

American Mothers



Left—Photograph of Mrs. J. Ernest Schiller of Philadelphia which won the \$250 international grand prize for the "Loveliest Mother in the United States and Canada" in a \$20,000 contest conducted by the Photographers' Association of America. (Photograph, courtesy of the Photographers' Association of America.)
Center—"The Spirit of Motherhood." This composite Madonna results from the features of 271 paintings which range in date from 1293 to 1823. It was made by Joseph Gray Kitchell after 31 years of study.
Right—Photograph of Mrs. Blanche Rusby of Detroit, which won the \$500 international grand prize in the contest mentioned above. (Photograph, courtesy of the Photographers' Association of America.)

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

AY 10 is the day this year when America honors its mothers. In accordance with a resolution passed by congress in 1914, designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's day and asking the President to issue a proclamation calling upon government officials to display the flag upon public buildings, President Woodrow Wilson issued such a proclamation, asking his fellow-citizens similarly to display flags at their homes as "a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

Since that time the day has been generally observed throughout the United States and there has grown up the custom of sending to our mothers letters, telegrams, flowers, candy and other gifts on that day as well as honoring them by wearing a white carnation if one's mother is dead and a colored carnation if she is still living. All of which expresses a pretty sentiment and the origin and regular observance of Mother's day in the United States are facts in which Americans take considerable pride. But to offset this pride in the pretty sentiment is an ugly fact of which many Americans are not aware. And that fact is that the mortality rate from maternity causes in the United States is the highest in the civilized world, and that 10,000 of 16,000 American mothers who die each year from childbirth causes need not die if they are given adequate maternity care!

Do you doubt that statement about the mortality rate among American mothers? If so, look at these official figures, compiled by the children's bureau of the United States Department of Labor for 1927 (the latest year for which figures for most of these countries were available) in regard to the maternity death rates, per 1,000 live babies, for the following countries:

Uruguay	2.2
Italy	2.6
Japan	2.8
The Netherlands	2.9
Finland	3.0
Hungary	3.0
Denmark	3.1
Czechoslovakia	3.6
Switzerland	3.7
Spain	3.9
England and Wales	4.1
Estonia	4.1
Irish Free State	4.5
Northern Ireland	4.8
New Zealand	4.9
Lithuania	5.0
Canada	5.6
Chile	5.8
Australia	5.9
Salvador	6.3
Scotland	6.4
United States	6.5

In the light of these statistics and the custom of wearing white carnations in honor of mothers who have died, some one has asked this very appropriate question, "Does it not seem that 10,000 white carnations, one for each mother who needlessly died in the last year as a result of motherhood, represent too great a toll in pain and sorrow to be paid for by sentiment alone?"

However, an answer to that question may be found in a movement which is already under way. For this year the observance of Mothers' day marks the beginning of a nation-wide educational campaign to reduce the mortality rate among American mothers so that 10,000 shall not die in vain each year. This campaign has been started by Mrs. John Sloane, president of the Maternity Center association in New York city, and it has the indorsement of high government officials.

At a recent White House conference President Hoover said, "When mothers understand the standards of care, they will demand protection." Sur-

geon-General H. S. Cumming of the United States public health service in endorsing the campaign as a new form of Mother's day observance has declared, "The high maternal death rate is a disgrace to our profession and I am convinced that efforts such as these will go far toward improving conditions." Similarly Grace Abbott, chief of the children's bureau, stated, "There are no more tragic deaths than of mothers in childbirth, and I feel sure that, if it were understood by the people of the United States that to a very large extent these deaths are preventable, they would be prevented."

Typhoid fever, smallpox and diphtheria have yielded to scientific control in the last quarter century, and tuberculosis has been reduced to half its toll, as almost everyone knows. But the death rate from causes connected with maternity has not been lowered at all during the period for which records are available.

Italy, Denmark and five other nations have maternal death rates less than half that of the United States, which, as has been seen, is twenty-second on the roster of the nations of the world. In many of these countries the results have been commonly achieved by legislation requiring obedience, but in the United States improvement cannot be expected by such drastic action unless there is popular opinion back of it.

"We have refused to address ourselves effectively to this problem for at least twenty-five years," says Dr. Ralph W. Lobenstein, a noted obstetrician of New York city. "If we are to improve conditions we must face them, not rationalize. The humiliating conclusion is that this national disgrace can be removed when, as a people, we set out to remove it."

"The idea of going to a physician at once," states Dr. Frank W. Lynch, a leading obstetrician of San Francisco, "may seem ridiculous to the ordinary woman. She would not think so if she realized the value of taking things in time. In nearly every hospital in the land, it will be found that most tragedies occur in women who were not under medical supervision during the period of the child's development."

"Perhaps the root of the difficulty," states Carolyn Conant Van Blarcom, in her book, "Obstetrical Nursing," "lies in the fact that childbirth, as well as the attendant suffering and death, are so familiar that they are regarded as being normal incidents in the ordinary course of affairs. One of the most dramatic of all human events, the birth of a new being, is accepted casually, almost without concern, because it is so frequent—so commonplace."

"Moreover, we are all accustomed to hearing stressed the fact that child-bearing is not a disease, but is a normal physiological function. Not so

OUR MOTHERS

With little cheeks against the pane
You watched the sheets of summer rain.
"And will it ever stop," you said.
"She stroked your frightened baby head."
"The stars—how many miles away?"
"Do even children die some day?"
"Is heaven far above the blue?"
"She answered every one for you."
"And when you left the fire-side's light
To go away up to bed at night,
Where shadows lurked along the wall
(Those were her footsteps in the hall).
You saw the shallow moonlight flow
On fields of dying things below,
But far away somewhere you knew
A silent prayer went up for you.
The years live as a moment stays,
Tomorrow's tint your yesterdays;
The May wind tells where lilacs are,
A sleighbell tinkles to a star;
Now we are young—our voices call,
Now—faded portraits on the wall.
More sweet these hours with her will grow
As they pass to the long ago,
And should you speak some day to me,
"Had I my life to live again—"
"May you live now that you can say,
"I would not change a single day!"
—Thomas Horneby Ferris.

generally, however, do we hear emphasis put upon the equally important fact that there is extreme danger of infection while these physiological functions are in progress, and that they must subject the entire organism to such a strain that there results a dangerously narrow margin between health and disease."

Here is the evidence that adequate maternity care saves mothers' lives. Louis I. Dublin, Ph. D., statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company, and an expert internationally known, examined the records of 4,726 mothers cared for by the Maternity Center association over a period of six years in a certain section of New York city. He compared the results with what happened to mothers in the same section of the city not receiving such care. This showed that those in the first group have about three times as good a chance to survive as the others.

"The result," says his report, "is indicative of the saving of lives that might be accomplished were every mother to receive the benefit of adequate maternity care. As more than 16,000 women in the United States every year die from causes related to maternity, this means that more than 10,000 deaths are preventable. In addition, 30,000 of the 100,000 babies who now die in the first month of life, would be saved. Infants, as well as mothers, are protected by adequate maternity care."

"There is nothing peculiar to the civilization of the United States to account for the fact that our maternal death rate is more than twice that of such countries as Denmark and the Netherlands, where records are kept as carefully as they are here. This country's low position on the roster of nations of the world is because there is a striking absence here of trained care for the great mass of women in moderate circumstances who have children."

"We have allowed things to go on with indifference to the waste of lives of mothers and babies, assuming that all was well, when decidedly it was not. The situation cries to high heaven for a remedy."

Adequate maternity care is the observation, care and instruction by doctors and nurses of mothers from the time the woman thinks she may be pregnant until she is able to resume her regular activities and to care for her new baby, according to Hazel Corbin, general director of the Maternity Center association.

Commenting on the work done by this organization which reduced the death rate among mothers to 2.2 per thousand live births as against 6.5 in the country as a whole, Miss Corbin adds: "Nurses urge each mother to register as early as possible with the private doctor or hospital physician who will deliver her so he may direct her care during pregnancy and know all about her when it comes time for the delivery and care of the baby. Each mother is helped to select, from the facilities available, what is best suited to her condition."

"The nurses, working with the doctors and reporting to them each time they see the mothers, visit each mother at regular intervals during pregnancy. They help the doctor or midwife during delivery and make regular visits afterward and give, or teach some responsible person to give, the necessary care to mother and baby, as well as see that the household is running smoothly so the mother can rest as long as necessary, and gradually, as the doctor advises, resume her usual activities and increased responsibilities."

"The aim of maternity care is to secure for every mother the minimum of mental and physical discomfort during pregnancy; the maximum of mental and physical fitness when the baby comes; the reward of a well baby and the knowledge to care for herself and baby."

Community Building

"Personality" of City Matter of Importance

A city can win world fame by developing "personality," Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, secretary of the Interior, declares in a symposium of the city and regional planning committee of the American Institute of Architects.

"The individuality and charm of cities," says Doctor Wilbur, who is president of Better Homes in America, "depend a great deal upon their setting and natural topography. Rivers, bays, hills, ledges, and an outlook to the mountains may give a unique quality to a city."

"Nevertheless, whether such natural beauties are present or absent, it is possible through wise planning of civic centers, of business and residential areas, and of street systems, to give the city a character of its own."

"The planning of streets to take advantage of attractive vistas and the planting of appropriate shade trees on all residential streets, as well as careful placement of civic buildings and attention to appropriateness and quality in their architecture, may give a personality to a city by which it may acquire national or world-wide repute."

"It is, however, through the design and upkeep of the homes and grounds and of residential streets that a city acquires that intimate charm through which it keeps its hold on the affections of its citizens, even after they may have found it necessary to move to other communities. There is no doubt that the quality of home life finds expression in citizenship, and that good taste and high aspirations incorporated in the home and its gardens are reflected in community service."

Plea for Gardens on Unightly City Spaces

Sometimes out of the stress of adversity come to us permanent benefits of greatest worth. No one wanted the conditions that led to partitioning out vacant lands for gardens. Strange, isn't it, that a people so shortly removed from those pioneers who devoted the best energies of their lifetime to gaining a foothold upon the land should think of gardening as a sort of relief measure to be thrust upon them in time of calamity?

But nothing is more certain than that most American cities would benefit immensely by exchanging the unsightliness of their environs for orderly tillage. Let the gardens thrive again, and instead of attaching to them associations with ill-luck and hard necessity, may many Detroiters revive the charm and get the inspiration that come from renewed acquaintance with the soil. Let flower beds and fertile plots growing vegetables and fruits take the place of rubbish heaps and worthless weeds. And best of all, may there come with the orderliness and thrift of production a love for civic neatness and the esthetic charm lent by well-kept gardens.—Detroit News.

Cottage Homes Urged

Cities of cottages with spacious parks and playgrounds in the open fields and playgrounds of Staten Island, Queens and Brooklyn are envisioned under a municipal plan of housing.

Thomas Adams, consultant to the regional plan of New York, told the housing section of the welfare council that the city is in a position to eliminate bad living conditions by undertaking the home-owner development of these fields.

Every city engages in real estate, Adams said, so there should be no objection to his plan. He believed it superior to that for the provision of modern apartments for those who cannot afford current rentals.

He advocated the condemnation of uninhabitable housing in the city as a means of urging the home owners on to a city development.

Odd Sloping Wall

An owner who wanted a wall on a sloping hillside adopted a novel method of securing the structure. Because of the position of the wall between the curbing of a hillside roadway and a cement gutter some 10 feet above, to have built it of solid concrete or other material would have entailed an expense too great for the owner, so he proceeded as follows:

At points about every 12 feet along this stretch between the curb and the gutter, cement piers, 18 inches in width, were built and laid into the earth. Next, between these posts ordinary chicken wire of small mesh was laid, and upon this wire, between the piers, 2 by 4 inch timbers were laid, finishing the wall at a very small cost.

Ornamental Fences Popular

Fencing the yards and gardens has become popular by reason not only of its usefulness, but for its ornamental value. White fences, matching pergolas and arches, with climbing roses over them add to the charm of the garden and give it also an air of seclusion. An attractive type is designed in squares with a border along the top, with white posts at regular intervals, and the gate is hung in a graceful arch. In formal gardens old-fashioned low ornamental wove wire fencing inclosing the flower beds is effective.

Scientists Find Bones of Prehistoric Beasts

Important discoveries of the skeletons of prehistoric animals have been made in Ecuador by the scientists of the American Museum of Natural History.

Excavation was carried on in the deep ravines of Chalan, in the province of Chimborazo, and in Alangosi, in the valley of Chilllos, where the scientists have been working since the middle of December. Skeletons found at Chalan were of the glacial period and those at Alangosi of the post-glacial period.

The bones of the glacial period are said by the scientists to be from twenty-five thousand to thirty thousand years old. Skeletons complete, or in part were found there of a mastodon, a camel, a horse, various species of deer and rodents.

"The finding of skeletons of horses and camels, which to many laymen may seem an anomaly," says a report, "proves again the theory sustained by well-informed paleontologists that these animals originated in America and migrated to Europe and Africa in a remote epoch with others such as the elephant, a skeleton of which, as well as of prehistoric horses, was found recently in North America."

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Unique Record

Thomas Smith, of Syracuse, N. Y., who worked for a railroad six days a week, not missing a day for thirty years, yet never rode on a train, has been retired with his name inscribed on the honor roll of the line. Smith's job was to sweep and tidy up the seventeen locomotive stalls in a roundhouse. Except for lifts on cars shunting around the yard, Smith never traveled by rail.

We have to remember, too, that in William Tell's day the apples were not as big as they are now.

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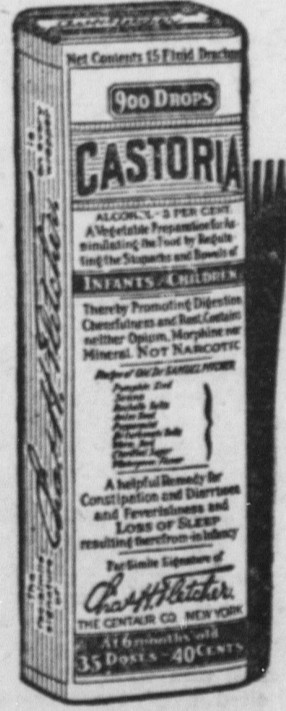
Dr. J. D. KELLOGG'S REMEDY

W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 18-1931.

How Much? Thirteen-year-old Robert D., of Franklin, was greatly excited over learning to drive an automobile. Grandmother was trying to dissuade him by telling him he could not get a license. His mother, in the meantime, was telling him of the ambition of young people thirty years ago to own a fine horse and buggy, when Robert said:

"Mother, how much did a horse and buggy license cost?"—Indianapolis News.

When words so easily make people happy, why can't you use more of that kind?



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Keep Castoria in mind, and keep a bottle in the house—always. Give it to any child whose tongue is coated, or whose breath is bad. Continue with Castoria until the child is grown!

Soviet Theatricals

It is said that a spontaneous amateur theater movement has sprung up in the Soviet union. Performances take place in factory towns. Village club workers write, produce and act their own plays. There are some 35,000 of these club theaters in cities and towns and about 30,000 in villages. Troupers, known as Blue Blossoms, travel about the country, performing before local trade unions and peasant clubs. Their repertoire includes songs, acrobatics, dances and satirical sketches. There are about 10,000 of these. In the spring

of 1928 there were 8,767 motion picture display places in the Soviet union.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets are the original little liver pills put up 60 years ago. They regulate liver and bowels.—Adv.

Didn't Know George Caller—Is George in? Wife—Yes, he's in. Caller—Good; then, praps I'll get the money he owes me. Wife—You're too much of an optimist. If George had any money he wouldn't be in!



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