SPEAKERS URGE CARE OF DANCES, IDIOTS, INSANE, AND CHILDREN

CITIES CALL TO PARENTS IS LOSS TO LITTLE CHILD

How The Street Urchin Loses Life and Is Taught To Swear and Gamble

THE NEED AND SUPERVISION OF PLAYGROUNDS.

Discussion by J. Herbert Wilson.

Two thousand years since the Greeks gave every free born child a chance to play. Nearly two thousand years since a man in Judea proclaimed the rights of childhood. One hundred and thirty eight years since the Declaration of Independence asserted the individuals "unalienable right to the pursuit of happiness" and yet in the year 1914 even in the United States of America tweny-two millions of children were without year-round playgrounds.

It is estimated that one-third of the population of this country is twenty-one years of age. Divide the population of your city or town by three. Is your community adequately providing for the recreation of your young people. Some of us have a few summer playgrounds. We may have a Y. M. C. A. or a Y. W. C. A., or a boy's or a girl's club, or all of them, but these only reach a small part of our young people. Most noticable is the lack of any opportunity for clean, wholesome recreation for the working girl. The greatest asset of any city is in its young boys and girls. The future of our country, the future of your individual communities depends upon the character and form of citizenship which is being instilled into the lives of the boys and girls of today.

We are spending large sums of money on our schools and the instruction of our children for five or six hours a day, then after school hours, most of our children are allowed to run the streets with no supervision whatever, and much of the good result which we expect from their schooling is counteracted by the evil which comes into their lives during their leisure time. It is practically the same as if during the process of the manufacture of steel goods we stored them in a leaky warehouse and took our chances on their being destroyed by rain.

NEED OF PLAYGROUNDS.

Many people think that playgrounds are unnecessary and that our children would not make use of them. This reminds me of a conversation that took place in the club the other evening. Several of us were discussing the fact of how much more it cost to run a house now than it did a few years ago. We have an attendant who has been with us something over twenty years, who is inclined to take liberties sometimes. He overheard the conversation and said, "You all know my wife is al'ays axing me to money. Last Sa'day she wanted fo dollars, Sunday she wanted sebenty cents, Monday she wanted seben dollars and yast'day she wanted to dollars agin." One of us asked him what she did with all that money. He said: "I dunno, I nebber give her any." Many communities don't know what their children would do with playgrounds, because they have never given them any.

Recreation is the need of every normal boy and girl, and every child should be given opportunities for clean, wholesome recreation. The invention of machinery and our modern form of industry has caused great changes in our every day life. Formerly the majority of the people lived in rural districts. The children went to school two or three months in a year, they had an active part in the business of the farm, even the smallest children had some regular chores to attend to. A great part of their time was spent out of doors, and their work and rcereation were so intermingled that the result was usually strong and healthy children.

CITIES CALL THE PEOPLE

Today is the day when economy of production requires that the process of manufacture as far as possible shall be carried on under one roof. This has brought men in increasingly large numbers to the cities. Not only have the cities called the people from our own rural districts, but our call for labor has gone out to the uttermost parts of the earth, and the people of the uttermost parts of the earth have responded, until we have in New England, and in Connecticut especially, a condition with which no other country has been coonfronted in the history of the world. Many of our cities are made up of a population, over one-half of which is foreign born, or of foreign born parentage. Each of the thirty or more nationalities which go to make up the population of Connecticut, have good qualities which might be made to contribute to the general welfare of the state. The problem is to bring out the good, and eliminate the bad. I believe that our cities will eventually accomplish this result, and they will accomplish it directly through the mobilizing influence of the public playgrounds.

STREETS DANGEROUS PLAYGROUNDS.

Will you go with me into a crowded tenement and select a typical boy or girl of today, watch them in their home life and in their play. They have no opportunity for recreation in the home, they have little or no yard space, and where you do find a yard it is so often filled with rubbish that it is a very poor place to play. The streets which for years have been the common meeting place and playground for children, are becoming exceedingly dangerous. A short time ago a friend of mine was riding in her automobile in New Britain. Some children were playing on the side walk, and one boy being chased by another, ran out into the street without looking where he was going. He darted in front of my friend's automobile, which ran over and killed him. It all happened so quickly that the driver absolutely had no time to stop or turn out. Two weeks ago when I was in Waterbury, a little girl ran behind a trolley car, and a car coming from the opposite direction ran over her, practically severing her head from her body. Two months ago I saw a boy who had been playing on the railroad tracks. A train had run over his leg taking off a part of his foot, and he will be crippled for life. During ten days the newspavers reported that twenty-two children were killed and ninety-five children were injured while playing on the public streets of this country.

In answer to the questions asked of a large number of school girls as to what they did with their leisure time, many of them answered: "I and my friends go walking on Main street. They form a habit that leads to the making of indiscriminate acquaintances and their lives are ruined. Who is to blame? Is the child to blame for playing in the only open spaces which he has? Is the motor-man, chauffeur, or the railroad company always to blame, or is the community to blame for not furnishing spaces for play. Children have a right to play, and will play, but no boy will leave a swimming pool, or a well equipped baseball ground to play on the trolley tracks.

For lack of better places to play many children will be found playing on the cities' dumping grounds, on the dangerous streets, pitcing pennies and shooting craps in secluded alleys. Is this the kind of play we wish our children to have? They should have clean, open spaces for wholesome character building play.

NO PLACE FOR BOYS TO PLAY.

In many cities, in fact in most cities during holidays and after school hours the school yards are closed and no children are allowed to play in them.

If the boys attempt to play ball in the streets they are chased away or arrested by the "cop." If they are fortunate enough to find a vacant lot on which to play it is soon taken for a building.

A friend of mine who has watched the boys of South Norwalk for several years, in telling me of their experience of being forced from one vacant lot to another, each one a little further from their homes, called it "The Tale of the Hunted." She says the children are just hunted or driven from one lot to another, until she had commenced to wonder if the time would not soon arrive when, in that city, there would be no opportunity for play. She welcomed the suggestion of public playgrounds, and is now working toward the securing of play spaces for the children of South Norwalk.

Fortunately or unfortunately, my early life was spent on the outskirts of a growing city. When I was eight years old I remember our playground was a large tract of land, containing two baseball diamonds, some small trees and shrubbery with plenty of opportunity for playing wild Indians. But in a short time this section was cut up into building lots, and my family moved into a house in that section. We still had vacant lots here and there on which we could play, but we lost them one at a time until we were evenaually forced into the streets. I remember distinctly, while flying a kite, being chased from the streets by a policeman, because the kite scared the horses on the street cars. Now that street is paved with asphalt, trollies and automobiles make it an exceedingly dangerous place for children to play, and there are no open spaces within three quarters of a mile. In order that these children may have nature's right to play preserved, it will be necessary for Syracuse to spend a large amount of money for a playground in that section of the city. A playground could have been secured thirty years ago for very much less than it can now, for $1,000 will not nuy as much land in that section today as $100 would 30 years ago.

BUY PLAYGROUNDS NOW.

The right time for any city to secure playgrounds is now, before the land advances in value. Four or five years ago some of the people of New Britain agitated the proposition of buying land for a public park and playground, but failed to get the appropriation made. This spring they authorized a bond issue for that purpose, but as the first track of land was cut up into building lots, they had to go a mile and a half farther from the center, and purchase a piece of land no better suited to the purpose, and pay as much for it as the other piece would have cost five years ago. A few years ago New York city paid $1,800,000 for a tract of land of less than two acres.

Under present conditions the childre nare really losing their play life and many of them are becoming just loafers. Last year in Cleveland, Detroit, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Montclair, Providence and Richmond, cities of various sizes in widely separated sections of the country, 24,000 children were observed during the process of recreation surveys. Fifty per cent were idle—absolutely doing nothing; thirteen per cent were working, and only thirty-seven per cent were playing, and over half of these were just fooling, pushing each other, teasing smaller children, shooting craps or pitching pennies There was very little constructive or educative play which would be of any real benefit to them, such play as Wellington spoke of when he said that "the battle f Waterloo was won on the cricket and football fields of England." Many of the children of today do not know how to play. You can test this fact for yourself by remembering the dozen or more games which were popular when you were children, and then observing how few of them are being played today.

GOOD STRONGER THAN EVIL.

There is a real need for children to play if they are to be healthy. They cannot play on the streets without great danger, therefore they must have play spaces. Children are born with the instinct to play, to run, to throw, chase and be chased are strong racial instincts and must have some outlet. Judge Lindsay says there are no bad boys, and in the same sense there are no "good boys." Life is made up of good and evil, but I thoroughly believe that good is stronger than evil, and if given the same opportunity good will predominate. In nearly every instance offenders in our juvenile court are there simply because they have followed a racial instinct to throw, and in throwing stones have broken windows. They want to be chased, and have done something to get the policeman to chase them. In some cities boys are arrested for playing baseball on the streets. If these children were given opportunity to play under good conditions I am sure that they would prefer it.

An ideal recreation system would furnish opportunity for small children to play within a short distance from their homes, it will furnish opportunities for baseball for the older boys, play space for the older girls, public swimming pools and baths and neighborhood recreation centers, preferably I believe in connection with the school houses.

PLAY DIRECTORS NEEDED.

Some cities with large equipment have made failures of their recreation work because of a lack of trained leadership. Every man and every woman on each individual playgrounds must have the characteristics of a leader. We might just as well open our school houses without any teachers as to open playgrounds without play directors. The aim of both schools and playgrounds is to build character and make for good citizenship. Good character is made more through playing of games, and the manner in which they are played, than in the scchool houses. Bad use of leisure time always makes for bad character. The boy without a playground is father to the man without a job. On a recent visit to Newark I made an inspection of their playground system. All of their playgrounds with the exception of one, were very well attended, and there was a fine spirit displayed by the children. The playground where there were but few children in attendance and these not doing much but standing a round, was one of the best equipped playgrounds in the city—but the right leadership was lacking. There was to be a change in play directors the next day. The supervisor told me that it was the leadership which made all the difference. He spoke of one man who was full of enthusiasm and a fine playground director. This man he told me, had built up the attendance of three hundred playgrounds.

Philadelphia a few years ago, at a cost of one million dollars, tore down the buildings from one entire square and put in playgrounds. A friend of mine who was interested in play grounds visited Philadelphia, and one day pointed to this playground and asked a policeman, "What is that thing over there?" The policeman replied that it was a playground, and when asked what it was for he said: "It is a place for the children to play, and you ought to come here when school is out, about half an hour later. If you could have seen this place before we had the playground this would do your heart good. This was one of the worst sections of the city. On that side was a negro settlement, and on this side over Here was an Italian settlement, and they quarreled and fought all the time. It took two or three policemen to look after this section of the city. Now we have got a wonder of a man running this playground. But come around in half an hour when the children are out of school and see." My friend returned just as the school was closing, and was met by the policeman —"See them come," said he as he directed my friend's attention to the road on one side and the other—filled with the children trouping to the playground. The playground soon filled, and in a few minutes the children were busy, some with one activity and some with another. The policeman said "That man is worth a dozen policemen. I don't see how he does it but he does."

HEALTH REQUIRES PLAYGROUNDS.

We need playgrounds to build up the health of our children, sitting still as they do for so many hours at school desks, they need very active play to counteract this sedentary occupation. With the increased time required by them in the school houses and the eliminating of the chores which they used to have to do, some active form of play must be promoted to keep their bodies in a good physical balance.

We need playgrounds to assimilate the large number of children of various nationalities which we have in our commonwealth. When the first playground in New Britain was started, we noticed that in choosing up for a game of baseball, a Swede would choose all Swedes, an Italian all Italians irrespective of their ability as ball players. But if you visit there now you will find two Irish boys choosing Swedes, Germans, Poles, Italians and other nationalities according to their ability to play the national game, and as far as dividing into groups goes it is according to ability only. The playground is the greatest leveler of nationalities and caste that I know of.

We need playgrounds to develop all those altruistic aspects of character which it is not possible to develop in the schools. We have many restrictive laws to promote the welfare of our children, but it is time that something should be done along constructive lines towards the formation of character and good habits. The children of our crowded tenements are not the only ones that need playgrounds. They are needed by every child in our community, just as much as our public schools are needed.

CHILDREN ADDICTED TO SWEARING

All children should have the benefit of playing with their fellows. Many children are kept at home to play by themselves because their parents do not wish them to swear and learn bad habits of other children, and in many ways you cannot blame the parents. I happened to be at home last Saturday and there was a ball game in progress in a nearby lot, between teams made up of the children from two of our most select residential streets. There was more swearing during that one game than you would hear on a public playground in a month. It is in these games where boys learn to cheat if they can do so without being caught. A supervised playground in this section would mean that this swearing and cheating would be eliminated, and that the playground would become a wholesome moral force as well as simply a place for physical development.

The greatest opportunities for the improvement o f the race come through the use which is made of the leisure time. We spend $20 to $25 per year per capita to educate our child, and then in many instances through the misuse of the child's leisure, bad influences come into his life which nullify all the time and money which has been spent on his education.

Our large factories which are the life of our city have created conditions which we have never had to deal with before. A boy or a girl will work at a machine all day performing over and over again the same mechanical motion. This boy or girl must have some intensely interesting play outside of factory hours to counteract this work if they are to become useful citizens. Our men need different recreation than our boys; our women need something that has not yet been discovered; our girls need some sort of reccreation where they can meet young men under favorable and legitimate conditions. At present the only place many girls have is the public dance hall, which is run on a commercial basis only to make money. There are plenty of problems to be solved along the lines of public recreation.

In our public school buildings we have large plants which are used only six or seven hours a day, five days in a week, for about thirty weeks a year, which with comparatively slight expense could be made available for recreation purposes almost every day in every week of the year.

RECREATION SECRETARIES.

Eighty-three cities out of the 643 which are conducting recreation now have recreation secretaries who are employed by the municipalities to give their entire time to the recreation problems. The work of these recreation secretaries covers:

Organization and executive management of outdoor playground system; selection and training of play leaders; selection, purchase and installation of equipment; planning of buildings for recreation purposes.

Responsibility for recreation centers.

Responsibility for children's gardens.

Responsibility for conducting badge tests for both boys and girls throughou the city.

Arrangements for the celebration of holidays.

Arrangements for pageants.

Co-operation in the promotion of Boy Scout activities.

Co-operation in the promotion of Camp Fire Girls Activities.

Arrangements for summer camps.

Provision for band concerts and other municipal music.

Studying recreation conditions in different sections of the city to attempt to meet any special conditions found.

Arrangements for ice skating in winter, if necessary through flooding of vacant lots.

Arranging for coasting places, if necessary, by having certain streets set aside and properly guarded.

Promotion of school athletics, of school baseball, basket-ball, volley-ball leagues and of all recreation activities for school boys and girls outside of regular school hours.

If you feel that you would like to have started in your city an adequate comprehensive recreation system which will in time give every person opportunity for play and recreation, not only for a few months at a time but for the year around, the Playground and Recreation Association of America will be glad to co-operate with you and with the help of one of their field secretaries will accomplish this result. So far in every city in which they have worked they have accomplished results that are entirely satisfactory to the community which invited them to come.

I saw recently, in a city of 130,000 inhabitants, an example of American needs and opportunities which are important, but little understood.

Four years ago the city council appropriated $7,000 for playgrounds, that it became a "recreation movement" backwards, growing weaker year by year. Finally, the original friends of the movement said, a year ago: "The latest appropriation (only $2,500) is the last that Exville will ever make for playgrounds; we have tried them and found them unsatisfactory."

"How many Exvilles are there?" Altogether 533 American cities were active in playground or recreation movements last year. But only 285 had supervised playgrounds. The other 248, at least, are in danger of auto-vaccination—of having such inadequate, unsatisfactory playgrounds that the people will become discouraged and the development of effective recreational facilities will be prevented or postponed.

WHAT SAVED EXVILLE.

"What is the answer?" Exactly what saved Exville. One of the nine field secretaries of the Playground and Recreation Association of America gave, on request, ten weeks—about one-fifth of a year—of competent service. This cost, for salary and all expenses, $1,000. It gave Exville: First, an understanding of her own needs; second, a vision of what a modern recreation movement means in the most successful cities; third, a program—practicable, progressive, irresistible.

This $1,000 will bring to Exville's children at least $7,500 this year, and within a few years, from $100,000 to $500,000. And, the very first expenditure will be for a commissioner or director of recreation—to select and train play leaders, to exercise a growing inuence over all forms of recreation, and, in short to do for leisure time what the superintendent of schools does for the hours of formal education.

Five days' time of a field secretary in a town of 8,000, at a cost of about $100 secured a smiliar result for their city.

Another man writes from a city in the middle west: "We feel that we have jumped a clear gap of ten years in our local recreation situation. We have been going along in a hap-hazard way for some years, with nc early prospect of having the work assumed by those who ought to assume it—the municipality. And yet in these three weeks this happy result has been accomplished. Our relief and delight is quite beyond words.

Your field secretary ought not to have the whole credit. I have heard criticism of the work of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, and have failed to see the point of such criticism. But now, I know the absolute folly of such criticism. No possible concerted action of our loyal local playground group could possibly have achieved what your authoritative expert has achieved. In less than two months he has given a centralized proporly-co-ordinated system of municipal recreation to three municipalities, leaving the community in each case with all elements fully harmonized. This appeals to me as a tremendous achievement, and if this sort of thing is being done elsewhere by your other field men, then your association is doing a basic piece of constructive social work second to none in the land.

I believe I see the ideal which you possess, and which has been animating the work you have been doing in directing the association, and must take the liberty of adding my word of faith and confidence in it. If you can give America a decade more of such constructive work, you will have changed the direction of American life. This is strong language, but it arises from deep conviction, and I am sure, may fairly be regarded as representative of the attitude of us all here."

MOVEMENT SWEEPING AMERICA.

Like a great but growing tide, the Playground movement is sweeping over America. "It is too rapid." Yes, but why? Because it is timely. Because it answers to some of the social instincts in men's minds and hearts.

From 30 to 40 cities are new recruits each year. Over 6,000 playleaders were employed last year; nearly $6,000,000 were expended last year, in addition to large bond issues for the securing of land.

This tide can not be checked. It can be guided. Such guidance is one of America's gravest needs and largest opportunities. What we should do is to get together and provide all the children, all the young people with wholesome places and ways in which to play; and let us do this, using the same machinery with which we have done the rest. Let us have more great playground commissions, as part of the essential structure of our municipal, county, state and federal governments. Then will life be happier and richer in real things. Let us use our government so that we shall realize truly the sentiment expressed in the Declaration of Independence that "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal" and with "unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

And the last four words. If they mean anything at all certaining mean playgrounds for children.

PAY FULL WAGES TO CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS

VOCATIONAL OR INDUSTRIAL TRAINING AND THE DEPENDENT CHILD

By Mary C. Welles, General Secretary

The Consumer's League of Conn.

Dependent or institutional children may be roughly grouped into three classes: the normal, children, who are placed in orphan asylums, county homes, etc.; the sub-normal physically, who are in most cases sub-normal mentally, who are placed in homes for crippled children, for incurables, etc.; and the sub-normal morally, who are sent to state reform schools, houses of correction, and the like. The problem is in each one of these groups a different one.

The largest of these groups includes the healthy, normal child most often found in the orphan asylum.

What is his special need in the way of vocational training?

Does it differ from the need of the grammar school child of the same age who must leave school early to go to work?

It differs in one particular only. In every other particular, his need is the same need exactly.

HOMELESS CHILD ENTITLED TO LIVING WAGE.

The one particular difference is this: That the homeless child should be enabled to earn a living wage immediately upon leaving the institution. His training should look forward to that. Here comes one test of what the institution has done for him.

The ordinary grammar school child who goes to work at the age of fourteen or fifteen is not expected to earn a living wage at first. He may serve an apprenticeship on small pay, if need be. In most cases he contributes to the family wage, but does not support himself.

If an institution is highly endowed so that the question of expense does not enter in, and if it mothers enough children so that they may be grouped into small classes and do not need individual instruction, the problem of vocational training is one of selection, method and correlation with the ordinary subjects of English, arithmetic and geography.

It should be borne in mind that most children under sixteen have not developed tastes very generally, and do not know their own aptitudes. It is not safe to assume that this boy should take up printing and that one cabinet making or agriculture. Rather such an institution may give a boy a survey over a number of subjects that he may find himself, as it were, yet give him enough special training in one so that he may be able to hold his own when he leaves the institution.

It is quite likely, however, that he may not remain permanently even in that particular work.

NATIONAL COURTS BAD.

If the institution is not sufficiently endowed, it is most likely that the children will attend the public schools and will have the advantage of the pre-vocational courses or the trade instruction which may be offered there.

But schools are slow to establish these courses. Moreover an institution having control of the child's time outside of school hours has thereby an opportunity and a responsibility.

In most institutions of this class, it seems to be the rule to set the children to work heldping, the girls dusting, cleaning, preparing vegetables, etc., the boys cleaning, working on the grounds, making repairs on the house etc.

Now, considerable time daily must be spent on this work.

It saves the institution money for service, and teaches the child to be handy and useful, but it can not be called vocational training.

It does not fit a girl to be a cook or nursemaid, or a boy to be a market gardener or carpenter.

Many children when they leave the institution do not fit in anywhere. It would seem that these institutions might urge the special needs of their children, wards of the public as they are, upon the state or the city.

On the one hand, they might advance the claims of these children to special instruction and training for lucrative employment in the public schools, pre-vocational courses in the upper grammar grades, and trade schools courses for those who enter the high school at an early age.

Again, they might urge upon the directors and patrons the desirability of so systematizing the work that what is done now in the way of helping may be turned to account in the way of special training.

Since these children may be retained in the institution a number of years, often until they are sixteen years old, a particularly good opportunity is offered these directors and patrons to do a particularly good piece of vocational training on their own premises. Furthermore, if they would join hands with the organizations which are advocating pre-vocational training in the public schools, and would actually help to secure the introduction of such work, they would not only extend their influence outside of the institution into a large public field but would simplify their own problems to a considerable extent.

"United, we stand; divided, we fall" may be interpreted to mean "Working together, we advance, and none so bold to hinder us; working by ourselves, we drag along with everybody in our way." As necessity is the mother of invention, so is co-operation the father of progress.

THE SECOND GROUP.

The problem of our second group, the sub-normal physically, and usually mentally, is a peculiar and well-nigh desperate one.

It is to create in the crippled child, the boy with a leg and a half, the girl with a wizened arm or twisted head, the ambition to be self-supporting.

Such children know that they have no chance in the struggle for life; no great rewards for effort will ever be theirs; they naturally fall back into the arms of the public that quite naturally mothers them and feel no more responsibility for their future than the child that tugs at its mother's skirts.

These children are usually trained to sedentary work that does not require a very high degree of concentration, like caning chairs, basketry, rug-making, etc. The products of this work are often quite lucrative, and the children are usually given a percentage of the sales, sometimes a third, the other two-thirds going to the institution and for the cost of materials.

One suggestion is modestly volunteered here, that the total amount of the sales be given the child, and that out of it he should pay for the cost of materials, rent and instruction all net profit to be retained by him.

The charge for rent and instruction may be put low enough to insure in all cases a fair profit for his work. Incidentally he would learn book-keeping. As his proficiency developed, the sales-price of his product would rise, his profits would increase, and ambition might develop as profits were

HOW PUBLIC DANCE HALLS AND BALLS SHOULD BE RUN

Conditions Throughout Country Said To Be Bad Threatening Welfare Of Nation

COMMERCIAL RECREATION LEGISLATION.

Miss Julia Schoenfeld.

"Legislation is designed to protect the youth of the city, boys as well as girls, from evil influences."

Recent investigation in Chicago, New York, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Cleveland and elsewhere has revealed methods by which commercial recreation enterprises operate. Conditions were exposed which show that corrupt inuences dominate many of these public places. Innocent amusement places were seen turned into vice-breeding dens, and, instead of simple social pleasure one saw drunkenness and immorality. The police witnessed all, but stood idly by, failing to see the crowds of young boys and girls who were there in violation of law.

DANCE HALLS.

In some public dance halls tough dancing was practiced; indecent liberties were permitted. Prostitutes mingled with the youthful throng of merrymakers, thus gaining recruits for the underworld. Evil-minded men danced with innocent young girls. Frequently rooming houses or disorderly places in the neighborhood were operated by the same men who managed the dance hall.

It was shown that the dance hall in many cases existed for the sale of liquor, the dance lasting but a few minutes while the intermissions were long.

The investigations showed the close connection of these conditions with crime.

WHAT IS A PUBLIC DANCE?

A public dance or public ball is any dance or ball to which admission can be had by the payment of a fee or by the purchase, possession or presentation of a ticket or token or in which a charge is made for caring for clothing or other property or any other dance to which the public may gain admission with or without the payment of the fee.

The following requirements should be sought for in working out legislation for dance halls:

1. A license should be required for the premises used for dance halls and not for the man who operates the hall. This places upon the owner of the hall responsibility for the conduct of the place.

2. Permits for public balls and dances should be exacted and satisfactory references furnished, in order that the type of frequenters of public halls may be regulated.

2. Regulations of the building and fire departments should be demanded in order to insure proper sanitation and adequate fire protection. Halls should be properly lighted and all rooms should be kept open. This gives an opportunity to close the small, dark, poorly-ventilated dance hall.

3. The sale of liquor should be prohibited.

4. The giving of return checks to dancers should be forbidden, so that the saloons and immoral places that exist in a neighborhood may not be utilized during the dancing period. Dance halls should not be allowed in connection with rooming houses or hotels.

5. Immoral dancing should be forbidden.

6. A reasonable hour for closing the dance should be enacted. Half-past twelve is suggested, with a possible special permit to be issued for later hours on occasion.

7. Attendance of minors under 18 should be forbidden unless accompanied by parent or guardian.

8. Inspection should be demanded and revocation of license or other penalty imposed for violation.

9. License fee should be at or graded according to the size of the dancing space.

MOTION PICTURES.

The rapid growth and phenomenal success of the motion picture show has produced many undesirable features which were brought to light. Investigation showed that the houses were poorly lighted and badly ventilated. They were overcrowded and dangerous because of inadequate fire protection. Degrading and vulgar vaudeville features existed.

While the influence of the National Board of Censorship has brought about a higher standard in motion pictures, yet many objectionable films were found. There were many special feature films which had not been viewed by the National Board and often the requirements of the National Board were not carried out when the films were shown. Children were permitted to enter at all hours in violation of State and municipal laws. However, the motion picture shows did not show the same degree of degredation as the dance halls. Their conditions were really the result of inferior city regulations, carelessness and a lack of intelligent service on the part of the inspectors.

MOTION PICTURES AND PENNY ARCADES.

Motion pictures shall be deemed a display on a screen or other device whereby pictures are displayed of characters or objects in motion, whether or not accompanied by music, lecture, recitation or song.

The following requirements should be sought for in working out legislation for motion picture shows:

1. A license for the premises used for motion picture shows.

2. Definition of motion pictures and motion picture theatre.

3. Regulations of the building and fire departments to insure proper sanitation and adequate fire protection.

4. Standards of lighting and ventilation, so framed as to be thoroughly enforcible.

5. Placing the question of censorship with the licensing authority, which will regulate the moral quality of the show, since through this authority it is possible to revoke or suspend a license, if the show is not up to a normal standard.

6. Requirement that children shall not be permitted to attend motion picture shows during school hours or after eight o'clock in the evening.

BILLIARD AND POOL ROOMS.

In the billiard and pool halls, and in the bowling alleys were found many of the degrading conditions that were in the dance halls. Patronized at all season by men and boys, they have been exploited until today they are associated with undesirable and objectionable conditions. Card tables, craps, in fact gambling in every form, was found; often these places were schools for crime; young boys were seen standing about, listening eagerly to the vile talk and stories that were bandied about by the old habitues.

Many of the halls were connected with saloons and much drunkenness was seen. Few cities have enacted any careful legislation and the supervision has been left entirely to the police department, which in many cities was shown to be ineffectual. Citizens have not been awake to the conditions that exist nor have they sought a remedy. Here the social opportunity for constructive legislation is large.

The passing of laws and the establishment of regulations for commercial amusement enterprises is of such recent date that it is quite impossible as yet to speak of results, but in the cities where the work has been followed, Kansas City, Denver and Cleveland, the judges of the juvenile courts have stated that juvenile crimes and immorality have greatly decreased.

There have been many enterprises competing with the commercial amusement enterprises and which have proven successful and helped to pull up the standard of the dance halls and motion picture shows.

It is far the better plan for a community to work in conjunction with the men who are in the commercial amusement enterprise and help them to raise their standard instead of opening competing enterprises.

In my personal work throughout the cities I have found that the men engaged in the business are willing to give to the public what the public wants and public opinion well organized and well directed will correct conditions and place this feature of recreation on a more wholesome basis.