

LIFE'S TEST.

Temptation whispers everywhere— Wait now, and act tomorrow, To-day you have not time to spare, So from the future borrow.

THE MATRON'S REPORT.

To the Board of Supervisors, Municipal Orphans' Home. Ladies and Gentlemen: In re: Richard Lewis, age 16; nativity, unknown; history, founding. This boy, an incorrigible, ran away from the Home on the night of Sept. 4, 1927, about 11:30 p. m. He took with him his Sunday outfit consisting of suit, shoes, underwear, shirt and cap, all donated by Mrs. Jackson, of 19 Oldham Place, Jan. 3, 1927, and valued at \$16; and a violin donated by the Ophelus Music Co., Oct. 14, 1922, valued at \$4.

difficult child in the Home. Refuses to play with clothes-pins like the other children and when nursery games are started he hides in a corner. Has formed habit of running into yard unless watched continually. Chases birds. Ordered doses of cod-liver oil as punishment. Mrs. Johnson, the next Matron, found on April 23, 1914, that it was necessary to send Richard Lewis to the dark room twice and take away his evening meal because—and here the Matron quotes her report verbatim: "For a child of three the Lewis boy shows precocious and wilful ways. Stole Minnie Sanborn's sash. Said he wanted to make a rainbow. Was sent to the dark room 20 minutes Monday and 45 minutes on Wednesday. Upon refusal to express sorrow or penitence was given two doses of cod-liver oil."

some institutions as to the mingling of male and female children. The records show that the Lewis boy repeatedly violated this rule. Four times, the Matron finds from her reports for 1917, Richard Lewis was caught talking to Dorothy May Chevis in the dining-room and punished by whippings. Discovering that such infractions brought speedy punishment, the boy formed the habit of running away at school recess to an appointed meeting place in the yard where he enticed Dorothy May to talk to him. He set up the defense, when caught at this, that they did not actually speak to each other, but merely looked at the sky and listened to the birds!

the girls' dormitory playing an improper Spanish love-song. He had grown so large neither the Matron nor Miss Gowen could longer punish him properly. The next day the Matron instructed Mr. Adams, the gardener, to trash him. The violin was confiscated. This most severe punishment failed to have the desired result. He demanded in an insolent tirade to the Matron the return of the violin. The Matron warned him in a quiet tone that if he mentioned the subject again the violin would be burned. He waited—and this illustrates the guile of the boy—until the following Sunday morning, and then organized a strike of the children. He had got the notion, apparently, from reading the newspapers. The children were being marched to Sunday school when suddenly Dorothy May Chevis whisked away and they all ran from Miss Gowen and Miss Maginnis. They ran to Davis Park and scattered. Miss Gowen and Miss Maginnis reported that it was impossible to assemble them.

this room at once or I shall call the police. I do not fear your threats, you horrid boy." At this, Richard Lewis scowled like a mad-man, whirled and left the room, banging the door, which was against the rules. The Board of Supervisors will note that the last speech uttered by Richard Lewis was a threat against the Matron's life. It only illustrated the depraved mind of this boy. The Matron was not at all frightened by his words and determined to be unswerving in her duty. The Matron might add that Miss Spink, social service worker for the Board of Charities and Corrections, had made a favorable report on the New Era Wet Wash Laundry, stating that conditions there were as good as could be expected.

and Richard Lewis stood before them. The Matron, at once realizing the full horror of the thing which this criminal was about to do, rushed to him and covered the boxes with her hands. Forgetting herself, the Matron did give way to a natural cry of repugnance and did call Richard Lewis a "horrible sneak." The boy hung his head and flushed guiltily. Mr. Danforth snatched up the baby clothes from Dorothy May's box and cried: "I've found her. I've found my little girl. Where is Dorothy May Chevis? She is my little girl!" The Matron informed him that Dorothy May was upstairs in the schoolroom. He rushed out with the detectives. Richard Lewis in surly shame snatched his box away from the Matron and shut the lid on it. The Matron tried to make him understand the enormity of the crime which he had been about to commit and received only an insolent stare of bravado. It is a sad commentary on the invidious influence this creature had exercised over the smaller boys at the Home that two of the younger boys, Thomas Peters and James Hogan, came forward to lie for Richard Lewis. They had the effrontery to assure the Matron that they had watched Richard Lewis from the doorway and had seen him put his baby clothes in Dorothy May's box and put hers in his. Even the Lewis boy, as depraved as he is, had the grace to rebuke them for their falsehood.

"The little Lewis boy is the most

of the lax regulations existing in

Richard Lewis told them the baby

Richard Lewis (Arrogantly.) "We

Richard Lewis (Calmly.) "Leave!

Both boxes were standing opened