

## INFLUENCES ON BOY LIFE.

JAMES B. REYNOLDS ON CAUSES OF  
CRIMINAL TENDENCIES IN  
THE SLUMS.

The following is an address recently delivered to the Summer School in Philanthropic Work, now in session in New-York at the United Charities Building, by James B. Reynolds, head worker at the University Settlement:

"The influences which work for good or ill in the career of the average boy are threefold. First, heredity, or the influence of birth; second, the tendencies of human nature, or the psychological influence; third, the influence of environment, or that which arises from social conditions.

"Heredity determines the boy's character at the start. If the parent bequeaths to him an inheritance of fair physical, mental and moral qualities he has a fair chance to achieve good character, and there is a fair possibility that he will respond to good influences. The criminal traits or tendencies in parents, however, frequently bequeath similar traits to the child. The low forehead, the flat ear, and other signs of the brutal type stamp the mark of Cain on the child at its birth. Of such it may be said, as Bishop South remarked, that they 'are not born, but condemned into the world.'

"The ordinary nature of the boy will predispose him to crime under certain conditions and to good conduct under other conditions. For instance, boys are by nature venturesome, courageous and active. To repress those tendencies is to encourage crime. Firm leadership, which will control at the same time that it directs and offers a chance for the expression of these attributes, should be the line of procedure. So far as possible we should remove the temptation to deceive merely in the spirit of bravado and venturesomeness. Hence, in managing boys' clubs self-government rather than the control of some outside authority has been shown to encourage responsibility at the same time that it removes the temptation to deceive the teacher or director.

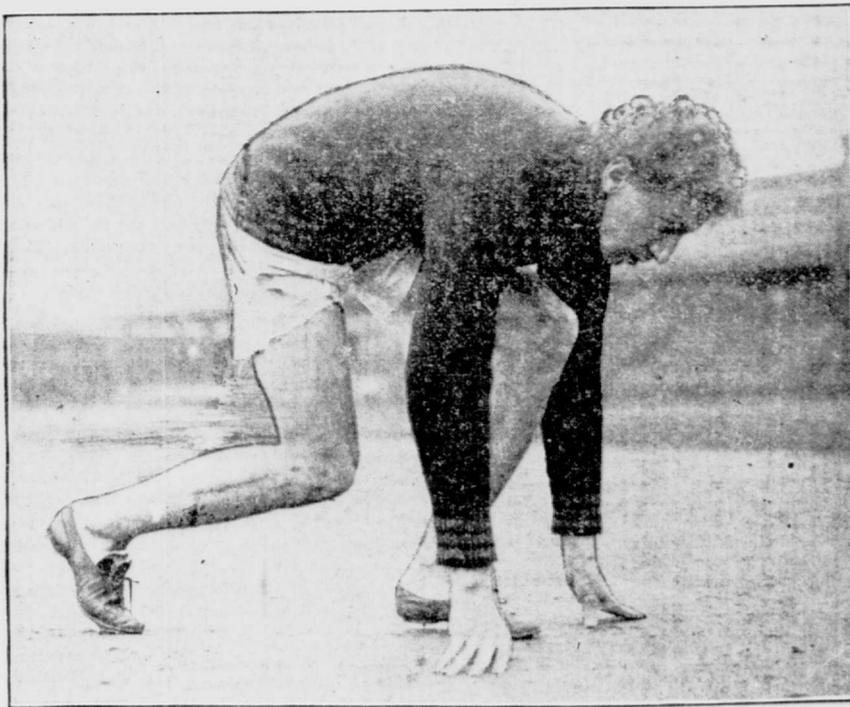
"I want to mention another source of criminal influence. It is considered subtle and mysterious, and while we have guessed much, we know little of its real power. Yet I believe that it is to be named and studied, and that any attempt to reckon with forces which make for crime would be incomplete without it. I mean that peculiar influence which is sometimes called 'personal magnetism' and sometimes 'hypnotism.' How far one person can control another by sheer force of will or by an overpowering charm we do not know, but we know that the power exists. The moral problem which arises in criminology from the extent of this subtle power is, then, Can the will of one well intentioned be so far controlled by one with criminal intent that he may be forced to do that against which his conscience rebels?

## THE EYRAUD-BOMPARD CASE.

"The classic illustration on this point is the famous case of Eyraud and Gabriel Bompard. I was in Paris when the case was tried. The public prosecutor, M. Beaurepaire, conducted the prosecution. The guilt of both the man and the woman, who had a share in the murder, was easily established. It became evident that the man would be guillotined, and there was only the uncertainty as to whether the woman would suffer the same fate. The claim was made in her defence that she had been under the hypnotic influence of the man and had been an unwilling accomplice, but that she did not share in the actual deed of murder. To prove the claim, the woman was put in an hypnotic state, and, while in that state, she was made to go through the act of murdering her victim. She placed the cord about his neck and tied the knot, but when told to draw the knot and strangle the victim, even while under the control of the hypnotist, she refused absolutely to act.

"The contention was made by the hypnotists of the Nancy school that this experiment proved, first, the contention of the woman's counsel that she was the victim of the man, and second, that it established the general principle that even in the hypnotic state one cannot be forced to do a deed repugnant to one's conscience. The case was subsequently much discussed in France. At the moment it served to save the woman's life. The same question will certainly be raised with equal seriousness in this country before long, and we are bound to admit and to understand the operation of the subtle force of personal magnetism and hypnotic control to a greater or less degree.

"I remember, when first coming to the University Settlement I found that the smallest boys' club at the settlement, consisting of boys from eight to ten years of age, had for its president the most diminutive member of the gang. I found, however, that he ruled the club firmly, and maintained order to a far greater degree than his physical stature would lead one to expect. There was a peculiar expression which I noticed in his eyes, and which led the other boys usually to do what he told them. Since the boy has grown older he has to a large degree lost that peculiar power, and I see it in other boys, some of whom are an influence for good and some of whom are an influence for bad. I repeat, then, that this subtle quality, however we may name it, is an element that may be reckoned with carefully and carefully observed, for it will produce results which we do not expect, and will explain why certain bad boys have a



ALVIN C. KRAENZLEIN, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.  
Champion hurdler and broad jumper of the United States and England.

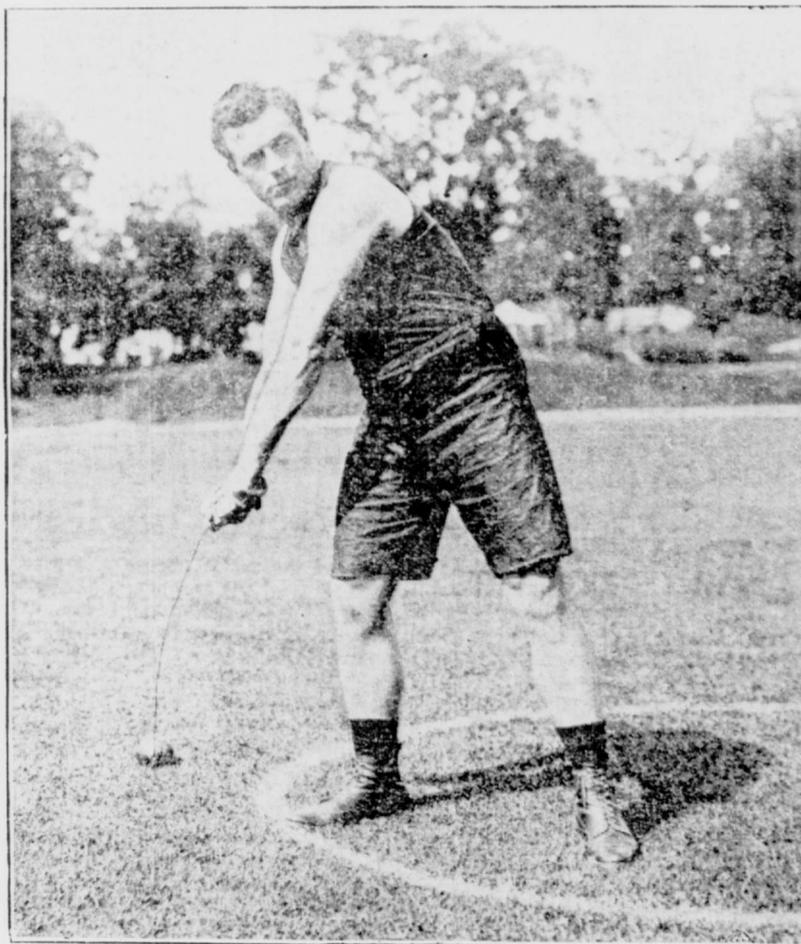
most undue influence over certain of their fellow mates.

## EVIL CHARACTER OF THE SOCIAL LIFE.

"The longer I live in one of the poorest quarters of New-York City, the more deeply I am impressed by the harm done to young people, and especially boys, through the evil character of the ordinary social life. We may take it for granted that every boy is a social being. He may not have a very large idea of home, but he has an extremely large idea of club life and of other social agencies. He feels himself to be an intensely social being. He is going to have his athletics in company with others, dramatic entertainments in company with others, he is going to have music in company with others, dancing in company with others, and he is going to do as much eating with others as he can. The character of the social-influences resulting from these desires is likely to be, therefore, a determining factor in the career of many boys. It is therefore most unfortunate that nearly every one of these agencies is preyed upon by those who wish to degrade rather than elevate, and to harm rather than help. The boy likes clubs, and we regard the instinct as natural; but observation teaches us that the candy store, the tobacco shop and the saloon are the three

clubs least seriously. A low tone of morality pervades the atmosphere of the clubs in both the candy store and the cigar shop. When the boy gets older and graduates, as some have held, by a natural graduation from cigar and tobacco to liquor, the depraving influence is more marked. I am not a Prohibitionist, and am not inclined to be much of an alarmist regarding the liquor question, but I am compelled to recognize that the saloon is, in the vast majority of cases, an agency which makes for unrighteousness, self-indulgence, lawlessness and poverty. The boys who enter the saloon as novices catch their spirit from the bartender, whose purpose, like that of a candy store keeper, is to encourage custom, and the clubs which gather in the saloons are always handled in such a way as to produce the largest amount of patronage of the bar.

"Against these well scattered centres of club life we can only oppose a few settlements and one or two wideawake churches. We have as yet in our city no recognized places where any club not having a bad purpose can find a gathering place. When our city has understood itself better, I am confident that it will realize the necessity of proper provision for these social needs. The public school buildings would seem



JOHN FLANAGAN, OF THE NEW-YORK ATHLETIC CLUB.  
Holder of the world's record for hammer throwing.

agencies which universally welcome such clubs, that each of these agencies is injurious.

"A recent study of boys' clubs in candy stores, made at the University Settlement by one of our young men, has shown that where such clubs are formed without any good purpose the selfish interest of a shopkeeper is the first bad purpose which creeps in, encouraging the boy in extravagance and in the purchase of unwholesome candy, and the same influence will encourage those members of the clubs who spend the most money and who take the possibilities of the

to be the proper centres for such privileges, and if it might be announced that any reputable club could secure a meeting place in any school building, subject to a payment of a moderate fee, our city would be working for good where it is now working for evil through one of the most universal instincts of boyhood as well as manhood.

"Then let us look at the dancing classes. There are many dancing classes in various parts of the East Side, but most of these meet in halls a part of or adjacent to saloons. The bar is within easy

access, which access is made more easy when the dancing class gives an entertainment. The proprietor knows when to embarrass liberal members of the class by a reminder of the bar, and when they will relieve their embarrassment by inviting their guests to drink. Here again we find a positive influence for bad, due to the kind of places in which such dancing classes alone can meet. The desire for this recreation is general, and opportunity for its expression vitiated because of the surroundings of the places in which dancing classes in the vast majority of cases meet.

## THE DRAMA AN INFLUENCE FOR GOOD.

"The Drama.—The East Side drama is perhaps the best of the social and recreative influences of the quarter. The plays presented compare more than favorably with those rendered in the uptown theatres. Virtue has its own reward, with interest at a high rate. Wickedness is condemned and punished amid the applause of all the spectators, and but for the sympathy which one is sometimes led to feel for the villain, upon whom misfortunes never come singly, one might feel that the moral influence of the drama could not be better. In fact, though the aesthetic quality is defective, the moral quality is usually wholesome and good; and I should be doubtful about speaking of the stage as an influence for evil to any great degree. The music halls are less reputable, and the music so largely theoretic that one can discount the proper influence of music and decide that the net result which gathers in most of the downtown music halls is in most cases of a doubtful character.

"The Influences of Government.—The character of the government in the city, State and Nation affects all classes, and I doubt if it is realized that the government affects the moral character of the poor to a far larger degree than it affects the moral character of the middle and upper classes. The government controls the physical condition of the life of the poor through its inspection of the tenement houses, its Fire Department regulations, the efficiency and character of its street cleaning work and of its Building Department. The enterprise of its Park Department provides most of the recreative privileges which the poor can enjoy. Its public schools provide the only public privilege to which the poor can aspire. These places present to the children of the poor their most clearly defined conception of the embodiment of law.

"What help our poor boys would be, what will be the character of their physical surroundings, what the kind of education which they receive, what their theory of law and order, will come directly or indirectly from the public officials whom they see personally or by whose acts they are affected. At the time of the Lexow Committee the small ragamuffins all over the city invented a game called 'Protection,' which they used to play with the greatest delight. The public was amused, but some of us had occasion to take the joke very seriously. It meant that hundreds and thousands of boys had reached the conviction that law and order were a farce, and that that conviction, established in boyhood, would bring forth disastrous fruitage in later years. We are dealing with some of those gamblers now, and some of them are filling our jails and reformatories because of their further reflection on the subject of law and order. Wherever you find an ignorant government and a corrupt government there you will find a tremendous force working to the degradation of the character of the boys of your community."

## MOSQUITOES AND MOSQUITOES.

HOW TO DISTINGUISH ANOPHELES FROM CULEX  
PIPIENS.

At one of the section meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science last month, Dr. L. O. Howard, arch bugologist of the Agricultural Department, read a paper on the differences which he has observed between the genus mosquito (*Anopheles*) which has a share in the dissemination of malaria, and the kind (*Culex pipiens*) which merely bites you and sings. Some of the distinctions pointed out relate to the eggs, larvae and pupae. But there are four which may be detected readily by a comparison of the full grown insects.

The anopheles has patches, or spots, on its wings, for which reason it adds "maculata," or "quadrimaculata" to its name. The culex lacks any marking of this sort. The palpi, or feelers, of the anopheles are much longer than those of the culex. While in a position of repose on the walls of a room, the malarial mosquito's body stands out at almost a right angle therewith, this peculiarity being more marked on the ceiling than on the side walls. The culex keeps its body parallel with the wall. Finally the musical pitch of one insect's hum is about four full tones lower than the other's. The culex has a soprano voice, and the anopheles an alto. Dr. Howard made no reference, corroborative or otherwise, to the alleged preference of the anopheles for attacking its victim only at night. It will be remembered that the two English doctors who are now experimenting with mosquitoes and malaria on the Roman Campagna ramble around freely during the day, but place themselves under netting as evening comes on.

## ONE SIDED RESEMBLANCE.

From The Chicago Tribune.

Near-Sighted Man (at reception)—Miss Furlong, how do you do? I am delighted to—  
Austere Matron—My name is Mrs. Freshup, sir. Do I look like Miss Furlong?  
Near-Sighted Man—I beg a thousand pardons! No, you do not resemble Miss Furlong in the slightest degree. She—er—happens to look a little like you.