

food, a decent dwelling, and opportunities for exercise, we notice a new phenomenon in what I must not call degeneracy but amelioration, and that is the rapid improvement in physique which a young child exhibits on removal from his own sordid environment to a residential school. He must not be taken too old for this; but even at the age of twelve the signs of rapid amelioration are to be noted in the increase of power, height, weight; the disappearance of bloodlessness, lassitude, lack of endurance: and this in a matter of months, or even weeks. It is this circumstance which has inclined me to recommend special schools, residential where necessary, for slum children of low physique, low powers of endurance, and low mental calibre, consequent upon neglect.

Thus, amid many fallacious suppositions and much invalid reasoning, we have lost sight of the fact that, standing out from the mass of sociological facts included under the head of degeneracy, there are a few very welcome signs of the opposite tendency—the effort of Nature to defeat deterioration and to reassert herself. These are, in order:—The influence of heredity; the circumstance of school life; the opportunity of improved environment, with the associated benefits of good, regular feeding, and regular, clean, healthful living.

Steady investigation of all the facts is a duty which everyone who would lead in social work must impose upon himself. From every point of view, the aim of this work will be found to concentrate itself on certain lines, and not to be so diffuse as the hopeless magnitude of the problem at first sight might seem to imply. The question resolves itself into restoring, cultivating and fostering the sense of responsibility of the parent to the child—nothing more, nothing less. The schools are doing untold good in creating this sense in the children, but the ruthless atmosphere of the home too often steps in as an opposing influence.

A sense of responsibility in the home—this is what the nation calls for—a tax in support of its welfare which the poor must learn to bear with the rich, and which far outweighs in value any financial burden.

We are told that public opinion requires awakening on the question. What does this mean? It means that everyone of us must give of his time and leisure to participate in the great work of establishing the connecting link between the school and the home. It is painful to note how few workers there are in the kingdom who really know anything of the school life of our boys and girls, of its aims, trials, and successes. The aim of school is to train for life and citizenship; and the success within the limits of school age is considerable, and compares well in this country with the models of foreign countries. Yet much of the gain is lost for lack of some link which shall enforce the lessons of school life patiently and in a

generous spirit upon the home. In London it is more or less a regular thing for managers to keep some sort of contact with the schools; but in the country this is much more rare, and, in consequence, the work of education is likely to fail in so far as it is starved for want of intelligent assistance from outside.

If we are to go forward, it is with the children we must begin. The schools have made their beginning; the homes have not yet started; they await the impulse from without. It is for voluntary, intelligent opinion to get to work upon the homes, and never to relax until a race of parents has arisen which knows no other duty to the state than to rear with heart and brain the children which have been given to them. Then we shall hear no more about physical degeneracy.

A French Doctor on English Nurses.

Dr. Apert, writing in the *Bulletin Médical*, says: Any French medical man who penetrates into the London hospitals cannot but be immediately struck by the numbers, activity, cleanliness, and elegant simplicity of the English nurses. It is manifest that they are recruited quite otherwise than in France, and that their early education and instruction are far superior to that of the majority of our nurses. This is a compliment which English nurses cannot fail to appreciate. We have no doubt that the French doctors who recently visited London will promote the employment of educated women as nurses henceforth, and that soon our French Sisters will, with the establishment of well-organised schools, vie with their English colleagues in efficiency.

Progress of State Registration.

The Californian State Nurses held a meeting on October 4th, when the first draft of a Bill to be presented to the Legislature this winter was discussed. The Secretary, Miss McCarthy, has been delegated to make a tour of the southern part of the State, to submit the Bill for discussion to different groups of nurses, so that all may be familiar with it, and be given an opportunity to express their views.

The Indiana State Nurses' Association decided, at their second annual convention held in September, to present a Bill requiring Registration of Nurses at the next session of the Legislature. One after another the nurses in each of the American States are uniting for the protection of the sick, and educational professional standards. One and all they have our warmest sympathy.

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