

Conservation of the Nation's Greatest Asset—THE CHILD

By MRS. EDGAR A. HALL



AT A PUBLIC PLAYGROUND

IT IS more important for a nation to conserve the physical and moral life of its helpless citizens than to preserve its natural resources. Money expended in the conservation of the child will save money now spent in combating conditions caused by the neglect of the proper authorities to provide instruction for those whose duty it is to care for the children.

The home is the basis of society, and no civic, social or physical betterment can be reached except through intelligent, purposeful effort to raise the standards of home life, of marriage and its duties, of fatherhood and motherhood, and of citizenship. The God-given function of parenthood is the highest, most far-reaching duty of humanity, and the permanence and sacredness of marriage is the foundation of society.

All students of social conditions seeking the cause of crime and disease, trace them to inefficient homes. Money and infinite labor are expended on charity, on the care of defective, dependent and delinquent children, on hospitals, reformatories, orphan asylums and prisons. Practically nothing is done to remove the causes which lie far back of the conditions, and which are largely preventable.

Homes are inefficient because there is nothing in our present educational system to fit young people for wise home-makers. Intelligent parents, broad-minded, public spirited citizens. There is no provision by which young parents may procure the knowledge that is vital for the protection of the life and development of the minds and souls of the children committed to their care. Instinct does not make parents any more than it makes wise specialists in any other branch of work.

The National Congress of Mothers, from whose declaration of principles the foregoing statements are gleaned, is doing practical and efficient service in seeking to reach every home, every parent, and extend a knowledge of child nurture. The congress is strongly urging such provision as will give to parents the knowledge which will do more than anything else to check the evils which menace society.

The terrible death rate among infants can be checked only by giving to every expectant mother the knowledge of what the baby needs in food, sleep, clothing and care. The time has come when every nation, through a special department, should provide the data concerning infants which may be used by boards of health and mothers. The parents' associations and mothers' circles for the study of the welfare of the child in home, school and state should be co-extensive with the



CHILDREN AT PLAY

schools which the children attend. Study courses and libraries for parents should be provided for every parent's association. As strength is gained by unity of action, these associations should unite in local, state and national bodies in the cause of the welfare of the child, and in diffusion of intelligent knowledge of its requirements.

A thorough knowledge of the child's physical needs will result in the elimination of many diseases due to parental ignorance. A knowledge of the high, holy and pure functions of sex inculcated in the receptive minds of children by parents would go far toward preventing the social evil—illegitimate children, venereal diseases and unhappy marriages. The knowledge of how to develop honesty, reliability, purity of mind and responsibility in children, would prevent much criminality. The laws of health, particularly in relation to food, ventilation and sanitation, if thoroughly understood and enforced, would have a great influence on health of mind and body.

The present methods of caring for the dependent, neglected, delinquent, defective and wayward children are far from adequate. The care of children in individual homes rather than institutions and orphan asylums cannot be too strongly recommended. The group system, with house-mother and distinct family life, has proven most successful in institutions. The placing of wayward children in homes where experts in child care may study and guide them, instead of in reformatories, is now advised by the leading students of sociology.

Study of the physical conditions of the child, which may be the chief cause of moral failure, is highly important. The teaching of speech to deaf children, without the use of sign language, should begin at an early age. The prevention of deafness may be accomplished by segregating the deaf, thus preventing intermarriage and the perpetuation of the defect. The prevention of blindness is possible through widespread dissemination of knowledge as to the cause and means of prevention, with laws regulating

the care of children at birth. Legislation can do much to prevent the causes of unnecessary orphanage by requiring employers to provide safeguards for life and health. At the same time a certain amount of wholesome manual work is necessary and should be a part of the system of education from the kindergarten through every school grade.

Decent housing and sanitary conditions should be mandatory under the supervision of boards of health. No community can afford to keep plague spots in its midst. Playgrounds for children should be mandatory and in sufficient number in every neighborhood to keep the children off the streets. No children should be subjected to the criminal influences that come from association with criminals in courts, prisons and police stations.

Juvenile courts and a well organized probation system should be a part of the system for child care in every community. No child should be in an almshouse, no child should be permanently placed in a family or institution without the authority of the court, and with a record that will make it always possible to trace them. Probation officers should be skilled in homemaking, able to advise mothers in all that goes to make a good mother and a good housekeeper; able to aid in problems of child care and to guide difficult children into safe, wholesome ways of life.

Mothers organized in every nation to study the physical, mental and moral growth of childhood, to study community conditions affecting children with the purpose of making them wholesome and helpful, is the fundamental step that will elevate the standards of marriage, parenthood and home life, and raise the physical and moral tone of the race. This is the laudable work that is being undertaken by the national Congress of Mothers, and great good has already been done along these lines. The annual meeting of the congress will be held in Denver, June 10-15, when problems of child care will be discussed by leading experts. Mothers, teachers and child lovers in general will be welcome to the meetings.

Romance in Arctic Wooing

Sometimes Suitor Seizes Girl by the Hair and Drags Her Home—Eskimos Marry Young.

Arctic women marry young and occasionally several times before they are suited or suit their permanent husbands, says the Pittsburg Gazette. Arctic courtships are brief and there is seldom lovemaking beforehand.

Usually a bachelor in search of a wife—and Eskimos marry when yet mere boys—goes to the house of the fair one, seizes her by the hair or anywhere else that offers a firm hold, and drags her to his home, she meantime shrieking and struggling as if she were being murdered, while her family gaze indifferently or smugly on at her courtship. The more high-bred the girl the greater her struggles and outcries and the longer she keeps these up, it being considered the correct thing for her to "carry on" for two or three days, even to the extent of running home after her place, upon the Eskimo bench—apportioned among from three to ten families—has been assigned to her.

In addition to his place and his warm skins, her bridegroom often presents her with a new lamp, lamp table and water pail. Although the young husband may be aware that his wife entertains an affection for him, it he carries her off to his home, he sometimes cuts the soles of her feet slightly so that she cannot run away. By the time her feet are well shod, a contented housewife, occasionally a girl really objects to her captor, when if he will not release her

—and a peace-loving Eskimo rarely wants an unwilling wife—the girl learns to endure patiently her fate.

Another way of wooing is to visit the "young people's house" of a village and there select a wife. Each village has such a house for unmarried persons. The youth selects a wife, and if they like each other and their respective parents have no objections, a brief trial marriage is followed by the ceremony of taking home the bride in less violent fashion than by the hair of her head.

Eskimo couples are generally kind and affectionate toward each other, and the wife is usually well treated according to her code. This admits only of entire obedience upon the part of the wife, although henpecked husbands are not unknown. She must submit to being exchanged when her husband and some friend arrange the matter without consulting her, and for as long or short a time as her lord pleases. These exchanges are often arranged for her interest, however, as when she cannot accompany her husband on a hunting expedition and he takes a friend's wife instead, leaving the friend in charge of his own; or when a homesick girl wants to visit her people, when, if her husband cannot take her, some other man undertakes the journey and leaves his wife as a hostage. Refractory wives are exchanged also by way of punishment.

An Eskimo always travels with his wife or a borrowed one; therefore, the wifeless plight of our explorers awakens astonishment and compassion. Willing ladies are offered them, and being recommended to Count von

Moltke as having "the longest hair in the settlement and a perfectly new foxskin dress," both highly prized possessions in arctic land.

Foll and His Irish "Supporters."
The great baritone, Signor Foll, when singing in grand opera in his native city, Cork, had to sing one of his songs from a stage balcony. The arrangements were not very perfect and the manager, fearing the carpenter had not made the balcony strong enough to sustain the weight of the big man, told off two assistants to hold it up from beneath. The lengthy signor was only half through his song when one man said to the other:
"Be jabbers, Moltke, this Oitallan is mighty heavy!"
"Let's drop him, Pat; he's only an Oitallan, after all!"
Voice from the signor above: "Will ye, ye devils, will ye?"
"Tare-an'-ouns! Pat, he's an Oitallan; hold him up for the loife of ye!"—From "Some Unrehearsed Stage Effects," in the Strand.

Electric Lamp Carbons.
In a new form of electric arc lamp the carbons are formed and supplied as consumed. The lamp is provided with two receptacles in which the plastic material is placed, and this is fed through tubes to form the two electric electrodes of the arc. The ends of the electrodes are baked by means of electric heating coils, and the process is a continuous one.

A Wonder.
"You seemed to regard that man with a good deal of awe."
"Yes. He excites my wonder. He's married to one of my former wives and getting along with her."

BACK TO THE WORLD.



Editor—We've lost another poet. Assistant—What was the trouble, dead?
Editor—No; he got back his old job in the department store.

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Willing to Pay for Rammer.
When the British square at the battle of Abu Klea, in the Nubian desert, was penetrated by the dervishes, one of them attempted to spear a gunner who was in the act of ramming home a charge. The Briton brained the Sudanese, but the rammer head split on the man's hard skull. Next day the gunner was sent for. Mistaking the reason, and knowing from experience that soldiers are charged for government property which they break, he led off with: "Please, sir, I'm very sorry I broke the rammer, but I never thought the fellow's head could be so hard. I'll pay for the rammer so as to hear no more of the case."

"Yaller."
Some soaps are so yellow that no word describes them so well as the homely old expression "yaller." They are made of cheap grease—often rancid—and lots of rosin is put in to give the soap weight. Add to this the strong caustic and you understand why your table linen rots into holes and your white garments come from the laundry with streaks of dirt ironed in them. Use Easy Task soap—the pure, white, guaranteed soap that is an enemy to dirt and a friend to fabrics.

It Made No Difference.
Congressman Ransdale of Louisiana, recently told a story of Alec Trimble, the valet and factotum of a physician in New Orleans, who took a fancy to one of the summer shirts of his master, and finally went and bought one exactly like it. He showed it to his mistress, who said that he had done wrong, as the two shirts might get mixed in the washing; and Alec answered:
"It'd make no difference, missus, 'cause dey's both alike in size an' price."

Old Men in Responsibility.
The American business system, which gives mere boys responsible positions before they have acquired practical experience, is to an Englishman quite unaccountable. He wonders whether it does not cause reckless trading and wild speculation. In other countries they prefer to keep elderly men in responsible positions because they can be depended upon. Messrs. Dyke & Sons, Somerset, England, employ 66 men. More than half have completed 30 years' service, 20 have been there 40 years, nine over 50 years and one 70 years.

A Grievance.
Hewitt—It is no longer fashionable for a woman to have a small waist.
Jewett—I know it; you long-armed fellows have a cinch.

There is a reason Why Grape-Nuts does correct A weak, physical, or a Sluggish mental condition. The food is highly nutritious And is partially pre-digested, So that it helps the organs of the stomach To digest other food. It is also rich in the Vital phosphates that go Directly to make up The delicate gray matter of brain and nerve centres. Read "The Road to Wellville" In pkgs. "There's a Reason."

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Appreciation.
"That successful poker player certainly paid a tribute to his winning game when he selected his handsome home."
"How so?"
"Don't you know he built it on a bluff?"

Too Much of a Target.
Brown—How did you feel, Jones, when the burglar had you covered with his revolver—pretty small, eh?
Jones—Small! Great Scott, no! I felt as big as the side of a house.

Plenty of Time.
Planigan—Phot would ye do if yez lived to be 200 years old?
Lonigan—O! don't know yit.—Brooklyn Life.

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STOOD WHERE SHE WAS PUT

Wife Obeyed Orders to the Letter, but Unfortunately Workmen Moved Post Hole.

In a western state workmen began to dig a post hole for an electric light in front of a Dutchman's dwelling, when the master forbade them to continue. After some discussion the Dutchman bade his wife stand on a large, flat slate with which he covered the hole. "Now, Gretchen," he said, "dat ish where you stands till I comes back mit ein enjunction." The solid frau stood there like a statue, her hands on her hips. When the husband disappeared, the leader of the workmen ordered the slate, with the frau on it, to be removed. With perfect politeness the lady was set on one side as if she had been a fat teapot on a salver. The Dutch wife stood like Casablanca, but the hole was well in its place when the householder returned with the injunction. He was overcome with astonishment and wrath. "Vy vas you not stood on dat hole?" he demanded of his wife. "It was on dis stone dat you vas puts me," she answered. He looked at her in helpless indignation a moment, and then cried: "I vas not mean dat you stand on dat stone ven dat hole was carried away!"—Christian Register.

Very Fishy.
She was a fisherman's daughter, she wore her hair in a net, and she preferred love in a piscatorial way.
"My love," he whispered, "you hold first 'place' in my heart! Although I 'founder' about in expressing myself, my 'sole' wish is that you will save me from becoming a 'crabbed' old bachelor. I shall stick to you closer than a 'limpet,' from you a 'wink'll' be the road to guide me. Together we will 'skate' over life's 'rocks,' and when I look at your hand beside me I shall say to myself: 'Fortune was mine when I put 'herring' there!'"
And then the lady dropped her eyes in sweet confusion, and murmured: "Pass the salt."

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