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## EDITORIAL.

### UP AND DOING FOR OUR BELOVED EMPIRE.

History provides us with many classic examples of the falls of great and mighty Empires due to the deterioration of the morals of their peoples, and a back-sliding into softness of living. The highly civilised and care-free Greeks of ancient renown fell easy victims to their barbarian conquerors because of the hard, clean lives lived by the latter. Likewise collapsed the great Roman Empire, whose gay citizens fell away from their previous high standards, and degenerated morally and spiritually.

Is it possible that such degeneration is now insidiously spreading its tentacles amongst the citizens of our proudly flung British Empire? Is history again to repeat itself? Vague and uneasy suspicions flit through one's mind, when one glances casually through the papers, and scans some of the trashy modern literature disseminated far and wide amongst our young people.

Startling facts, emanating from criminal trials, seem to point to the possibility of the declining moral outlook of some of our young women. Some such decline may be a result of the World War through which we have but recently emerged, and may be quickly balanced, now that life is less unsure and the future promises more happiness. It is time that responsible women stood together to promote higher standards of morality, and the more definite teaching of young adolescents of the desirability and beauty of personal purity, both in the homes and in the schools.

Parents should teach their children that unless Britain produces highly moral and pure women to be the mothers of the future race, it is inevitable that the nation will sink to low levels of life, from which it will be impossible to set high examples to the world in general and to its own peoples in particular.

It would be a wonderful thing to have British mothers banded together and demanding a compulsory high standard of living in all classes, and putting forward a claim for decency in all homes. There appears to be a magnificent opportunity for work of vital importance for the National Council of Women, and we have pleasure in thus bringing it to their notice.

The Press of the country also has a great responsibility in the matter, and must take its share of blame for the demoralisation of our young people. When the front page of one of the popular daily papers depicts naked women, posing, the result is bound to be harmful to morals. Films too, could improve in this respect, and thus help in the forward move of the country.

In order to maintain England's greatness and pre-eminence amongst nations, English women must guard their purity as their most priceless possession, and thus endow their sons with nobility and virility, not forgetting that impurity begets disease, deformity and degeneration of the people.

Nurses also have a great part to play in encouraging young people to live clean and healthy lives. Many nurses have the opportunity of attending their patients in their own homes and thus they come into intimate contact with young women and girls and find themselves in a position to give sound advice and a little tactful guidance. Experienced matrons and home sisters often have opportunities of dropping a word of advice here and there, in their dealings with young nurses and maids. Such little words in season will bear much good fruit and will redound to the honour and glory of our country.

At this time, perhaps more than at any other period of her glorious history, England needs strong and disciplined men and women. We cannot breed a race of super-men if we indulge in soft, riotous and impure living. We must become Spartans in character, and shake off the fetters of self-indulgence and luxury. We must re-introduce more discipline into our daily lives, and not expect rewards for idleness, nor expect the State to take all our responsibilities from our shoulders. Life must again become filled with zest for work, and the excitement of keen competition must oust sloth and unemployment from our midst.

The uphill struggle will not be easy, but it has become vitally necessary. Otherwise we shall be conquered by our weakness and fall foul of a powerful and more hardy foe. If Western democracy, and the Western way of living be the better way for the world, now is the time to ensure its preservation for all days, and we have no time to lose. It is up to the women to set the standards, and never in the history of the world have the women been the cause of defeat of nations, and we must not fail the world now.

We are taught that Chastity is the Pearl of Christian virtues which makes men like unto angels, bringing peace to the heart and being a most fruitful source of all the other virtues. It may well be that the suppression of this most lovely grace is a major cause of strife between ourselves and between the nations of the earth, and that were it to be cultivated more assiduously, peace would return and hatred between nations would disappear. By so rebuilding our national character, we shall have taken a great stride forward in re-establishing peace on earth amongst men of good will.—G. M. H.

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