

CRIMINALITY AMONG FOREIGN CHILDREN

Dr. Peter Robinson Addresses
Y.W.C.A. on Dangers and
Needs of Immigrants.

With the mortality rate for foreign children reaching the appalling figure of 50 per cent. while criminality among the children of the foreigners is 2½ per cent. greater than among the native born, Dr. Peter Robinson, of New York, devoted the greater part of his address on immigration to the Dominion Council Y.W.C.A., this afternoon to showing the imperative need for work and investigation at the ports of immigration.

"The mothers and wives of these foreigners," said Dr. Robinson, "do not know how to adapt themselves to the new conditions; new foods; new ways of living, and it is necessary that they should be instructed so that the number of children born to them will not show such terrible mortality. Your organizations should project lectures, mothers' clubs, and workers at every possible centre. The use of foods, the proper way of dressing their children for the new climatic conditions, and the necessity of cleanliness should be impressed on them again and again if they are to become citizens of value to your country."

Between Two Civilizations.

"The child of the foreigner is developing criminality in abnormal proportion," continued the speaker. "and it is because he is standing between two civilizations: the civilization of the new world of the streets and his work, and the civilization of the old world which is perpetuated in his home. That child at home in his normal surroundings would not have the same criminal tendencies."

Another most important branch of the work is the need for protection for the young immigrant women arriving daily, and in many instances disappearing mysteriously, the only atoms to notice the gap arriving probably months later in search of the missing daughter or sweetheart. Wo-

men's organizations should afford protection to these girls as soon as they land, and never lose sight of the frightened, English-dumb stranger until she has reached friends or safe employment. The Y. M. C. A. immigration work for North America, of which Dr. Robinson is secretary, has been doing splendid work in this direction, and as Canada's immigration problem increases, the two forces will find much to their mutual advantage in working together.

The chair was taken by Mrs. N. W. Rowell, president of the National Council, and with her on the platform was Miss Una Saunders, secretary.