

KEEP GIRLS STRAIGHT

**Institutional Movies Would Be
Warning, Says Mrs. Downes,
Probation Officer.**

Use of the motion picture for the suppression of crime by showing the results and punishment of wrong doing will be urged by Mrs. Margaret Downes, women's probation officer for Onondaga County and candidate for motion picture censor. Mrs. Downes passed 88 per cent, and ranks seventh on the Civil Service list for appointment as official reviewer of motion picture films for the State. As there are eight to be appointed it is expected Mrs. Downes will be named.

"My experience in probation work," said Mrs. Downes today, where I come in contact with many girls who get beyond the control of their parents, leads me to believe if they were shown as a part of their education how the law deals with such cases and what it means to be sent to the various institutions, it would in a large measure check these cases.

"Last week I had a case of a young girl who had become unruly. When I visited her home and told her I would have to send her to an institution she impudently remarked, 'I don't care,' but when she was taken there and saw herself shut in by the tall, cold, grey walls, she broke down and begged not to be left there. Girls who come out of these institutions and are put on probation are very anxious not to be sent back for they know what it means. It is in this way that motion pictures could become most effective as it seems most of this class of children have to be shown before they can comprehend."

of Four Paroled Make Good With Officials.

Three of every every four persons placed on probation in County Court make good, while 12 per cent. return to crime, and eight per cent. flee the county to escape the control of probation officers. These facts are taken from the annual report of William F. Hodge, chief probation officer of the county, which was filed Saturday with the Board of Supervisors.

The report shows the county saved approximately \$62,650 last year by its probationary system.

The chief probation officer points out that the average cost of probation in this county is \$23 per year per person while the average for the state is \$122 per person. The total cost of the probation system in this county last year was \$4,670.

During the year, 215 persons were placed on probation, 170 men and 45 women. County Judge Barnum granted parole to 118 of these while the justices courts sent the remainder. A total of 38 boys and 25 girls were placed on probation.

Of the probationers 155 made good, 11 were listed as fair, while 25 were re-arrested, and 18 left the county. Those who missed the opportunity to go straight were proven failures, Mr. Hodge says, but the county lost nothing in granting them probation.

Not included in its official work, the three probation officers, Charles W. Winters, Mrs. Margaret W. Downes and Mr. Hodges, made 220 preliminary investigations in order to assist the courts in passing sentence.

Most of those placed on probation were between 16 and 20 years. There were 43 persons above 30 placed on probation, 32 between 20 and 25 years and 31 between 25 and 30 years. Of the probationers, 113, were Americans. But six of those paroled failed to profess religion, 97 were Catholics, 21 Presbyterians, 40 Methodists, 18 Episcopalians, and 12 Baptists.

SAYS FAMILY ROWS BAD FOR CHILDREN

Erie Post Times

(By CHESTER L. SAHN)

(I. N. S. Staff Correspondent.)
Syracuse, N. Y., Oct. 30.—Parents whose quarrelling and bickering result in separation and divorces are not only hurting themselves, but are forcing upon their children a moral effect which handicaps future success.

Such is the opinion of Mrs. Margaret L. Downes, Onondaga County Probation Officer and authority on child training.

The greater percentage of children who come under her supervision as "wayward" come from homes where there is trouble between the parents, divorces, separation or constant wrangling, Mrs. Downes says.

The death of one of the parents, particularly the father, has a decided effect, generally, upon the life of a child, including the wayward sons and daughters, but the effect is toward the child's improvement and not downfall.

Many cases have been witnessed by Mrs. Downes in which a wayward son was changed by the death of the father and rallied to the support of his mother.

"It gives an added impetus to the sense of responsibility, dormant in many cases, but which, when aroused, aids greatly to make the son or daughter a success in life," declares Mrs. Downes.

The percentage of boys on parole making good seems to be slightly higher than that of girls on parole, says Mrs. Downes.

Willard A. Rill, formerly supervisor from the Nineteenth ward, appeared in behalf of the armistice day committee and asked that the county follow the example of the city and set aside the sum of \$500 for observance of armistice day. The request was granted.

Permission was given Mrs. Mark F. Torney, deputy sheriff, and Mrs. Margaret Downes, county probation officer, to attend the convention of state prohibition officers November 14, 15 and 16 in New York city and an appropriation of \$60 was allowed for expenses of each.

It was voted that the report of the child welfare board of Onondaga county be printed at an expense of not more than \$50.

Upon motion of Supervisor C. M. Goodspeed, chairman of the highway committee, it was ordered that the sum of \$1,342 be transferred from the general construction fund to the Manlius-Watervale county road fund, to complete the latter road.

A letter was read by Thomas F. Ryan, deputy clerk, from County Judge William L. Barnum recommending an increase of salary for the three members of the probation office—William F. Hodge, Charles W. Winter and Mrs. Downes.

"These faithful and efficient public servants," wrote Judge Barnum, "are lower in the local scale of salaries than any other county employes and their services are more valuable to society and the human race than those of many others. Their earnest and intelligent efforts have much to do with raising the standards of morality among us and cannot be too highly commended."