

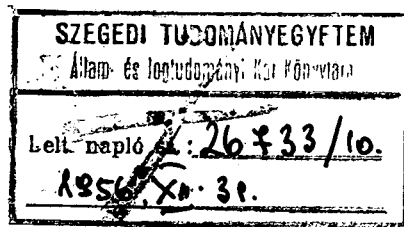
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS



---

---

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
FIRST DIVISION  
CHILDREN'S COURT



For the Year Ending December  
Thirty-one, One Thousand  
Nine Hundred and Nine

---

---

NEW YORK:  
THE J. W. PRATT COMPANY, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS  
52-58 DUANE STREET  
1910

ALMA MATER  
Alma és családneve  
Lélektan száma: ~~4338/10~~  
1969. DEC. 0

✓  
geljen

# COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

FIRST DIVISION



# CHILDREN'S COURT

---

---

Justices of the Court of Special Sessions who officiated in the Children's Court, First Division, during the year ending December 31, 1909:

Hon. WILLIAM E. WYATT

Hon. LORENZ ZELLER

Hon. WILLARD H. OLMSTED

Hon. JOHN B. MAYO

Hon. JOSEPH M. DEUEL

Hon. FRANKLIN C. HOYT

---

---

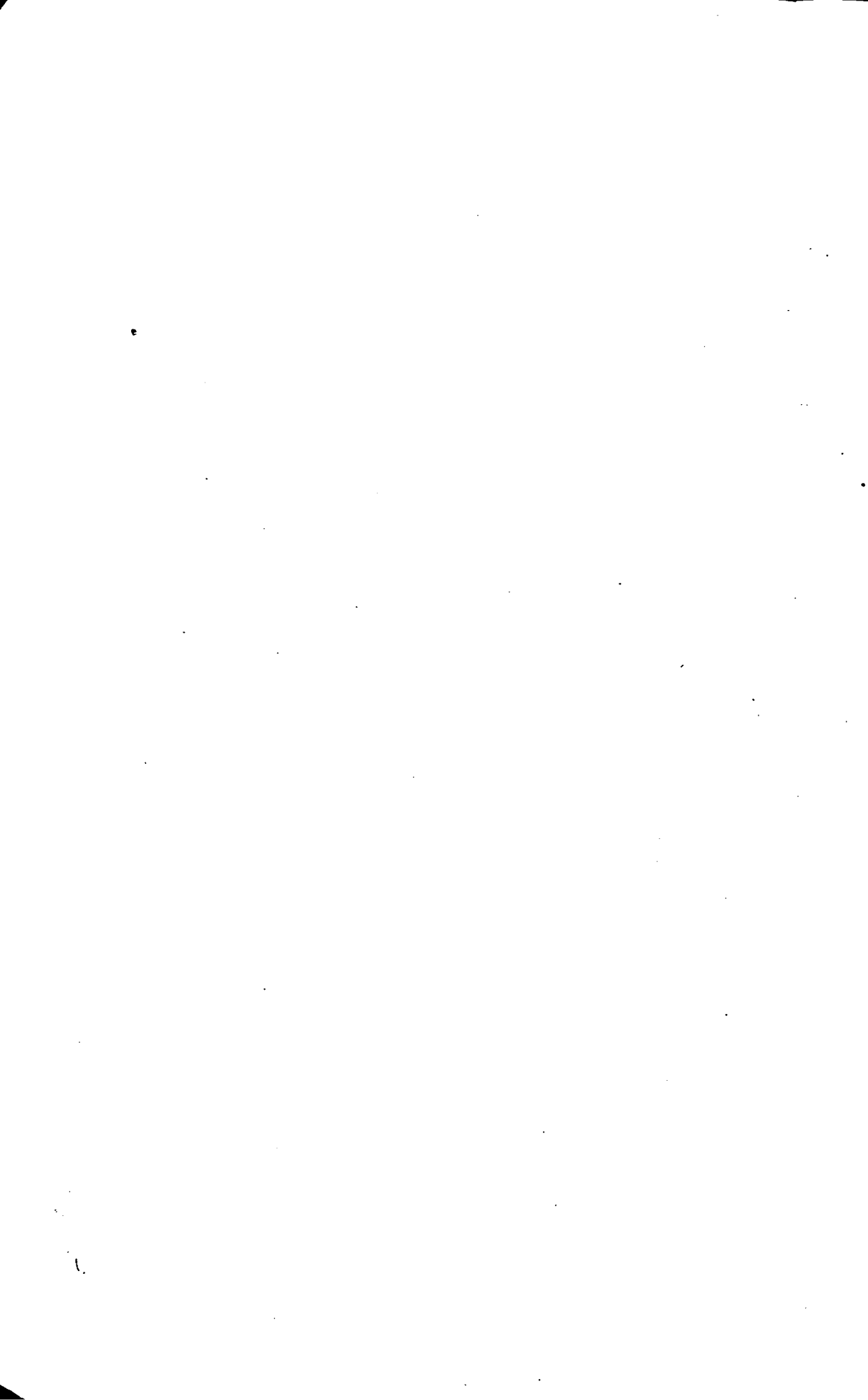
ERNEST K. COULTER

*Clerk*

ELMER L. CLARK

*Deputy Clerk*

66 THIRD AVENUE  
NEW YORK



# The Children's Court of New York

## FIRST DIVISION

---

---

To

HIS HONOR, WILLIAM J. GAYNOR,

Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:

In compliance with the provisions of Section 2 of Chapter 590 of the Laws of 1902, I herewith respectfully submit the following report of the work of the Children's Court, First Division, for the year ending December 31st, 1909.

New York City has two Children's Courts. The one now reporting, located at Eleventh Street and Third Avenue in the Borough of Manhattan, in volume and variety of business, exceeds that of any like tribunal, and therefore, fittingly, has been called "the world's biggest life saving station." Its work in withdrawing thousands from the procession of paupers and criminals that press onward to almshouses and penal institutions, and making of them future good citizens, entitles the Court to be regarded as one of the municipality's most valuable assets. Viewed merely in the cold light of dollars and cents the test of appraisal would be the civic difference in citizenship between preying parasites and profitable producers. The Court, in dealing with the multitude of children that comes before it each year, views each as a prospective citizen, an in-

dividual potentiality for good or evil. The thought of individual salvation is ever uppermost in dealing with each child. If, in the best interests of all, it is possible to rescue the child without commitment to an institution, this is done and he is saved to his home and the State at the same time. So it will be seen that of the 11,494 children arraigned in this one Court in the year 1909, only 1,792 were committed to institutions, either charitable or reformatory. During the year 1899, within the same territory, with a much smaller population, there were committed 1,455 by the City Magistrates alone, and by Special Sessions, 186, making a total of 1,641. It is generally agreed that a home for childhood must indeed be poor not to be better than the best institution ever created. The number of commitments by the Court in the year 1909, was less than in the previous year. It is a gratifying fact that there were only eighty-five more children arraigned in the year 1909, than during the year before, especially when it is remembered that the normal increase in population in Manhattan and The Bronx (New York County) over which the jurisdiction of the Children's Court of the First Division extends is 85,000 a year. The present population of New York County, according to the records of the Department of Health, is 2,787,762; of this number 881,410 are estimated by the Health Department to be under the age of sixteen years, so it would appear that only one child in 75 has been taken into custody in this county because of violations of law, including improper guardianship.

There has been a great awakening in the past decade to the injustice of the old methods of dealing with children who came into conflict with the law, and who, before the establishment of the Children's Court, were arraigned at the same bar and in company with adult thieves, drunkards and criminals of the most vicious classes. There has been a growing realization that these children are a plastic material in a formative state and easily moulded. The city has within its power to do with this material as it pleases, either to make it a bulwark to society or a menacing drain on the city's vitality. A vast number of the children who have been arraigned in the Children's Court came there through no fault of their own, but purely because of improper guardianship, neglect and evil environment.

When the conditions of congestion are considered, the lack of play space and the absence of opportunity for the child to indulge his normal energies and instincts, it can but be held that the cause of waywardness is more often the sins of the city against the child, than of the child against the city. One of the most important needs as revealed each day in the Children's Court, is more park and play space. It will be found, too, that practically one half (5,733) of the total of 11,494 were taken into custody because of trivial violations, generally known as disorderly conduct. Embraced within these provisions come offenses no more serious than the playing of ball in the street, building of bon-fires, the playing of "shinny" and other acts growing out of the child's normal instinct for play.

## CHILDREN SAVED FROM BRAND OF CRIMINAL.

A grouping of charges which in the case of adults would amount to arson, assaults, burglary, forgery, larcenies and felonies not otherwise classified, shows that in the past year only 1,803 children were taken into custody for these offenses. Under the same grouping of the more serious charges, 2,078 children were arraigned in the previous year. This indicates a gratifying decrease in the number of serious offenses committed by children. Under an old provision of law the commission by a child under the age of 16 years of a crime not capital or punishable by life imprisonment, which, if committed by an adult would be a felony, rendered such child guilty of a misdemeanor only.

By a wise amendment of the Penal Law which went into effect September 1st, 1909, Chapter 478, Laws of 1909, a child of more than seven and less than sixteen years of age who commits an act or omission, which, if committed by an adult, would be a crime not punishable by death or life imprisonment, "shall not be deemed guilty of any crime but of juvenile delinquency only." For statistical purposes—such law being in force but one third of the year—it has been necessary to show the nature of the offenses charged, but it should be emphatically stated here that in the spirit of this law no child is now convicted of being a criminal, but, since that law went into effect, has been adjudged simply as a juvenile delinquent. Classifying the children in this way, therefore, the violations of law for the entire year resolve themselves into those found in the following table:



	DISCHARGED		CONVICTED		PENDING		TOTAL	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Juvenile Delinquency....	1405	17	7137	47	12	1	8554	65
Improper Guardianship..	574	180	Found Without Proper Guardianship 806      418		16	13	1396	611
Disorderly Child.....	42	16	149	34	....	....	191	50
Ungovernable Child....	59	9	110	20	1	....	170	29
Wayward Girl.....	....	17	....	108	....	3	....	128
Truancy.....	26	3	260	7	....	....	286	10
Witness.....	3	....	....	....	....	....	3	....
Insanity.....	1	....	....	....	....	....	1	....
							10,601	893
GRAND TOTAL, 11,494								

#### ADVANTAGES OF THE PROPOSED NEW BUILDING.

The methods of procedure in the Children's Court are based on humanity and common sense. The Justice presiding is prosecutor, defendant's attorney, judge and jury in one; in fact, a big father in time of greatest need to the unfortunate children brought before him. Those charged with actual offenses are by law, of course, entitled to the benefit of counsel which they always receive, but there is no public prosecutor to hammer and harass the young defendants; nor, under the law last mentioned, would a public prosecutor have a right to appear and prosecute. His duties are confined by statute to crimes and offenses. Where the case seems to require it, ample time is taken for an investigation of home and other conditions. Frequently it is the delinquency of the parent rather than of the child that is responsible for the latter's appearance in Court. This condition being ascertained, the Court directs that specific improvements be made in

the home; often the child is released on parole on the condition that suitable corrections be made. Failure to obey, the parent is made to understand, will lead to the commitment of the child to an institution, because of improper guardianship, accompanied by an order requiring the father to pay the city for the child's maintenance while in such institution. The Court in this way often improves the condition of the parents as well as the children.

While New York was not the first city to have a permanent court for children, its Children's Court was the first in the world to hold its sessions in a building of its own. The requirement of a separation of children from adults was one of the fundamental features of the law establishing that Court. This Court was opened September 2nd, 1902. The building which was set apart for this purpose and is still in use, was erected in 1868, and for thirty-four years thereafter, was occupied by the old Department of Charities and Corrections. The structure, which never afforded adequate accommodations for handling the business of the Court, is to be replaced, and an appropriation of \$150,000 has recently been voted by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and the Board of Aldermen. With better physical accommodations the work of the Court will be greatly facilitated and aided.

It will be possible to incorporate in the new building certain features for which there has long been urgent need. In addition to a bright, cheerful and commodious court-room, it will be pos-

sible to have suitable detention rooms where the children can be comfortably kept pending the calling of their cases. It will be possible also to have a better separation of the younger from the older children, and those charged with actual offenses from those in custody merely because of improper guardianship. A nursery, too, will be provided for the very small children of this latter class. Suitable waiting rooms can be had for parents who are in necessary attendance, many of whom are obliged to bring infants with them. There will also be afforded adequate accommodations for the various religious and charitable organizations whose representatives are in court each day to aid in following up the cases before and after final disposition, and whose work is of inestimable value to the saving of these children to future good citizenship. Other features will be available, all of which it is believed will make this building a model in physical equipment for other Children's Courts throughout the world in the same manner that this court has been a model in past years in its methods of procedure.

The Court is visited yearly by numerous representatives of municipalities of this and foreign countries to study its methods with a view to reproducing courts of like character in their own cities. It is with gratification that all connected with this work now look forward to a building which is worthy of its great accomplishments and future promise.

## REACHING CAUSES OF MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

It has long been known scientifically that many adult criminals are the victims of conditions, acquired or hereditary, which result in a mental disturbance predisposing them to the development of criminal tendencies. With such cases the time for relief, if curative or ameliorating remedies are possible, is in youth and at the first indication of criminal tendencies, and the best opportunity therefor is through the Children's Court, whereto such unfortunates will naturally drift. It can thus be early determined, with suitable medical expert assistance, whether the difficulty is curable or incurable. Cures will be less expensive to the public than confinement in the charitable institutions and later on in reformatories, prisons and workhouses. The ascertainment of incurability will be of public value when youth ripens into full maturity. There are also cases of feeble minds that come through similar causes and susceptible of help sufficiently to stop the criminal inclination.

The Court has been experimenting somewhat in this direction and has the subject under most careful consideration. It lacks proper facilities for fully determining the value of such work. There is no institution to which such children ordinarily may be committed that possesses such facilities in any proper degree.

One simple case may be cited in illustration. A boy aged 15 was sent about two years ago to an institution for theft and it developed that because of mental deficiency it was impossible for him to write the simplest word, such as "the". He had been released therefrom but a very short time when he was

again arrested for stealing. As the Court realized the futility, so far as the child's welfare was concerned, of sending him back to such an institution, he was released on parole and the parents instructed to obtain proper medical attention for him. Within one week after release he was again taken into custody for theft. In the absence of any proper institution dealing with cases of this character it was necessary to send the boy back to the institution to which he had originally been committed at a yearly cost to the tax payers of over \$120.00. There are one or two institutions in the State where such a child can receive special treatment, but these are usually filled and have long waiting lists.

#### PROBLEMS DIFFERENT HERE FROM THOSE ELSEWHERE.

Owing to the dense congestion and the heterogeneous character of the population of this great city, its Children's Court is obliged to deal with problems different from those that arise in any similar tribunal in the world. While it is the spirit of prevention, rather than punishment that ever actuates the Court in its methods, it is necessary that the children, and especially those of foreign parents from the congested centres, have instilled in their minds a wholesome respect for the law. At the same time, they are taught in this quasi-pedagogical institution that the law is created for their benefit and not to oppress them. It is necessary also, to explain daily—and this chiefly because of the lack of play space—that the bigger the crowd the less the rights of the individual. In other words, while there is nothing

inherently wrong in playing ball or "shinny" in the streets, the property and personal rights of others must be considered. The lessons that are daily taught in this Court occasioned by the acts just mentioned, and including bon-fires on asphalt pavement and actual stone battles, are so numerous that it would be futile to attempt here to enumerate them. While money fortunes are not being litigated, the prizes are of far vaster worth—future citizenship. With this thought in mind, the Children's Court is entitled to rank as one of the State's most important tribunals.

#### NEW YORK'S PART IN CHILDREN'S LEGISLATION.

The statutes providing for Children's Courts and most of the laws for the protection and betterment of children originated in this country. While New York was not the first to have a permanent court for children, Chicago being entitled to that honor, this City was the first to have a separate detention place for minors under the age of sixteen years taken into custody by the authorities, and where they could be kept pending a final adjudication. The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in 1880, began to house most of the children taken into custody, and since April 19th, 1893, no child under the age of sixteen years has, so far as is known, been confined to a station house, prison or jail pending a disposition of the case in court. The New York Society was the pioneer organization of its kind in the history of child saving, and credit for the substantial way in which that institution was organized was due chiefly to the efforts of the Hon. Elbridge T. Gerry.

The Children's Court was established as a result of a later awakening on the part of the community to a new consciousness of its duty to the child. The first Court in New York whose jurisdiction covers New York County was established by the enactment of Chapter 590 of the Laws of 1902, of which the Hon. Joseph M. Deuel, now one of the Justices of this Court, was the author. The Court was opened on September 2, 1902, the Hon. Willard H. Olmsted presiding, and its success was assured from that day. From its first session to December 31st, 1909, a period of seven years and four months, 70,720 children were arraigned. The nature of the offenses charged have ranged from truancy and trifling misdemeanors growing out of street play to attempts at self-destruction, forgery, burglary and highway robbery. The only offense of which the Court does not have final jurisdiction is that of homicide. Out of the entire number of children arraigned since the opening of the Court, only 18,973 have been committed to institutions. In a great majority of these cases it will be found in the final analysis that commitments have been made necessary because of incompetent or unfit parents.

By a wise provision of law, the Justices who in turn preside in the Children's Court are enabled, at their discretion, to place the father of any committed child under an order to pay the city in whole or in part for the maintenance of such child in the institution to which it is committed. The enforcement of this law has had a beneficial effect in discouraging many parents

who seek to rid themselves of the support of their offspring. There was collected through the agency of The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children \$28,251.65 in the past year as the result of such Court orders. Where the father is able to pay and refuses, it is possible to have him committed to the penitentiary through the other Part of the Court of Special Sessions.

#### STRIKING RESULTS OF THE PROBATION WORK.

Since the opening of the Court in 1902, 10,053 children have been placed on probation. The records of the Court have shown from year to year that of all the children placed on probation about 86 per cent. have made such satisfactory progress that their commitment has not been necessary and they have been released under suspension of sentence, or discharged. A detailed statement by Mr. Thomas D. Walsh, Superintendent of The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which has had charge of the investigation of these probation cases, accompanies this report and shows what valuable aid the probation system of this Court has been in the work of placing these children safely on the way that leads to good citizenship.

The records of the Society, which go back to the time of its organization in 1874, are at all times accessible to the Court. These records are the most complete set of documents possessed by any such institution in the world. In the probation work the



Court has availed itself of the services of the trained investigators of the Society, who are peace officers. The results of these investigations made regularly while the child is on parole are reported to the Court and are of great assistance in determining what is for the best interest of the child and the community. There has been no indiscriminate application of the system where home conditions have been good and nothing more serious than thoughtless mischief the offense. The children placed on probation have, as a rule, been brought to Court because of offenses of a serious nature, or there have been home or other conditions that stood seriously in need of reformation. Often it has been necessary to bring about a complete change of environment. Sometimes unexpected influences either in the home, school or place of employment had to be overcome. The manner in which these problems are solvable is properly judicial and the work has been carried on under the Court's direct supervision.

#### VALUE OF CO-OPERATING CHARITABLE AGENCIES.

There are agencies working hand in hand with the Court, taking up those cases where, without such help, there would be danger of a lapse into the old conditions when the hand of the Court is released. The Roman Catholic Church is represented by a faithful committee of women under the direction of the Right Rev. Monseigneur D. J. McMahan, who follow up many of these cases, obtain proper employment for children legally entitled to work, place them in night classes, visit the homes

and in many other ways do splendid service. The Hebrews too, have representatives who look after cases of children of their own faith in a similar way. The Big Brothers, an organization of men of good will who are anxious to give all boys a chance who have been victims of bad environment, also aid in this department of the work, placing the boys who need it most in gymnasiums, special classes, obtaining proper employment, sending them to summer camps and in other ways proving to these youngsters that there is some one interested in their welfare. There is an effective response to this interest that is most gratifying. This is individual work which has no official connection with the Court, but which has been productive of great good. Protestant and Jewish boys in this way are now receiving great assistance from their Big Brothers' organizations.

A temporary home has recently been provided for Hebrew girls, who have been brought before the Court and who are in need of shelter and protection until they can safely be placed in proper employment or surroundings. This home has been established and is maintained under the direction of Mrs. Sophie C. Axman, who has had long experience in this field and is the female probation officer of the Court of Special Sessions. This is a most important and useful department of the work and has been of great help to the Court.

The capacity of Hawthorne School, the new and splendidly equipped institution, established a few years ago by the Jewish Protectory and Aid Society at Hawthorne, N. Y., has been increased within the past year by the building of more cottages.

Additional cottages, too, have been built at the Children's Village of The New York Juvenile Asylum at Chauncey, N. Y., so the Court is no longer embarrassed by the fact that it has no suitable places to which to send delinquent boys whose parents are of the Jewish or Protestant faith. The law requires that wherever possible a child who is committed must be sent to an institution of the same religious faith as that of its parents.

The Department of Education continues to have a representative present at each session of Court to assist in returning to school many children whose chief trouble has been truancy. They are there required to maintain regular attendance and good deportment; their failure in this respect resulting in re-arraignment and the administration of the necessary discipline. The opening of the new truant school by the Department of Education in the past year has been followed by the bringing to Court of more truants than ever before. The old truant school was generally filled to its capacity so that it was not possible to commit children there. The number committed for truancy in 1908 was seventy-four, while in 1909, it was two hundred and thirty-six.

#### THE JUSTICES WHO HAVE PRESIDED IN THE COURT.

The following named Justices of the Court of Special Sessions have in turn presided at the Children's Court during the year ending December 31st, 1909: Hon. William E. Wyatt, Hon. Willard H. Olmsted, Hon. Joseph M. Deuel, Hon. Lorenz Zeller, Hon. John B. Mayo, Hon. Franklin C. Hoyt.

Respectfully,

ERNEST K. COULTER,  
Clerk.

January 31, 1910.

COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS, CHILDREN'S COURT  
FIRST DIVISION

TABLE A

*Showing the Whole Number of Children Arraigned at the Court of Special Sessions of the First Division of The City of New York, Children's Court, during the year ending December 31, 1909.*

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Number of Children arrested by the police without } process .....	10,537	891	11,428
Number of Children arrested by warrant.....	63	3	66
Total.....	10,600	894	11,494

TABLE B

*Showing the Number of Children Convicted, the Number of Children Discharged and the Number of Children whose Cases are Pending in the Court of Special Sessions of the First Division of The City of New York, Children's Court, during the year ending December 31, 1909.*

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Number of Children convicted (including commitments under Sec. 291 P. C.) ..... (After April, 1909, Section 486 Penal Law).....	8,462	634	9,096
Number of Children discharged, comprising total of cases:			
(1) When no formal complaints were taken.....	840	28	868
(2) Acquittals.....	1,269	215	1,484
Number of cases pending.....	29	17	46
Total.....	10,600	894	11,494

COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS, CHILDREN'S COURT  
FIRST DIVISION

TABLE C

*Showing the Whole Number of Children Convicted, Committed to Reformatory and Other Institutions, the Number Released (not including Pending Parole Cases), and the Number Placed on Parole at the Court of Special Sessions of the First Division of The City of New York, Children's Court, during the year ending December 31, 1909.*

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<b>Number of Children Convicted:—</b>			
Committed to Reformatory and other institutions (Period Indefinite)..... (See "Committed after Parole" below )	1,154	411	1,565
Committed in Default of Payment of Fine.....	387	....	387
Committed for 1 to 6 months .....	66	....	66
<b>Number of Children Released:—</b>			
No Formal Complaints Taken .....	840	28	868
Acquitted.....	1,269	215	1,484
On Suspended Sentence after Conviction .....	3,857	17	3,874
(See "Sentence Suspended after Parole" below.)			
Released by Payment of Fine.....	1,375	4	1,379
<b>Number of Children Paroled:—</b>			
Sentence Suspended after Parole.....	845	19	864
Committed after Parole.....	120	28	148
On Parole Pending Disposition.....	365	48	413
Discharged after Parole .....	293	107	400
Pending Disposition (Not on Parole).....	29	17	46
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>11,494</b>

COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS, CHILDREN'S COURT  
FIRST DIVISION

TABLE D

*Showing the Whole Number of Children Committed to Reformatory and Other Institutions,  
from the Court of Special Sessions of the First Division of The City of New York,  
Children's Court, during the year ending December 31, 1909.*

NUMBER OF CHILDREN COMMITTED TO—	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
American Female Guardian Society .....	....	2	2
Asylum of the Sisters of St. Dominick.....	14	28	42
Colored Orphan Asylum .....	7	6	13
Dominican Convent of Our Lady of the Rosary.....	24	29	53
Five Points House of Industry .. .....	16	17	33
House of Mercy.....	....	14	14
House of Good Shepherd.....	....	59	59
House of Refuge .. .....	160	....	160
Hebrew Infant Asylum.....	1	1	2
Hebrew Orphan Asylum.....	7	15	22
Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society... ..	4	1	5
Institution of Mercy.....	51	45	96
Inst. of Missionary Sisters, Third Order of St. Francis ..	6	15	21
Mission of the Immaculate Virgin .. .....	31	11	42
New York Infant Asylum .....	1	..	1
New York Catholic Protectory.....	568	56	624
New York Juvenile Asylum....	116	....	116
St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum .....	1	....	1
St. Agatha's Home.....	9	17	26
St. Ann's Home .....	....	30	30
Society Prevention Cruelty to Children .....	2	6	8
Truant School.....	234	2	236
Hope Farm .....	10	33	43
New York State Training School for Girls (at Hudson) .....	....	35	35
Brooklyn Howard Colored Orphan Asylum .....	2	9	11
Department of Public Charities.....	3	2	5
Jewish Protectory .....	86	....	86
Good Counsel Training School for Girls.....	....	6	6
Total .....	1,353	439	1,792
Not included in above :			
Commitments for one day in default of payment of fine .....	....	....	374

COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS, CHILDREN'S COURT  
FIRST DIVISION

TABLE E \*

*Showing the Nature of all Offenses Charged, and Whether Discharged, Convicted or Pending,  
at the Court of Special Sessions of the First Division of The City of New York,  
Children's Court, during the year ending December 31, 1909.*

*Note—In the list below are included cases where there has been a final disposition, as well as  
those pending on parole.*

OFFENSES	DISCHARGED		CONVICTED		PENDING		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	M	F	
Arson .....	1	....	....	....	..	..	1
Assault (Felony) .....	45	3	46	....	2	..	96
Assault (Misdemeanor).....	69	2	52	1	..	..	124
Attempt at Suicide .....	1	....	....	....	..	..	1
Burglary.....	112	....	331	....	2	..	445
Crime Against Nature .....	7	....	1	....	..	..	8
Disorderly Child (§ 291 P.C.).... (After April, 1909, § 486 P. L.) .	42	16	149	34	..	..	241
Felonies not otherwise classified	3	....	14	....	..	..	17
Forgery .....	1	....	2	1	..	1	5
Fugitive from Justice .....	2	....	....	....	..	..	2
Greater New York Charter.....	7	....	11	....	..	..	18
Homicide.....	2	....	....	....	..	..	2
Improp. Guardianship (§291P.C.) (After April, 1909, § 486 P. L.)..	574	180	806	418	16	13	2,007
Insanity .....	1	....	....	....	..	..	1
Larceny (Felony).....	67	3	128	5	1	..	204
Larceny (Misdemeanor).....	235	4	535	16	3	..	793
Malicious Mischief (Misdemean'r)	7	....	7	....	..	..	14
Misdem'r not otherwise classified	7	1	16	1	..	..	25

COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS, CHILDREN'S COURT  
FIRST DIVISION

TABLE E—(Continued)

OFFENSES	DISCHARGED		CONVICTED		PENDING		TOTAL
	Male	Female	Male	Female	M	F	
Rape.....	1	....	....	....	..	..	1
Robbery.....	18	....	19	1	..	..	38
Unlawful Entry.....	17	....	46	....	..	..	63
Ungovernable Child (§ 291 P. C.) (After April, 1909, § 486 P.L.)..	59	9	110	20	1	..	199
Violation Compulsory Ed. Law.	26	3	260	7	..	..	296
Violation Corporation Ordinance	4	....	73	....	..	..	77
Violation Liquor Tax Law....	...	....	1	...	..	..	1
Violation Park Ordinances.....	5	....	34	....	..	..	39
Violation Sanitary Code.. ....	1	....	2	....	..	..	3
Vio. Sec. 675, Penal Code..... (From April, 1909, § 720 & 43 P.L.)	723	2	4,992	13	3	..	5,733
Violation Sec. 468, Penal Code (From April, 1909, § 1906 P.L.) .	2	....	58	....	..	..	60
Violation Sec. 410, Penal Code (From May, 1909, § 1897 P. L.) .	5	...	28	...	..	..	33
Violation Sec. 619a, Penal Code (From June, 1909, § 1566 P.L.)..	2	...	50	....	..	..	52
Violation Sec. 384e, Penal Code (From April, 1909, § 1610 P L.)	11	2	337	7	1	..	358
Violation Sec. 426, Penal Code (From April, 1909, § 1990 P. L.) .	26	....	106	....	..	..	132
Violation Sec. 635, Penal Code (From April, 1909, § 1991 P.L.) .	1	....	45	....	..	..	46
Violation Chap. 353, Laws 1886 (as amended).....	....	17	...	108	..	3	128
Violation Child Labor Law.....	21	....	203	2	..	..	226
Vagrancy.....	2	....	....	...	..	..	2
Witness.....	3	....	....	....	..	..	3
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>8,462</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11,494</b>

\* By amendment to the Penal Law, which went into effect September 1, 1909, a child of more than seven and less than sixteen years of age, who shall commit any act or omission which committed by an adult would be a crime, not punishable by death or life imprisonment, shall not be deemed guilty of any crime but of *Juvenile Delinquency* only.



COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS, CHILDREN'S COURT, FIRST DIVISION

TABLE F \*

Showing the Nativity of all Children Arraigned at the Court of Special Sessions of the First Division of the City of New York, Children's Court, during the year ending December 31, 1909.

OFFENSES	United States	Ireland	Germany	England	Scotland	France	Italy	Russia	Greece	Other Countries	TOTAL
Arson .....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Assault (Felony).....	67	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	9	12	.....	7	96
Assault (Misdemeanor).....	92	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	10	.....	9	124
Attempt at Suicide.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Burglary.....	368	.....	4	2	.....	1	40	20	1	9	445
Crime against Nature .....	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Disorderly Child (Sec. 291 P. C.)..... (After April, 1909, § 486 P. L.).....	182	1	2	1	.....	1	26	15	.....	13	241
Felonies not otherwise classified...	18	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	17
Forgery.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Fugitive from Justice.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Greater New York Charter.....	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	18
Homicide.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2







COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS, CHILDREN'S COURT  
FIRST DIVISION

TABLE G

*Showing the Ages of those Children Arraigned at the Court of Special Sessions of the  
First Division of The City of New York, Children's Court, during the year ending  
December 31, 1909.*

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Between the ages of 2 and 7 years.....	189	204	393
Between the ages of 7 and 12 years .....	2,529	217	2,746
Between the ages of 12 and 14 years.....	3,678	145	3,823
Between the ages of 14 and 16 years.....	4,204	328	4,532
Total.....	10,600	894	11,494

TABLE H

*Showing the Color of all Children Arraigned at the Court of Special Sessions of the  
First Division of The City of New York, Children's Court, during the year ending  
December 31, 1909.*

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
White.....	10,430	852	11,282
Black.....	170	42	212
Total.....	10,600	894	11,494

COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS, CHILDREN'S COURT  
FIRST DIVISION

TABLE J

*Showing the Whole Number of Children Convicted at the Court of Special Sessions of the First Division of The City of New York, Children's Court, also the Number of Children so convicted who were Committed to Reformatory or Other Institutions, the Number thereof upon whom Sentence was Suspended and the Number thereof whose cases are still Pending on Parole, during the year ending December 31, 1909.*

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Number of children convicted :			
Number of children committed to reformatory } or other institutions..... }	1,353	439	1,792
Number of children on whom sentence was sus- } pended..... }	4,702	36	4,738
Number of children whose cases are still pend- } ing on parole..... }	365	48	413
Number of children convicted and committed } for one day..... }	374	.....	374
Number of children convicted and discharged } on payment of fine..... }	1,375	4	1,379
Number of children convicted and discharged } after parole..... }	293	107	400
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>8,462</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>9,096</b>

TABLE K

*Showing the Whole Number of Children for whose Arrest Bench Warrants were Issued because of Violation of Parole Conditions, or Conditions under which Sentence was Suspended, during the year ending December 31, 1909.*

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Bench Warrants .....	109	3	112
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>109</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>112</b>

I hereby certify that the foregoing report contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct statement of the amount and kind of business transacted at the Court of Special Sessions of the First Division of The City of New York, Children's Court, during the year ending December 31, 1909.

ERNEST K. COULTER,

Sworn to before me, this 10th }  
day of January, 1910. }

*Clerk.*

VICTOR S. DODWORTH,  
*Notary Public, No. 60, N. Y. County.*

## CHILDREN'S COURT. FIRST DIVISION

## PAROLE REPORT

NEW YORK, December 31, 1909.

*To the Justices of the Court of Special Sessions.*

GENTLEMEN :

The parole of children is quite the most important branch of a Juvenile Court work. Not so much in the immediate analysis is the Court best able to decide what the child requires as in the results born of parole supervision, and while this supervision is delegated to trained and tactful representatives, the rate of reformatations will remain high.

Parole is the test that tells whether the boy's first error is wilful or accidental, whether he is the victim of influence and a boy who requires correctional care or one who is inherently bad. There are few of the latter class, and the results in the former tell more eloquently than mere words that all of the trials through which the system passed were worth the effort.

That this work is done with such admirable results, without any expense to the city, by disinterested sectarian volunteers, is one of the best arguments that it should remain free from political control. So much is in the balance in curbing wayward tendencies and saving boys and girls from the errors of their ways that every effort should be made to continue the work in the present high degree of efficiency which, aside from the saving of souls involved, represents a municipal economy of \$200,000 annually.

During the seven years of this Court's existence, 10,053 boys and girls have been given their freedom on parole; under an older method 90 per cent. of these would have been committed to reformatories. Of these 10,053, there have gone forth 9,747 never to be heard of again as juvenile offenders, or 87 per cent. have been put in better home surroundings, found work, or homes if need be, and while this work of regeneration was going on, the freedom of the child and the independence of the home were not interfered with.

The report of cases of children under the age of 16 years, arising in the Court of Special Sessions, First Division, Children's Court, and paroled from January 1, 1909, until December 31, 1909, inclusive, respectfully shows:

OFFENSES*	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Disorderly Conduct.....	286	2	288
Petit Larceny .....	371	13	384
Attempted Petit Larceny.....	4	.....	4
Grand Larceny.....	52	2	54
Attempted Grand Larceny.....	1	.....	1
Burglary .....	242	.....	242
Attempted Burglary.....	2	.....	2
Unlawful Entry .....	22	.....	22
No Proper Guardianship.....	330	107	437
Felonious Assault .....	20	1	21
Assault .....	30	.....	30
Robbery .....	14	.....	14
Attempted Robbery .....	1	.....	1
Peddling.....	50	2	52
Ungovernable Children.....	33	7	40
Disorderly Children.....	46	8	54
Viol. Compulsory Educational Law .....	21	2	23
In Danger of Becoming Morally Depraved .....	35	.....	35
Discharging Firearms.....	9	.....	9
Malicious Mischief .....	9	.....	9
Carrying Concealed Weapon.....	3	1	4
Forgery.....	1	.....	1
Robbing Mails .....	1	.....	1
Stealing Rides on Freight Trains.....	11	.....	11
Violating Park Ordinance.....	1	.....	1
Crimes Against Nature .....	1	.....	1
Soliciting and Using Transfers.....	9	.....	9
Destroying Public Property.....	5	.....	5
Breaking Street Lamps.....	1	.....	1
Attempting to Pick Pockets.....	17	.....	17
Violation of Child Labor Law.....	21	.....	21
Blackmail.....	1	.....	1
Violation of Corporation Ordinance.....	3	.....	3
Total.....	1,625	180	1,805

\*By amendment to the Penal Law, which went into effect September 1, 1909, a child of more than seven and less than sixteen years of age, who shall commit any act or omission which committed by an adult would be a crime, not punishable by death or life imprisonment, shall not be deemed guilty of any crime but of *Juvenile Delinquency* only.

## CHILDREN'S COURT, FIRST DIVISION

## PAROLE TABLE—(Continued)

DISPOSITION	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Sentence Suspended.....	1,034	24	1,058
Discharged.....	308	131	439
Committed for Violating Parole.....	177	22	199
Bench Warrants Unexecuted.....	18	1	19
Now on Parole.....	346	35	381
Dismissed.....	3		3
Total.....	1,886	213	2,099
Less number of cases arising in 1908 and disposed of in 1909.....			294
			1,805

TERMS OF PAROLE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Less than One Month.....	185	26	211
One Month.....	396	45	441
Two Months.....	797	54	851
Three Months.....	159	16	175
Four Months.....	57	22	79
Five Months.....	16	8	24
Six Months.....	11	5	16
Seven Months.....		1	1
Eight Months.....	3		3
Nine Months.....		1	1
Ten Months.....		1	1
Twelve Months.....	1	1	2
Total.....	1,625	180	1,805

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS D. WALSH,

*Superintendent.*

1220, '10, 1,000(P)

87574/13

