

CHAPTER IV

THE CRIPPLED AND MAIMED

TWO hundred and fifty-four men, or more than a fourth of the one thousand studied, were either temporarily or permanently crippled or maimed. The disclosure of so large a proportion of handicapped men will probably provoke questions in the minds of most readers, both as to whether a similar proportion would be found among other thousands of the homeless and shifting population, and as to what may have been the causes and what are the effects of all this crippling of men. It is not possible to compare the ratio of crippled and maimed in this group with that of the homeless men at large, because there are no statistics available in regard to the latter; but for the reasons mentioned in a previous chapter, there is little question but that the percentage of crippled and maimed is larger among homeless men who have asked charity than it would be found to be among homeless men in general; a fact which should be constantly kept in mind lest one fall into the error of drawing unwarranted general conclusions from statistics which relate only to a particular, and in this regard a peculiar, group of men. But whether

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or not the number of cripples per thousand is smaller among the homeless men in the lodging houses than in this group, the causes of crippling and the ratios in which they appear, and the individual and social results of it, would be much the same wherever homeless men might be studied. It has, therefore, seemed worth while to study with some care the histories of these 254 crippled men.

MEN CRIPPLED BY DISEASE

Illness was found to be responsible for a very large percentage of the crippling and maiming of this quarter-regiment of men, although a number who were in fact disabled by illness claimed to have been injured in industrial or general accidents. Forty men were paralytic; 21 had muscles so knotted and misshapen from rheumatism that they were seriously handicapped; 10 were suffering from locomotor ataxia; six were at least temporarily crippled by venereal diseases; six had tuberculous spines, had lost limbs, or were in other ways crippled or maimed through the ravages of tuberculosis, and three were crippled by other diseases. Eighty-six men in all, or 34 per cent of the 254, were thus crippled or maimed by disease.

Because of the lack of information on the records, it is not possible in a majority of these cases to go behind the diseases themselves to the underlying causes which produced them. Among the men

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TABLE III.—GENERAL DATA CONCERNING THE 86
MEN CRIPPLED BY DISEASE*

| A. AGES, BY GROUPS | | B. CAUSES OF CRIPPLING | |
|--------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| Under 30..... | 12 | Paralysis..... | 40 |
| 30 to 39..... | 17 | Rheumatism..... | 21 |
| 40 to 49..... | 23 | Locomotor ataxia..... | 10 |
| 50 to 59..... | 19 | Tuberculosis..... | 6 |
| 60 or over..... | 15 | Venereal diseases..... | 6 |
| | | Other | 3 |
| Total..... | 86 | Total..... | 86 |

| C. AMOUNT OF SELF-SUPPORT | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----------------------------------|----|
| (1) Self-supporting before injury | | (2) Self-supporting after injury | |
| Entirely..... | 46 | Entirely..... | 3 |
| Partly..... | 4 | Partly..... | 25 |
| Not at all..... | 23 | Not at all..... | 58 |
| Not known..... | 13 | | |
| Total..... | 86 | Total..... | 86 |

who were victims of paralysis, locomotor ataxia, and venereal diseases, a number admitted that their habits and vices had alone been responsible for their present physical conditions. Only 17 of the 56 men suffering from these three forms of disease were, or, so far as we could learn, had ever been "hard drinkers"; but that licentiousness was a cause of their condition in many cases there can be but slight question, even though our investigation of the previous histories of the men was not such as would necessarily disclose the existence of that vice.

In the cases of three men only among the 40 paralytics was the nature of the work in which they had been engaged responsible for their

* See also Appendix A, Tables 7 and 8, pp. 282 and 283.

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disease. Lead poisoning caused the paralysis of two men, who had been painters, and chronic bowel disorder caused by exposure produced it in the third, who had been a soldier. A fourth man claimed to be suffering from telegrapher's paralysis; but since, in tracing his history back for fifteen years, we were unable to learn that he had had any record of work, and since, moreover, he had been a tramp and a heavy drinker for at least that number of years, he should probably be included among the men who were the victims of their vices rather than among those who sacrificed health in pursuance of their daily work.

Twenty, or only one-half, of the paralytics are known to have been entirely self-supporting* previous to the strokes which crippled them. Of the remainder, 12 were tramps and vagrants and had earned little or none of their own support; two had been partly self-supporting; one had been paralyzed in his childhood, and of five we do not know the facts as to self-support before paralysis. Following their paralysis, 31 were entirely dependent, seven partly self-supporting, and only two were able by peddling to be independent.

Among the 21 men crippled by rheumatism were eight whose work during the major part of their lives had been of such a nature that it probably caused the disease; but two of the men had been

* For data concerning amount of self-support among the men crippled by disease, see Table III, and Appendix A, Table 8, p. 283.

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tramps for several years prior to our acquaintance with them, and their wanderings may have been partly responsible for their crippled limbs. Fourteen of the rheumatic cripples, or two-thirds of the whole number, had good work records and were without bad habits, a larger proportion than was the case among the paralytics. Only four men were drunkards, one was an opium eater, and two were tramps; but out of these seven, four had had excellent work records before they became crippled. Thirteen of the rheumatic cripples had been fully self-supporting before becoming too lame to work, three had not supported themselves, and of five we know too little to make positive statements on this point. Since being crippled 13 were totally dependent, eight partly self-supporting, and not one was entirely self-supporting.

MEN CRIPPLED BY GENERAL ACCIDENT OR FROM BIRTH

Excluding the 86 men crippled by illness there remained five who had been born crippled and 163 who had been crippled by accidents of various sorts. The exact nature of these accidents cannot be given in every instance, because the victims of them were frequently tramps and vagrants,—men who at the time of our acquaintance with them had already become parasitic beggars,—and it was impossible to learn the truth about their

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injuries. Men injured while tramping claimed to have met with industrial accidents; men injured in drunken brawls in saloons claimed to have slipped and fallen on icy sidewalks. All manner of false claims were made; and while to prove that they were false was sometimes not very difficult, it was exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to learn just what the form of accident was which had crippled the man. Out of the whole number (254) of crippled and maimed, 55 men (21.7 per cent) claimed to have met with industrial accidents. A larger proportion of these men misrepresented the facts about themselves than did any other class of the crippled. For this, and for other reasons, it has seemed best to study the histories of these 55 men in a separate chapter,* and their cases are omitted from the tables and from the text of the remainder of this chapter. This leaves 113 men who were crippled from birth or who became so through accidents not directly occupational.

For a large number of these accidents, neither society nor the men themselves can be held responsible; they were accidents, pure and simple, which could not have been foreseen or prevented, and cannot be charged to bad industrial conditions, to indifference on the part of authorities to the welfare of citizens, nor to the individual carelessness or recklessness of the men who suffered them. In almost one-half of the cases, however, the men's

* See Chapter V, Industrial Accidents.

TABLE IV.—CAUSES OF CRIPPLING (EXCLUDING CASES WHERE IT WAS CAUSED BY ILLNESS OR WHERE MEN CLAIMED INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS)

| | Number |
|--|--------|
| Hurt on Railways { While stealing ride or "beating" way.....13 | 22 |
| { As passengers.....4 | |
| { Walking on tracks.....2 | |
| { Not known how (tramping suspected).....3 | |
| Falls of various sorts..... | 18 |
| Accidents in childhood..... | 7 |
| Born crippled or maimed..... | 5 |
| Street car accidents..... | 6 |
| Runaway horses..... | 3 |
| Run over by vehicles..... | 2 |
| Injured by jumping from windows during hotel fires.... | 2 |
| Hurt in saloon fights while intoxicated..... | 2 |
| Hurt, not known how, while intoxicated..... | 2 |
| Flesh tears and blood poisoning from rusty wire and nail..... | 2 |
| Bullet wounds..... | 2 |
| Feet frozen..... | 2 |
| Knocked down and robbed (arm broken)..... | 1 |
| Kicked by a horse..... | 1 |
| Struck by a falling timber..... | 1 |
| Thumb crushed by truck falling on it..... | 1 |
| Leg amputated after a battle of the Civil War..... | 1 |
| Exact cause of crippling not known..... | 33* |
| Total..... | 113† |

* Of these 33 men the exact cause of whose crippling is not known the following facts are of interest: Seventeen were men who are known to have been dependents, tramps or beggars for a number of years before the accidents which crippled them occurred. Three were quite young tramps and beggars of whom too little is known to say whether their crippled condition was caused by their vagrancy or not; no work record could be discovered, however, and injuries while tramping are strongly suspected. Seven men with broken arms or legs, sprained ankles or other injuries are known to have met with general and not industrial accidents, since in each case these occurred when the men were unemployed. Of the six remaining cases three were respectable old men, three self-respecting and self-supporting younger men. Our records show nothing of cause of injury in these six cases and industrial accidents may have been the causes of crippling in one or more of these instances.

† Of these, 82 were permanently crippled; 31 temporarily or the extent of injury not known.

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habits of drink, wandering, and vagrancy must be held as mainly responsible for the accidents which crippled them. This estimate is based upon a careful study of the records of the men, and includes 10 instances in which men admitted that they were intoxicated when they were injured, and 15 trespassing or tramping accidents on the railroads. It also includes a number of other cases where the men were habitual drunkards or confirmed tramps, and in which there was every reason to regard individual causes as responsible for the injuries suffered. For instance, one of the two men crippled by having both feet frozen met with this accident while locked for two days in a box-car in which he was stealing a ride during a spell of zero weather.

However, whether the original cause of this crippling was social or individual, or purely accidental, a man's adjustment to his changed condition, and his ultimate position in the industrial world, seem to depend in very large part upon his own spirit and temperament and his general attitude toward life. The man who was a vagrant and a tramp before his injury is likely to be one after it, and will often use his handicap as his most valuable begging asset. The man who was a worker will in most cases be a worker still, if not totally incapacitated by his injuries or overwhelmed by dire poverty or friendlessness.* The actual amount of

* For table showing amount of self-support before and after injury of the 113 men, classified by length of time since accident, see Ap-

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his physical handicap itself, apparently, has less to do with a man's failure to be self-supporting after an accident, than those qualities within him which are hard to describe but which make for character; this accounts for the fact that three men of this group who had lost both legs were fully self-supporting, and that five who had lost one or two fingers were parasitic and used these comparatively trifling handicaps as excuses for dependence. Speaking generally, the man who earns no part of his own support after he meets with an accident, and who makes no effort to do so, has a moral lack in his character which is more truly responsible for the fact of his vagrancy than is his physical lack of an arm or a leg.

Among the cripples living in the cheap lodging houses, as among the men in general, some will be found who belong to each of the four main classifications mentioned in the opening chapter. Some will be continually self-supporting; others will be occasionally or temporarily dependent, but may easily be brought back to self-support; others are chronically dependent from necessity; and still others are willing parasites, although their injuries may be slight or temporary. Of the 113 men crippled by general accident or from birth, 49 belonged to the temporarily dependent ("helpable") class, 27 were chronically dependent, 31

pendix A, Table 9, p. 284. For similar data concerning 82 men permanently crippled, classified by condition, see Appendix A, Table 10, p. 285.

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parasitic, and of the remaining six too little was known to classify. As might be expected from the fact that they are physically handicapped, these crippled and maimed men, more frequently than the able-bodied, shift for short periods from one group to another. The processes that tend to demoralize and force them into the lowest class are more clearly discernible in these cases than among the able-bodied men, since it is probable that among the handicapped the causes of vagrancy in a large proportion of cases are objective rather than subjective.

HELPPABLE CRIPPLES

None of the 113 men who were cripples from birth or who became so through general accident could be considered fully self-supporting at the time of their application to the Bureau of Charities; but study of the records shows that 49 men (43 per cent of the number), belonged to the "helpable" class of lodging house men. They were readily helped back into positions of self-support. They did not require continuous assistance. Nineteen had friends or relatives elsewhere able to care for them, and were given transportation to them. Of these, one was a man with both legs amputated who found himself unable to get along in Chicago, although in his native city, where he was well known, he had worked up a paying business as a bootblack. Returning this man to his home took

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him out of the lodging house district, and saved him from further dependence. A boy of eighteen who was very seriously crippled was returned to his parents, with whom he has since remained. A man who had lost his left leg and left arm was sent to friends elsewhere, who gave him permanent employment. In Chicago he had been dependent. A Negro from the far South, brought North with others to take the place of strikers, was accidentally left in Chicago when the rest of the carload were returned by the company that had imported them. Unused to the city, and handicapped by deformed feet, this man would soon have become a dependent for life if he had not, through the agency of the Bureau, been returned to the South. So far as I have been able to trace the cases today, every crippled man or boy sent by the Bureau to friends or relatives was permanently removed from the city lodging houses; and, undoubtedly, the prompt removal of these 19 men, the total cost of whose half-rate tickets was not over \$100, saved some from permanent vagrancy and all from much needless suffering.

The story of one other man in this group is perhaps worthy of fuller mention, since it illustrates not only by what mere chances able-bodied men may suddenly become helpless dependents, but also shows how possible it is, even in very serious cases, to save such men from chronic dependence. A trained young workman came to Chicago

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for employment. He was rather above the grade of the average lodging house man, and therefore looked up a rooming house in a respectable part of town and had his trunk sent there instead of locating in the downtown part of the city. On his way to promised employment the day after his arrival, he climbed onto a railroad embankment which lay between himself and the factory just beyond the tracks. If he had but walked a block in either direction he might have passed safely under the embankment, but this he did not know. Just as he reached the top his hat blew off, and without a glance in either direction he sprang forward to catch it. As he did so he was struck by an express train and hurled many feet. When he recovered consciousness at the County Hospital, two days later, he found that one leg had already been amputated and that the use of his right arm was gone. Six weeks later he was dismissed from the hospital, and made his way with difficulty to his rooming place, only to find that his trunk had long before been sold for storage and that the blood-stained and torn garments which he had on were his only possessions.

Among thousands of pitiful cases I do not recall a man whose mental anguish was greater than this man's when he first realized that at twenty-eight he was crippled for life, and that at that moment he was penniless in a strange city, where he must either ask charitable help or die. No care and tactfulness of ours was able to lessen the

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bitterness of grief, the agony of humiliation which he suffered. It was some time before we could persuade him to return to the little eastern city from which he came. He had left it full of strength, energy, and health, and the thought of returning to be a burden upon his old mother or friends, or to enter in time the local poorhouse, was more than he could endure. But in Chicago his only alternative was to beg upon the streets,—being a non-resident he was not eligible for admission to the Cook County poorhouse.

Until replies to our letters to the East (which by several mischances were long delayed) could be received, the Bureau of Charities furnished food and lodging. A peg leg (made for him by a sympathetic carpenter in the lodging house) and a cane, soon enabled him to walk without crutches, and a famous surgeon who was consulted about the right arm gave promise of the ultimate return of part of its usefulness. The letters written to the superintendent of the Associated Charities of the man's home town, enlisted his interest and help; and when, four months from the date of his accident, the man was given half-rate transportation back to his home, he went knowing that light work awaited him on his arrival, and that he need not be wholly dependent. During the current winter, in answer to a letter of inquiry, the writer has learned that this man has been entirely self-supporting throughout the eight years since his return.

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Equally successful results followed the giving of prompt and adequate assistance to certain helpable cripples who were not sent out of the city. A well chosen peddler's outfit made two of these, each of whom had lost an arm, self-supporting for as long a period as we were able to follow them. For a man of sixty-seven, with an injured hip, who was able to earn a very small part of his own support, the Bureau secured from a sister in England a pension of \$5.00 a month for the remainder of his life. Various forms of assistance were given to others.

Altogether, in the cases of 35 men out of the 49 of the "helpable" type of cripples, there is a reasonable basis for belief that the aid given at a critical time in their lives permanently saved them from further dependence upon society and from vagrancy, since in almost every instance it was the man's self-respect which hung in the balance, as well as his economic independence.

For 12 of the other 14 apparently helpable men, there is more of a question as to ultimate results, since they were known to the office for periods ranging only from one day to three or four weeks, when they dropped out of sight and their subsequent histories could not be followed. Only of the remaining two men must known failure be reported. One, a Negro, had apparently when we knew him been helped back to a position of self-support, but has been unable to hold his own and is today a tramp and a vagrant. In the

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other case, for two years we watched and worked against the gradual deterioration of a really fine man; but the odds against him in the struggle for independence were very great, and association with idlers and beggars in the lodging houses finally converted him into one of their number. We failed utterly to save this man; but I have included him with the helpable cripples, because I believe that he had enough of self-respect and ability when he first applied to the Bureau for help to have been saved in the end if we could have found the right sort of work for him and if he could have been removed in time from the morally poisonous atmosphere of the lodging houses.

CHRONICALLY DEPENDENT CRIPPLES

Twenty-seven men in the group of 113 were at the time of their applications to the Bureau totally and continuously dependent but not parasitic in spirit. Eight of these men were, with the Bureau's help, made self-supporting for a time, but soon became dependent and remained so for the rest of their lives. In the case of five other chronic dependents the burden of support was placed upon relatives at a distance, or upon the communities elsewhere of which they were legal residents. One of these men had left the poorhouse at Milwaukee and come to Chicago because he had the idea, which seems to be held all over America, that no matter how unfit a man may be, "any one can find work

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in Chicago." Another was a deaf mute who had frozen both feet. He was sent to relatives in New York.

A large percentage of these chronically dependent cripples had an additional handicap of some kind which accounted for their total dependence. Two were over seventy years of age, seven were between sixty and seventy, and two between fifty and sixty. Age alone might not have incapacitated these latter; but, as in addition they were permanently crippled, complete self-support proved to be impossible. Two men of this group were epileptic as well as crippled, two were mildly insane, one was feeble-minded, and one very dull mentally. One was a deaf mute, and five had tuberculosis or some other chronic illness which seriously affected them.

Several men in this group showed the results of failure to receive needed help at the beginning of their difficulties. Here is a typical story of one man whose dependence was due to this cause. He had always been fully self-supporting previous to the accident in which he lost one leg just below the hip. After the accident he became a street beggar, but never overcame an intolerable sense of shame and degradation. The man who sits on a public street with his hat before him and begs would seem, to most people, to be more shameless and hardened in his profession than the man who asks for a night's lodging at the door; but this particular street beggar said that he himself had

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chosen the former method because it saved him from the shame of *asking* for help. "When I sit there, any one can see that I am helpless; I do not have to speak."

Although this man had been begging for four years at the time he came to the attention of the Bureau, he had never become hardened to the practice, and when offered adequate help if he would stop it and co-operate in our effort to make him self-supporting, he instantly agreed and kept his promise even when by begging he could have increased from four to ten-fold the meager earnings which he made during the two years of attempted self-support through which he struggled. Help had come too late. The artificial leg which was furnished him through the Bureau should have been received four years earlier, before the muscles of the stump had become flabby and almost useless. He learned in time to walk without crutches but never without a cane, and he always limped badly, which made it difficult to secure work for him. Possible employers frankly told the writer that while they would be glad to help the man, the risk of accident to a cripple in a factory is so great that they could not afford to take it, lest a law-suit for damages be the sequel of an attempt to "mix philanthropy and business." Through personal influence and with difficulty, three positions in different factories where he might work seated were secured for the man during a period of a year and a half; but each, for reasons not connected

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with his ability or persistence, was lost. A partnership in a small shop was then secured, which bid fair for a time to solve his difficulties; but this had to be given up on account of the failing health of the man himself. Exposure, lack of food, and the unsanitary conditions in the lodging houses during the years before help came to him had done their work, and he was obliged to abandon his plucky fight for independence and go to the only haven for such wounded soldiers—the county poorhouse, where he died of tuberculosis two months later. Every step in the history of this man's life, both before and after his accident, would indicate that if he had been given the aid he needed immediately after the accident, he might have been saved for many years of usefulness.

The importance of prompt and adequate relief of some sort in the case of every self-respecting cripple condemned to live in a lodging house cannot be overestimated. The development of our awakened social conscience will, undoubtedly, lead in time to the passage of laws and to the adoption of methods in all states which will insure both better protection from accidents and needed support for the injured after accidents occur. In the meantime, it is difficult to see how the men suffering from general accidents today are to be provided for except by means of an intelligent administration of adequate charitable relief. So long as our hospitals dismiss cripples without an inquiry as to how they shall subsist after leaving; so long as

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municipal lodging houses, industrial homes, wood yards, and other charitable agencies which come in touch with these men after their dismissals from hospitals, are content to furnish a night's lodging or a day or two of inadequate work and then allow the men to drift on; and so long as the few charities in the country which attempt to deal adequately and humanely with them are sorely handicapped by lack of means, by the indifference of the public, and by the unwillingness of employers to give the men such work as they are able to do, it is difficult to see how there can be much change for the better in the conditions under which the homeless crippled and maimed now live.

PARASITIC CRIPPLES

With men as seriously handicapped as are some of the mendicant cripples seen on the streets, it is sometimes a question as to how far they may be able to contribute to their own support, even if they are willing to make the effort. But when numerous opportunities to earn at least a part of their living are offered such men and refused, there is no question but that the begging is continued from choice and not from necessity.

Among the 113 men crippled by general accident or from birth, 31 were of this type. Three had lost both legs,—too serious a handicap to make self-support possible, one may say. One of these, a young lad, had parents able and willing to care

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for him but he preferred to beg. Another had artificial legs, and training in a trade in which, by his own admission, he could have earned his living had he so chosen. The third man had received large damages from the railway company responsible for his injury, but had squandered the money and made no effort to find employment, although he was well educated and could undoubtedly have supported himself by some form of clerical work. This man took to begging at once and apparently without even a passing sense of shame, and he refused to give up the practice, although offered his full support until a position could be found for him.

We were not able in a single case to win a man of this group of parasitic cripples back to a position of self-support, although the injuries of four were temporary and of 10 very slight. Every one of the 31 listed as parasitic was offered at least one opportunity for self-support; several of them many; but all refused work because they could make more money and make it more easily by begging. Not that the men themselves always put it in that way; a few claimed to prefer self-support to vagrancy, but these invariably found some excuse for giving up every position in which they were placed, and in a few weeks' time returned to their old begging stands and would make no further effort for independence.

Some men claimed to be begging only to secure money for an artificial leg, saying they would go to

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work after obtaining one, but in no case when a leg had been purchased did the begging cease. An earnest recital of a desire to work as soon as an artificial leg is secured proves to be productive of such good results in the form of contributions from the public, that it is the favorite begging story of many one-legged mendicants. One man who is still known to the Bureau has used the story for eleven consecutive years, during which he has received money enough to purchase scores of legs. Not a few mendicant cripples who own artificial legs wear them by day and unstrap them and beg on the streets at night. There were even two instances in Chicago where men wore their artificial legs and *were employed* during the day but begged at the theatre doors at night.

Five men in this group had no more serious physical defect than the loss of from one to three fingers,—in two cases from the right hand, in three, from the left; a sixth man had a broken finger; but all six based their pleas for charitable assistance upon these comparatively slight handicaps. Five of the six, all but the man with the broken finger, were well educated men for whom there was no apparent excuse for dependence. They were distinctly degenerate, and had been beggars and tramps almost from boyhood. Two were addicted to the drug habit and two were heavy drinkers.

In the two groups (helpable and chronically dependent cripples) previously discussed, there

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were a number of men who were dependent because of their injuries, but in only one instance in this third group had a man descended to the ranks of the parasites since and chiefly on account of his handicap. Even in this case the injury was, perhaps, only indirectly responsible for his downfall, which came about not for lack of help at the time of his accident, but rather because of the receipt of too large an amount of material aid at once. He was a Negro laborer whose left arm was partly paralyzed through a railroad accident. He received \$200 from the railroad company, which was the largest amount he had ever possessed at one time. He spent it as rapidly as possible, for drink and carousing, and when it was exhausted, unable to stand again in the ranks as a laborer, he became a drunkard and a tramp-vagrant.

Six men out of the 113 were known to the office too slightly and for too short a time to make possible any definite classification of their status or habits. Of these, however, two were known to be tramps, and the stories of all six were either false or unconfirmable, so it is probable that these too must be added to the group of parasitic cripples.

Several questions will naturally arise in the minds of people after reading thus far: "How can we tell to which class the cripple who applies to us belongs? We do not wish to help lazy impostors who could get employment or have other means of support; but if, after all, only 31 or

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possibly 37 out of a group of 113 men belong to this latter class, shall we then not risk doing greater harm to the majority of cripples in need by refusing aid to all than by giving to all?" These questions have been put to the writer so many times that it is evident they must vex many sympathetic and conscientious people. The instinctive desire to help in some way causes them to revolt from the negative mandate of certain pseudo-scientific workers, who say "do not give," and who yet offer no substitute for giving.

As a rule, but one answer can be made to the first question. The ordinary citizen cannot know merely by interviewing a beggar to what class he belongs, and to what extent, if at all, he should be aided. If definite knowledge is desired,—and it is the only basis of intelligent help,—investigation of the case had better be turned over to specially trained experts, of whom there are a few in almost every city of the Union. These men and women have met and dealt with hundreds of applicants where the ordinary citizen has known but few, and these few, as a rule, rather superficially.

As to the second question, there is a fallacy in the argument of "helping the unworthy lest the worthy be missed" which many people fail to recognize. It lies in the supposition that the "worthy" man to whom a few cents or even a few dollars are given, is really helped by such aid. Assistance in finding employment, support until employed, removal from lodging house environ-

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ment, surgical care, and general friendly interest, these are the things he needs. They may be furnished by any one sufficiently interested to supply them, even better, perhaps, than by a charity organization society which, on account of the large number of persons with whom it deals, cannot give as much time to following up the necessities of the particular applicant as can a private individual.

But if, for lack of means or lack of time on the one hand, or through a feeling of inexperience on the other hand, the ordinary citizen hesitates himself to take active steps for the man's restoration to usefulness, and is unwilling to ignore his condition, he may refer him to the Charity Organization Society, or to whatever agency is doing similar work in a similar way in his own city.

To refer the cripple to such a society, however, and to do nothing more will probably help him as little as would the gift of a small dole, because in nine cases out of ten the man will either promise to go and then not go, or he will say that he has been there and that nothing was done for him. This latter statement is usually not true and should be verified. If the citizen cannot spare time to accompany the man, he should telephone or write a letter saying where he found him begging, if a beggar, and include a slight description, and if possible, an outline of his story. This will enable the agent of the society to report at once if the applicant is known to the office, and, should he fail to appear, to find him later. The one-legged

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street beggar whose story is given on page 59, told the writer that at least 50 people had referred him to the Bureau of Charities during the four years of his dependence. When asked why he had not come he replied that he had not supposed the Bureau could do anything for him;—it would not help him to be referred to a wood yard, which was where he thought single men were usually sent; and he “knew it would not be right” to ask for entire support, “no society could afford to give that,” and he had thought that we might publish his name as a pauper, which was something he could not endure, even if he had “got pretty low down.” It required the assurance that his name would not be published, the promise of a personal letter to the superintendent, and the touch of personal interest shown by the gentleman who had seen him begging, before this cripple followed the advice that he had so often received.

After a man has finally reached the office and his story has been thoroughly investigated,—not to find out whether it is true, but to gain as much knowledge of his character and abilities as it is possible to secure,—a plan for the permanent improvement of his condition may be worked out by the trained agent and the interested citizen; and in carrying out this plan, if the man prove to be helpable, the citizen will find opportunity to expend as much of his time and money as he can afford to give and as the case requires.