

EAST-SIDE CAMEOS.

No. 8.

Tragedies of desertions - Various phases the work assumes - Two graphic illustrations.

-- 0 --

You will see from this cabinet how our Legal Aid Bureau handles Desertions. 535 new cases were brought here during last year, involving 1,070 men and women, not counting many outsiders involved therein. 965 children were directly affected! Do you wonder that they love to come here where kindness prevails?

We follow some cases for years almost as closely as would Scotland Yard. This department's work is divided into;

- (a) Attempts at reconciliation - where prior to desertion, the husband had a good reputation and is not an habitual deserter.
- (b) Cases in which reconciliation can not be brought about. We use personal efforts to exact a bond, by which the deserter guarantees to make weekly payments to support his wife and children.
- (c) Cases in which both (a) and (b) proved unsuccessful and judicial procedure, including extradition - becomes necessary. In most of these cases, the authorities cooperate with us in procuring guaranteed bonds for the payment of whatever amounts the courts order.
- (d) Cases in which, when all other means have failed, we take steps, thro the District Attorney's office, to punish and imprison the deserter. Fraudulent and bigamous marriages come under this division.

These files show that we traced deserters over this country as far as the Pacific Coast, and at very small outlay. We could not afford to engage detectives to shadow deserters, but by our system of card indexing - one part of which you see is the Rogues' Gallery - we have handled the most difficult cases. From established Jewish charitable agencies in various places we received timely cooperation. Here is a very interesting collection of photographs. You see the wife always gives us her deserter-husband's picture, usually in a bridegroom's regalia. Some of these deserters look fine. Judged by their pictures X no one would suppose the faces masked terrible baseness.

Here is a case of a deserted wife, whose husband decamp- X ed with another woman. The wife broke down and died leaving seven children. The oldest, only thirteen years, kept the other children together and was house-mother. She supported the family on small funds received from relatives. We had the deserter arrested in Chicago and extradited. His friends furnished a satisfactory surety bond to support the seven children for three years at \$9. per week. Sentence was suspended. \$1.29 a day is .18 cents for each child. How far does that go? X

Here is another case. This man deserted his wife and eight children. He was arrested in St. Louis, extradited and tried in our city. Evidence was found on him that he had deposits in St. Louis banks of \$3,000. The judge was willing to suspend sentence if the deserter would give us a bond to pay the wife and children \$1,000. in weekly installments. The prisoner refused to do so, was fined \$1,000. and is now serving a sentence of not more than 2 years. He preferred a jail to his family.

It is difficult to compute the deterrent value of our work. That many desertions are probably averted, is due to the fact of its being widely known that we help all who have a right to seek redress.

Needed today.

\$15,000. to pay a mortgage on Annex 109 East Broadway.  
Funds to add several stories to the Educational Alliance Building.  
\$150,000. additional for our Endowment Fund.

Contributions invited.

- 0 -

The Educational Alliance

East Broadway & Jefferson St.

'phone "1970 Orchard."

(To be continued shortly.)

RG  
X83