

Stresses Need of School for Very Young Delinquent Children

Guest afternoon at the Klifa Club, yesterday, brought a large gathering of members and their guests to greet Mrs. Omeron H. Coolidge of Montpelier, deputy commissioner of public welfare in the State of Vermont, who was the speaker of the afternoon.

Mrs. Coolidge, who was introduced by Mrs. Chester M. Way, president of the Klifa Club, spoke in a general manner of the work of the Public Welfare Department and gave an interesting word picture of her activities in the welfare work in the State.

The speaker stressed, in particular, the need for a school to which may be sent the delinquent children who are too young to be sent to the present State institutions. Mrs. Coolidge spoke of the case of a child eight and one-half years of age, who faced being sent to the State Industrial school at Vergennes because Vermont at the present time has no means of taking care of the younger children. Some way of taking care of the young, delinquent children of the State, without having them mix with the older, more experienced boys and girls as they might if committed to the State Industrial school, was strongly advocated by Mrs. Coolidge.

She spoke of the work of Kinstead at Montpelier, a small school supported by private individuals, where children are cared for until they can be placed in suitable homes and given the care they need.

Mrs. Coolidge described the work of the various institutions, telling of the work being done at the women's reformatory at Rutland, pointing out that before the reformatory was started the women were kept at Windsor prison.

She told of the marked progress at the Vermont Industrial school at Vergennes and gave an insight into the work of the preventorium at Pittsford, the Bryant Health Camp for Girls, the Brandon school for Retarded Children and the work of the State Hospital at Waterbury.

Brief anecdotes of cases that have come before her were related by Mrs. Coolidge in illustration of her talk.

Mrs. Coolidge, whose talk was arranged by the civics and education committee of the Klifa Club, left for Montpelier immediately after giving her address.

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Sun, Nov 10, 2019