



The Family DOCTOR

by JOHN JOSEPH GAINES, M.D.

THE ADOPTED CHILD

I have been consulted frequently in regard to the adoption of a baby by the childless couple. Those interested are inspired by the highest, most noble, and sweetest of human impulses. I do not know of anything more fine and self-sacrificing, on the part of would-be parents, who by some freak of nature are denied children of their own.

But the sublimely-religious deed of adoption is fraught with perils. Granted that the "foundling" baby is free from the taint of underworld blood—passes the laboratory test with nothing plus; Granted that the parents are totally unknown—no estate claims or bobbing up of indigent ancestors to make trouble for the foster-parents in later years. There still remains the virile germ of INHERITED DISPOSITION. Like will—must—beget like. The wriggly snake cannot beget the dove.

Just recently an example came to my notice, which suggested this letter to you. A couple, well fixed with property, but denied the blessing of a baby, adopted a little boy from a foundling home. The foster parents were not over thirty-five, and the finest of characters. All the love of devoted parents was lavished on the little waif; no actual heir ever had better or sweeter parentage. I have known the adopters intimately since their youth. . . No more ideal home.

The adopted one is now eighteen, and isn't at home any more. He began lying to his guardians as soon as he found the value of falsehood to himself. He never missed the opportunity to deceive and run away—and commit all sorts of crime of juvenile sort. He forged checks; even stole whatever laid loose. No amount of pleadings and tears could feaze him—a natural born criminal. I'm glad it is not always that way.

After having her husband arrested for knocking her down and sitting on her, Mrs. Clara Hopper of Indianapolis, begged for his release.

LETTERS from Our Readers

Mr. Carroll Wilson,
Roanoke Rapids, N. C.

Dear Mr. Wilson:

You and your organization of workers have made it possible for the Local Red Cross to continue its service in this community. The officers of the Red Cross wish to express to you, your co-workers and the contributing public their sincere appreciation for the loyal support given in the recent Red Cross roll call. We hope the fullest relief to the most needy may result from this contribution.

Most sincerely,
MRS. T. W. M. LONG,
Pres. Local Red Cross Chapter

Mr. Editor:

I read, with interest, your editorial of November 23rd, on the increase of crime, and wish to congratulate you on so good and timely editorial.

The recent murders in our town and community and adjacent communities and the deeds of violence must cause every good citizen great concern.

There seems to exist a complete disregard and perhaps contempt for law with a certain class of citizens that makes them feel that they can commit a murder, theft or whatever they please and get by with it, believing that the chances are they will not be apprehended and punished.

A few months ago a man was found murdered just out of our town and his body thrown from the river bridge into the low grounds, and then a short time after that the writer drove up to the post office one Sunday morning to get his mail and an officer came up and said "I want you to go out on the edge of town and view the body of Marvel Cullom and sit on the Coroner's jury."

THE HERALD covers Roanoke Rapids like a first mortgage.

Here is the case of a young woman most brutally killed and no effort has been made to apprehend the guilty party or parties except the Coroner's effort. In my humble opinion this is a case that should not be allowed to pass by without further effort to solve it. It is a duty we owe to society and the citizenry of our community, county, state and nation. I do not blame our local officers for not solving this mustineus murder for I think they have attempted to do so, but I do think that the responsibility of running down the guilty ones rests heavily upon the governing bodys of our town and county.

Just a few weeks following this gruesome murder we woke up on another Sunday morning to find that another Roanoke Rapids citizen had been cut to death by an ex-convict who was boarding at his house over a trivial matter of 25 cents. This case however, was speedily brought to trial and the murderer found guilty and heavily sentenced by Judge Parker. Thanks to him for dealing out justice.

You ask what is the cause? Who is to blame? I agree with you that is hard to answer, but I believe that to a great degree public sentiment or lack of sentiment and interest is responsible. During all of the stir up of the coroner's investigation of the Cullim murder the writer, had only one man to approach him, as a member of the County governing body, to make some effort to apprehend the criminals. Now, suppose our town and county authorities had been approached by a number of citizens demanding that further efforts be made, this mystery would perhaps now be solved, and the guilty ones brought to the bar of justice. But, as stated above, only one man mentioned it to the writer. Therefore I say that the general public is to blame at least to some extent.

I was suprised to read in a recent issue of the News and Observer that North Carolina, instead of having a lesser percentage of crime than the national average, had a greater, and I say again it lies with the citizenship.

Think of the unfavorable pub-

licity our town gets from these crimes. Not only in other sections of our county, but all over the State you hear people ask "What is the matter with you people in Roanoke Rapids." It is becoming a "Little Chicago."

Let's do something in some way to prevent a recurrence of such crimes if possible.

Yours truly,
W. F. JOYNER.

CRIME

Silas H. Strawn, a former President of the American Bar Association, in speaking of the prevalence of crime, ascribed it to six causes:

(1) The increase and development in the means of communica-

tion, hard roads and high-powered automobiles, making the "get away" easy.

(2) The vastly increased wealth of our citizens and especially of the criminal classes, enabling them to buy fast motors and expensive firearms.

(3) Organized crime, which enables the underworld to make liberal contributions to political campaigns and to exert a powerful influence in politics.

(4) Delay in the apprehension and speedy punishment of criminals, due in part to the leniency and paltering of political judges.

(5) Apathy and indifference of our best citizens toward their duty as citizens.

(6) Unrestricted traffic in fire-



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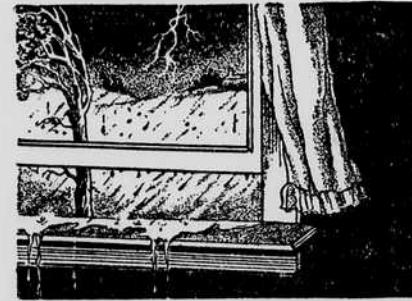
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