was said, was one of the greatest crimes of the penitentiary system, as it teaches the child habits of idleness.

Mrs. Mary McDowell.

Mrs. Mary McDowell, the second speaker, was for the establishment of public playgrounds at stated distances throughout the city for the use of such children as are deprived of the use of playgrounds. Her idea was to have these playgrounds under the supervision of a director of the sports, as they have in Paris. Every boy, according to Mrs. McDowell's notion, should have his own area of ground in which to spend the hours of his youth, if things were as they should be, and she expressed the hope that Chicago would soon not neglect its duty of supplying these breathing and playing spots for boys, while there is still a chance to do what a reasonable expense.

Chicago, it was represented, should profit by other cities' errors, and not fall into them, nor be obliged to do as London and New York had been doing to get ashle parks and similar breathing spots for the masses of poor, when it was little less than an impossibility to do so.

The speaker suggested that a movement be at once set on foot to procure a site for a public playground in the vicinity of Hull House, and suggested that it would be pleasant if the headquarters of schoolhouses could be devoted to such.

A visitor suggested that the board of education be approached as to provide playgrounds in connection with the schools.

Mrs. Jonathan H. Zeman.

Mrs. Jonathan H. Zeman of Hull House, who lectures are principally with the Bohemians in the territory adjacent to the house, complained that the board of education favored the schools in aristocratic neighborhoods with parks, while those in the poorer districts were not so provided. In her paper, entitled "The Education of the Foreign-Born Child," she referred to this condition. She said it was her desire to establish some day, or see established, a library where Bohemians in Chicago could go to read. The children of these people, she represented, were sent to the parochial schools in large numbers, as they were particularly susceptible about making mistakes in pronunciation of English words when first starting in the public schools in America. In consequence of this fact, and because their parents, in many cases, wanted their children to help at home and attend school with less regularity than is demanded of students in the public schools, large numbers of children are forced into the parochial schools, where, the speaker said, a desperate lack of discipline prevails. They are in many instances, literally starved. The speaker said, being homes and forced to stand upon high, filled with homes as makeshift for slight misdeemeanors. The discipline the speaker claimed to be being poor had particular reference to mental misdeemeanors. In addition to this it was shown the schools were inferior in other respects to those of the public system, it being pointed out that the parochial schools are supported by the poor people, while the public schools are contributed to by the taxpayers.

Mrs. W. J. Jackman.

Mrs. W. J. Jackman, in conducting the programme, read a report of the Englewood Round Table, which was designed to be read at the coming congress of the Southern Illinois Teachers' Association. There was with relation to the work accomplished by the Round Table during the past year, and particular stress was laid upon the fact of the increasing delinquency of hearing and sight among the school children.

Mrs. Corinne Brown.

Mrs. Corinne Brown aroused the audience to enthusiastic applause by saying:

There is one great obstacle in the way of the board of education accomplishing the best results. This is that the wealthy people and the great corporations will not pay their taxes. Were it not for the fact that the gas companies and other rich corporations are robbing the citizens annually of more revenue for the administration of public affairs than the most vicious municipal government could ever steal through its system of office, all would be well. As long as we sit here and talk and give wealthy corporations to rob us they will continue to do so, and say "Tut-tut." When it is known that the taxes paid into the city treasury in 1907 were less than those paid into it in 1905, the truth of the statement that we are being robbed will be appreciated. Think of it. The corporation in 1907 this in 1905, despite the fact of the increasing population and wealth of the city. Corporations have discovered it is cheaper to fight the city and refuse to pay their taxes than to pay the latter peacefully.

Mrs. Brown's vigorous remarks caused Mrs. Jackman to advance the proposition that so franchise should be granted to any street

railway until it agreed to carry children free of charge.

MEETING IN CENTRAL MUSIC HALL.

Resolutions Are Passed Demanding Changes in the Law.

Resolutions urging a change in the present care of homeless children by the state were passed at the meeting in Central Music Hall. This action was taken just before the meeting was closed, and after the child problem had been discussed in several of its phases by persons who have seriously studied the question.

Not many attended last evening, owing to the warm weather. Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, who was to have presided, did not appear, and Superintendent A. G. Lane of the public schools acted in his place.

Professor Lane opened the meeting with a short address, in which he summarized the and aimed at by those interested in the child problem.

"The living child is a problem," said Superintendent Lane. "There is no problem in this country of so great importance as raising children. The public schools cannot handle all the phases of the child problem, and I believe the State of Illinois should appoint an official to handle this question and have supervision over all the children in the state institutions."

Miss Edith Nelson.

Superintendent Lane then introduced Miss Edith Nelson, president of the Teachers' Club, who read a paper on "The Teachers' Problem with the Restless and Delinquent Child."

Miss Nelson thought that more restlessness in itself is not a serious problem to deal with. It is a natural condition, and more than peculiarly to be expected where a child is brought up within the confines of a great city, and is denied the natural resources for the action of his superabundant activity by the crowd, the water, and the open fields. In concluding she suggested that a school for incorrigible children be established in Chicago.

The next address was on "The Working Child." Mrs. Stevens, factory inspector, was to have handled this subject, but she did not appear, and State Factory Inspector Florence Kelley made the address. Professor Andrew S. Draper of the University of Illinois, who was to have spoken on "Universal Education Necessary for a Republic," was also absent, and Professor A. W. Moore, assistant in philosophy at the University of Chicago, handled the subject. Professor Moore thought the theme that universal education is necessary for a republic might be reversed, and stated that a republican form of society is necessary for an educational activity. He then handled his theme from the latter standpoint.

Miss Florence Hrythem of the county jail spoke on "Children in Jail." Mark Crawford discussed "The Criminal Child," and then Professor A. S. Small gave his views on "Necessary Legislation for Children."

The Resolutions.

Professor Small's conclusions on legislation for children were in a line with the following resolutions, which were passed, after which the meeting was closed:

Resolved, 1. That it is the sense of this meeting that children should not be removed from under the protective influence of parents from residence at home, but should be kept in suitable institutions for children, or in suitable families.

2. That all children committed to any institution, and committed in whole, or in part, to public funds, should, during minority, be under the supervision of some state or county official regularly appointed for that purpose, unless specially adopted by a suitable family.

3. That it is a duty of the community of the people of the state, and of this city especially, that an suitable place of detention is provided for juvenile delinquents, and that for lack of it, the delinquent children, once were locked against their choice, are forced into association with the most criminal class of criminals, and are thus exposed to crime which is not warranted from it.

4. That we call upon the members of the new Legislature to enact laws prohibiting the retention of children between 7 and 21 years of age in any penitentiary in the state, forbidding the commitment of children in jail and forbidding the association with adult criminals; authorizing the establishment of parental schools, that through proper restraint and training better habits are fixed, upward and toward children may be saved from becoming criminals; extending to the children engaged in mercantile and other occupations the same protection as to the children engaged in manufacture.

ANOTHER OPTION ON WINDRATH.

Dr. Fortner Says the Man Is Insane for Sure.

Mrs. Barbara Windrath yesterday went to Springfield to plead with Governor Altgeld on behalf of her husband, Joseph Windrath, who is sentenced to be hanged next Friday for the murder of Carv B. Birch. Attorney Joseph R. Hurree with this week make an application to the Supreme Court for a stay of proceedings in the case of Windrath, who, he claims, is insane. Dr. Fortner, the jail physician, is of the opinion that Windrath is mentally unbalanced, and has expressed that opinion during the past week. Dr. Fortner examined Windrath and pronounced him a lunatic nearly two years ago, and the man was sent to the Danmeyer asylum. Dr. Fortner said yesterday that the talk about Windrath pretending to be crazy at that time is all talk. The man was so violent that it was found necessary to put him in restraint and keep him that way for some time.

BIRD FROM HIS WOUND.

Michael Healey, Who Was Shot, Expires at His Home.

Michael Healey, 17 years old, who on March 7 last was shot in the left hip by Officer John Frank of the Twenty-Second street police station, died from the effects of the wound at his home, No. 2866 Union avenue, at 7:30 o'clock last evening. Street caught Healey and John King while they were attempting to hold up William Burton, No. 2341 Dearborn avenue. When he placed the pair under arrest, they resisted, and a fight ensued, during which Frank shot Healey. The wounded boy was then taken to the county hospital, and later, at the request of his father, was removed to his home.

Black poisoning, as a result of the wound, is supposed to have caused Healey's death. King is locked up awaiting a trial for attempted robbery.

CLUB FOR SOUTHERNERS.

Meeting Held for Organization—Temporary Officers.

A meeting was held last evening at the Lovers' Club at 1115 the hotel steps for the formation of a Southern club. Those present were:

W. F. Cronshaw,	P. Bryan,
L. D. McCay,	J. McMillin,
T. P. Nicholas,	R. E. Morris,
J. E. Brown,	A. Olsen,
Henry Nelson,	W. D. Moore.

These members will endeavor to complete the organization as soon as possible. The club will be for social purposes, with rooms in the central portion of the city, twenty for the social interests of the Southerners.

The following committees were appointed:

Organization—W. F. Cronshaw, L. D. McCay, J. E. Brown, and A. Olsen.

Membership—Henry Nelson, R. E. Morris, W. H. Moore, P. Bryan.

P. Bryan was elected temporary chairman and J. E. Brown temporary secretary.

ACCOSTED WOMAN ON THE STREET.

A Well-Dressed Young Man Said to Philip the Practitioner.

Gary Shinnecot, a well-dressed young man staying at the Rockford Hotel, was accosted yesterday afternoon by Officer Kearney and looked up at the Harrison street police station charged with disorderly conduct.

Shinnecot is an insurance collector, and for several weeks, it is said, he has been in the habit of standing in front of Siegel, Cooper & Co.'s store near the stairs leading to the Alley L. station and speaking to women as they passed him. Yesterday afternoon Officer Kearney was notified of the man's actions, and watched him, with the result, he says, that he saw him smile at and speak to several women and placed him under arrest.

SUMMER RESORTS.

Excursion tickets to the summer resorts of Wisconsin and Minnesota are now on sale by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway at ticket office, No. 25 Adams street and Union Passenger Station, Canal and Adams streets.

Phosphorus on Matches.

A pound of phosphorus needs 1,000,000 matches.