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Crime and the prevention of crime has changed during the history of the human race. Not long since in many countries it was not a crime to avenge a seeming injustice. This gave rise to family feuds. Also in some countries it is no crime to do away with the aged and decrepid, the hopelessly diseased, it becomes a filial duty to destroy such. Perhaps there is some sense and justice in such action.

Polyandry or manifold marriage was and still is practiced in many countries as is cannibalism with general approval. Religious sentiment elevated into heinous crimes blasphemy, heresy, sacrilege, sorcery witchcraft and even science when it ran counter to the accepted dogmas of the church. Offenses multiply when people gather into communities, pretension and envy there take their toll in crimes against property. The law of the strongest where the weak went to the wall; authority, whether of the master or of the government of the many was resisted, and this resistance constituted crime.

So we find that crime is somewhat like the moral code, not universally established, for what is immoral or immoral in ~~xxxxxx~~ one country is highly moral in another. It is the essence of the majority of thought and conception of what is right or wrong. But there are fundamental crimes, acts that it takes no law of man to pronounce wrong and criminal. And it is to the prevention of these that we are asked to direct. The enactment of a law does not within itself make a certain act a crime, it is simply the imposing of the will of the majority.

The combat with crime was long waged with cruelty. Extreme penalties were provided in the nature of a sort of vengeance and retaliation. The harshness of those old penal codes makes a more enlightened people shudder at the atrocities perpetrated in the name of law. It was the custom to hang or decapitate, or otherwise take life in some more or less barbarous fashion. Victims were

put to death by breaking on the wheel, by torture, burning at the stake, by dismemberment and by flaying or boiling in oil. The old chinese had a penalty of burying a man in the earth, all but his head, then stuffing him with green rice, and pouring water into his mouth so that the rice swelled and burst the very vitals of the victim. These were the original ideas of riddance, of checking crime. It may have had its deterrent factor, but nevertheless it was heineously barbarous, and could not withstand the enlightenment of the human race. Gradually the methods changed, it was and became no longer a means of retaliation and revenge. The law encompassed a larger mission than to coerce criminals and force him to mend his ways. But no very great progress has been made in this direction. It is a momentous question, crime prevention. But the better thought finds that crime prevention must take place when the subject is of an age ~~sufficient~~ susceptible of reform, and from this thought must come more and more particular attention to the youth of the land.

• It is no rank assertion to make that the germ of crime universally is present in mankind, ever ready to show and grow under conditions favorable to its growth. Children show criminal tendencies in their earliest years. They exhibit evil traits and tendencies such as anger, resentment, mendacity, and are often selfish, greedy and ready to steal and secrete properties and things at the first opportunity. Happily the fatal consequences that would otherwise become terrible are checked by proper training, inculcation of proper ideals, growth of mental process such as prudence, reflection and a sense of moral responsibility, and these things are universally assisted and sustained by removal of temptation. And we are led to deduce that in proportion to this development being prevented or stifled, either owing to a natural brain defect or by lack of proper education and training, to the same extent is criminal mindedness prospered and advanced.

In the lower strata of society this tendency is largely increased by the conditions of life. The growth of criminals is greatly stimulated by undernourishment, moral and physical unhealth and disease and vice. And always there is the menace of heredity and example. The offspring of criminals are often impelled to follow in the footsteps of the criminal and mentally defective parent by the natural impishness and imitativeness. The seed being sown in a hotbed where it finds suitable soil and immediately takes root and flourishes. Crime finds its greatest nourishment from three very decided mental processes; malice, acquisitiveness and lust. Statistics compiled in England shows these three dominant factors of crime classified as follows:

Crimes of malice,	15%
Crimes of Greed	75%
Crimes of lust	10%.

• There can be no doubt of the fact that a step in the right directing has been taken by an act of the last legislature, although a sort of thieving sentiment has grown up among us that will bitterly combat the thought, and that is the sterilization of mental defectives and habitual criminal. Some will contend that as to criminals it is unusual punishment, as prescribed by the constitution. But the medical fraternity, by its advancement, has made this contention falacious. It now simply prevents the propagation of such mentalities and in no manner affects the subject in his everyday life. It is humane and clearly a step in the right direction. It must be surrounded, of course, by such restrictions as will prevent a too universal use culminating in injustice.

But the greatest preventive of crime is in the home, the greatest factor is the good and true mother, followed closely by the schools the churches and the Sunday schools.