

WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT; DEVOTED TO HER INTERESTS

This Page is Open to Every Woman to Express Her Views

(Edited by Miss Anna Morrell)

I do not know why a woman cannot form political opinions by her baby's cradle as well as her husband in his workshop.—Higginson.

SAYS WOMEN ARE CLOSE TO NATION.

President Wilson outlined to the women of Pittsburgh his plans for national defense during his recent speaking tour. James Francis Burke, who introduced the President, stated that it was Mr. Wilson's first message on this subject to the women of the United States.

The President was evidently surprised at the number of men in the meeting that had been announced as particularly for women.

"I see the men have come in and usurped things as usual," he said. The President showed that he believes women as well as men should take an active interest in the country's problems.

"There is no excuse for making any difference between what I should say to you and what I should say to any other body of citizens," he declared, according to the Pittsburgh Sunday Post of January 30th.

When the applause ceased, he went on, "women live closer to the heart of the nation than men. Women feel the pulse of the country more than men."

THE WOMEN OF CHILI ASK FOR "RIGHTS."

In Chili, when a woman marries, the law does not give her an equal right with her husband in her children; her property is under his control; her wages may be collected by him, and the earnings of the children belong exclusively to the father. At the request of a group of distinguished Chilean women, these unequal and arbitrary discriminations have been brought to the attention of the Senate of that country, and it is possible the Civil Code will be amended.

HAS TWINS, COOKS, WORKS FOR VOTE.

"Suffrage Twins," two boys, have arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Macdowell Vail, of Philadelphia, according to the Public Ledger. Mrs. Vail is an ardent suffragist. She writes to The Woman's Journal:

"I made nearly all of the baby's clothes myself and still keep up my suffrage work, besides being secretary of the board of supervisors of the W. C. T. U., a flutist, and attending to my house also. Suffrage does not make a woman care less for her home. I love to take care of mine, and my soft gingerbread is known in the neighborhood. I put this in my husband's lunch, as he is very fond of it."

The Ledger says: "Mrs. Vail was one of the most active workers in the recent suffrage campaign. She won many hundreds of signatures to the cause by her eloquence, both in street orations and at other times. She was secretary of her legislative district and stayed at the polls all day on election day. Her husband

is a widely known attorney of the city."

Mrs. Vail writes that she expects to vote long before her sons can, for she fully believes women will be voting in Pennsylvania in four or five years at most.

DEBORAH CHANGES MINISTER'S MIND.

Right Rev. S. J. Johnston, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of West Texas, announced in a recent sermon in San Antonio that he had become a convert to equal suffrage. He had converted himself, he said, while preparing the sermon in which he made the announcement. His sermon was a study of the Biblical character of Deborah.

"Deborah might well be selected," he said, "as the patron saint of the woman's movement, and the suffragists might well call themselves 'Daughters of Deborah.' It seems to me that there is a useful lesson in this story of a woman who lived 4000 years ago.

"Times change and we change with them," an old man now ready when the question becomes again a political issue in Texas, to vote for State enfranchisement of women."

MARKED MENACES FOR WOMEN NOW.

The Chicago Crime Commission of the City Council in its first report last week advocated better facilities and more humane conditions for women offenders. A central detention house and court for women in or near the Loop district, the construction of a house of shelter for women, the remodeling of three police stations for the care of women offenders and a farm reformatory for women were the principal requests of the commission.

Chicago is alive to the improvement of conditions where women are concerned as never before.

IF THEY HAD BEEN WOMEN.

Two prominent men engaged in a fight in Washington recently and finally they were "pried apart" by their friends. The incident carries with it no discredit except to the two men concerned. But suppose that two women of like social standing had done the same thing! Would not every anti-suffrage editor in the country have pointed to it as proof that women are too excitable to vote?

If women go on assimilating four-fifths of the available religion and leaving nine-tenths of the alcohol and nearly all the tobacco to the men, they will govern us before we know it.—E. S. Martin.

BALLOT HARMFUL BUT TOOL IS GOOD.

"The ballot," says A. D. Schellhammer of Kansas City, "would unsex women," and the Buffalo Evening News replies: "For fear you won't seem to remember Mr. Schell-

hammer we will explain: Mr. Schellhammer operates a large factory in Kansas City, and another in St. Louis, for the manufacture of electrical equipment. We have journeyed through Mr. Schellhammer's plant and there saw many wonderful sights; we saw women operating drill presses, young girls running lathes and turning rubber for electric switches; we saw even younger girls operating "tumblers" for cleaning copper castings. Another incident may serve on sharper your memory of Mr. Schellhammer: he was indicted for violation of the labor laws to rwork women more than the prescribed hours. Mr. Schellhammer is one of the leading heroes in the matter of preventing the unsexing of women."

SAVING THE SIGHT OF BABIES

Today is the first day of the week set aside by the nation as Baby Week, and it is not out of place to quote in part an article on one of the most potent questions of the day, that of blindness in babies. It has been scientifically proven that 85 per cent of the blindness is preventable. That if the baby's eyes were given proper attention at birth 85 per cent of the misery attending the privation of one of the most valuable of the senses would be done away with. For this, naturally, the medical profession in its carelessness as well as the neglect of the parents is to blame.

The article quoted below appeared in a recent copy of the Survey. It was written by Carolyn C. Ban Blaroom, secretary of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. It is well worth the serious consideration of all who have special care of babies at heart.

The article is as follows: Year by year the subject of the prevention of blindness comes up at medical meetings and conferences of health officers, nurses and social workers. The assertion is reiterated that more than a quarter of the children in the schools for the blind in this country are sightless because of a negligent ophthalmologist. The statement that Ophthalmia neonatorum is both preventable and curable has become axiomatic. Almost every year there is written on the statute books of some state a law which is designed to safeguard the eyes of babies. And yet the percentage of ophthalmia neonatorum victims admitted to the schools for the blind year after year varies but slightly, and we are forced to admit with no little chagrin that scarcely more than a scratch has been made on the surface of the problem as a whole.

If the sad procession of little blind children, with state institutions as their goal, is to be eliminated, something more definite and practical will have to be done than the enactment of laws which only become dead letters, the making of speeches and reading of papers before selected audiences.

Unquestionably, the first step in the enactment of laws making compulsory the reporting to local health officers of all cases of sore eyes in infants. This would make possible the provision of medical attention for uncared-for cases. But, upon

making a survey of the laws, it is learned that more than half the states (50) do require that ophthalmia neonatorum be reported. Why, then, are the babies still going blind? Because, except in a very few communities the law is neither obeyed nor enforced, nor is any official action taken when information upon an occasional case does find its way to a department of health.

The filing of a report is valuable only if it sets in motion machinery capable of meeting the needs of the individual baby. At present the facilities at the disposal of the average health officer for giving efficient assistance to the physician or the midwife are so limited as to be practically without value.

Local health departments should have a nurse to visit each midwife case and to secure such care as is necessary, and also to give visiting nursing assistance to those doctors who wish it. There should also be eye clinics to supplement home care and such hospital facilities for severe cases of ophthalmia neonatorum that, without an hour's delay, an infected baby and its mother may be admitted, and the work of saving its sight begun at once.

The value of some such practical work as outlined above has been demonstrated in a few, but deplorably few, of our American cities. Conspicuous among these is Buffalo, where each physician has received by letter from the Department of Health that:

1. Babies' sore eyes is a reportable disease, under the state law.

2. It is the intention of the department to prosecute doctors and midwives alike who are found to be disregarding this legal requirement.

3. As the sole purpose of the department in taking this attitude is to safeguard the eyes of babies, it will give as much assistance to the doctors as they wish or will accept; and therefore,

(a) Nursing service and bacteriological examinations are offered to those doctors who request this form of assistance, or

(b) Hospital care will be provided for those infants who need more attention than can be given at home.

More than this, a nurse from the Bureau of Child Hygiene visits each midwife case reported, to ascertain, among other things, the condition of the baby's eyes. If any redness, swelling or discharge is discovered, this information is telephoned to the chief of the bureau, and a doctor is sent without delay.

It cannot be denied that such work as is being carried on in Buffalo will give as much assistance to the health officer to undertake his report; lack of facilities to carry out the law should exist; or most important of all, lack of support of such public health work by the community. No amount of effort on the part of the health officer can be effective if, after bringing a case in to court, the judge, dazed to throw it out with the remark: "Any baby may have sore eyes, just as anyone may fall downstairs,"—as actually happened in Connecticut.

The public must be so enlightened that the health officer will feel ac-

ture in attempting to exercise his prerogatives, and the courts will not dare to disregard the rights of even an infant citizen to the state's protection.

But to have the co-operation of the public at large, which is absolutely necessary to a successful prosecution of this effort, one point must be clearly understood—the people must be disabused of the idea that infant ophthalmia is a disgrace. In popularizing medical facts, certain misconceptions will almost inevitably gain currency, some of which may be harmless and others actually defeat the very ends which it is desired to attain. One of the most serious of these misconceptions concerning the prevention of blindness in babies is that this disease is always or nearly always of gonorrhoeal origin. In fact, this seems to be the general teaching even in medical circles.

The late Dr. Mark Stevenson, of Ohio, writing in this connection, said:

"It is advisable in the present stage of our work for the prevention of blindness from babies' sore eyes, that the old idea among the public that it is always or nearly always gonorrhoeal in its origin, should be corrected. The laity should be taught the plain facts, that while a certain small percentage of cases of babies' sore eyes are caused by the gonococcus, the larger majority of the cases are produced by the various ordinary forms of pus-producing germs that are likely to be found in any mother; and that the presence of babies' sore eyes does not necessarily imply guilt or wrong on the part of either parent."

"So long as the disease is thought to be purely gonorrhoeal in its origin, there will be associated with its treatment and attempts at its prevention a great deal of unnecessary embarrassment to the family and the physician. If such a belief is prevalent the physician will naturally be afraid, in many families, to suggest the use of a prophylactic, fearing that it will be considered a reflection on the character of the mother or father. Parents also would be afraid to suggest, let alone insist on, the use of a prophylactic. As a not necessarily gonorrhoeal disease, its public discussion will be much easier, it will receive more respectful attention, and will not be considered a part of the present almost hysterical propaganda with regard to sex hygiene and other subjects that are sometimes too freely discussed."

The free public discussion to which Dr. Stevenson refers is our only hope for a successful campaign against preventable blindness. For after all, this matter will largely be settled by the attitude of the babies' parents themselves. To this end we say to them: Babies' sore eyes is an infectious disease, is caused by a germ; if neglected, it may result in blindness; that blindness from babies' sore eyes would practically never occur if a prophylactic were used in the eyes of every infant immediately after birth, and if every case of redness, swelling and discharge from the eyes of infants were promptly and adequately treated. Undoubtedly the gonorrhoeal

theory has been a serious obstacle in the way of this universal prophylaxis and early remedial treatment, in some instances because of pride and in not a few others because of the conviction that there was no venereal infection present. The control and reduction of venereal diseases will unquestionably do a great deal toward the prevention of more than one kind of blindness, but it is very important that the question of babies' sore eyes should be handled impartially, if we are to have every baby's eyes given the advocated preventive treatment as a matter of routine, and remedial treatment when necessary.

HELPING THE COUNTRY SCHOOL TO TEACH IN TERMS OF COUNTRY LIFE.

(Mrs. Francis Shuttleworth)

Kern said, "the great promise, the great hope, is with country children." The efficient country school is not an imitation of a city school set down in the midst of the fields. The training of the country school today should aim to conserve all that is best and richest in a type of mind and life distinctly country. The possibilities for intellectual growth, literary culture and social enjoyment are as great (or will be) among the clover blossoms of the fields as among the flowers blooming in the city parks; in raising high grade corn, as in practicing law.

I plead for the spiritualization of country life. Education must do this. A new educational ideal in the country school will lead the boys and girls to see and understand the divine joy of living in the country.

In one county tulip beds are planted on every school ground. School houses were kept clean. Individual drinking cups and towels were introduced. Outbuildings were made decent and sanitary. Better equipment was secured. Every country school worked for at least one good print of a masterpiece, well framed; for flowers in the school room and for a good library. Wherever there is a good teacher that remains long enough it is possible to have these things.

The efficient country school becomes a vital force in all the life and interests of the community.

It is through the encouragement of the country teacher that the best work can be done in Boys' Corn Field and other Clubs and Girls' Garden Poultry or Canning Clubs, and this work will not mean all that it can unless it is dignified through the interest of the school. The school belongs to the people and can be the center for meetings together, Farmers' Clubs, literary societies, lectures and every kind of gathering which will bring the people together to talk over things of mutual interest.

With good roads and better means of transportation in the country makes an easy possibility of conver-

ing small schools into one large, consolidated school. This means a graded school, with teachers trained for their work; a high school, and a good auditorium, a good library for community as well as school use, and a great decrease of educational waste. The battle is on for better schools for rural children. Of the final outcome there is no doubt.

WOMEN ARE DELEGATES.

California's Squad to Democratic Convention on Equal Right Basis.

San Francisco, March 2.—Three women were included among candidates who have been nominated for the Democratic national convention delegation by a committee representing California's eleven congressional districts. Mrs. Nora F. Rasmussen of San Francisco; Mrs. William C. Tyler, of Los Angeles, and Miss M. Prof. of Pasadena, were the women candidates named.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE

(By Mrs. J. C. Burns.)

The School League held a called meeting last Monday to plan for the refreshments for the school entertainment Friday night, and because of carnival there will be no meeting Monday, March 6th.

Work on the school yard will soon be under way. Mr. John Haller, who gives so much of his time and splendid taste to the beautifying of our public places, will superintend the work. His work at park and the court yard has called forth the admiration of every lover of neatness, cleanliness and beauty, and the ladies of the School League are fortunate in securing his kind services for the school yard.

The School Improvement League of Covington has sent out letters to all of the Leagues of North Louisiana, and ladies interested in the work of the parish inviting them to a special meeting and informal reception to be held Friday, March 17th, at 3:30 o'clock, at the high school auditorium, in Covington.

The Women's Progressive Union will present. The object of this meeting is, first, to stimulate woman's interest and work in all educational matters, to discuss league organization throughout the parish, and to form plans to raise money for an educational building at the parish fair grounds.

We invite the presidents of all leagues to be prepared to read or say something that will advance this work.

The Women's Progressive Union will advance ideas along civic lines and discuss a woman's building of the fair grounds.

The invitation is most cordial, and we especially desire the mothers to be with us.

Don't forget the date—Friday, March 17th, (St. Patrick's Day) at 3:30 o'clock at the Covington high school auditorium.

MRS. J. C. BURNS, For School League and W. P. U.

WILSON CALLS ON PARTY TO SHOW SOLID FRONT IN DISPUTE WITH GERMANY.

Washington, Feb. 29.—President Wilson today definitely challenged the pro-German and pacifist members to Congress to prove their loud assertion that the representatives of the American people desire him to surrender American rights to German militarism.

The issue between the President, as the champion of Americanism and humanity, and the ryanized leaders of his party is joined. The hand has been called. Upon the showdown depends the future policy of the United States.

In a remarkable letter sent this afternoon to Representative Edward W. Ross, of North Carolina, acting chairman of the House rules committee, the President demanded that a vote be taken at once on the pending resolution to warn Americans of merchant ships armed only for defense. He expressed the belief that reports that this resolution will be adopted "are false." He said that in face of the predictions that it would be adopted by Speaker Champ Clark, Representative Henry D. Flood, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee; Senator Stone, of Missouri, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, and other Democratic leaders, who are alarmed at the mere possibility of war.

With German and Austrian submarines scattered over the Atlantic and the Mediterranean ready to begin a campaign of destruction against armed merchant ships, with Germany's definite refusal to modify that campaign to conform to the State Department's conception of international law, Mr. Wilson chose to stand squarely where has stood from the beginning, defying imperial Germany, pro-German propagandists in the United States and the advocates of scuttles and surrender in Congress.

The resulting situation is one of the most remarkable in the history of the American government. The nation is on the eve of momentous decision of the utmost importance to future generations.

SENATE SUPPORTS WILSON. Americans Will Not Be Warned of Armed Ships.

Washington, March 2.—Out of a day's developments in Wilson's fight with Congress, crowded to the utmost with elements of the sensational and dramatic, the administration forces in the Senate tonight emerged with pledges of enough votes to kill, and for all, Senator Gore's resolution to warn Americans of armed



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BEWARE! lest you lose your best friend—SIGHT. Headaches, dizziness, nervousness, imperfect vision, are some of the means Nature uses to advise you that you should consult GEO. F. GILLIAMS, Doctor of Optics Office at Ideal Pharmacy, Madisonville, La. Eyeglasses and spectacles fitted and repaired. Eyesight tested.

Covington People Take Notice! You may come to Madisonville via Dutsch's Auto, 75c round trip. Leave Covington 10 a. m., (Post Office). Leave Madisonville 1:15 (Ideal Pharmacy).

Low Rates VIA New Orleans Great Northern Railroad TO NEW ORLEANS Account MARDI GRAS

Tickets on sale February 28, 29 and March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and for trains scheduled to arrive New Orleans before midnight March 7th.

RETURN LIMIT MARCH 17th

Final return limit may be extended to and including April 3d, by depositing ticket with Special Agent, 708 St. Charles street, New Orleans, not later than March 17th, and payment of \$1.00.

For further particulars call on agents or write M. J. McMAHON, Gen. Pass. Agt., New Orleans, La. J. A. LACOUR, Com. Agent, Jackson, Miss.

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Succession of Sophie Steiner, No. 1126. In the District Court for St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

Notice is hereby given to the creditors of this estate and to all other persons interested to show cause within ten days from the present notification (if any they have or can) why the final account brought by the Andrew Reimuth, administrator of the minor, Marie Steiner, should not be approved and homologated, and the funds distributed in accordance therewith.

N. GILLIS, Dy. Clerk of Court.

RYAN'S

Have you seen the "Smokers' Choice"? The sweetest thing for pipe smokers and the most convenient. Come in and look at them. The new Hamilton Fish is a fish that's a real five cent cigar.

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"Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been used in my household for the past twenty years. I began giving it to my children when they were small. As a quick relief for croup, whooping cough, and ordinary colds, it has no equal. Being free from opium and other harmful drugs I never felt afraid to give it to the children. I have recommended it to a large number of friends and neighbors, who have used it, and speak highly of it." writes Mrs. Mary Minna of Shortsville, N. Y. Obtainable at City Drug Store.

AT THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The Methodists of Covington and community will please take notice of the services to be held at the church each month.

Sunday School every Sunday morning at 9:45 o'clock.

Preaching very second and fourth Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Prayer Meeting every Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

Ladies Aid Society meets every second and fourth Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

All members are urged to attend the service and visitors are cordially welcome.

J. M. BOYKIN, Pastor.

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stand behind the President in his negotiations with Germany, and demonstrate that Congress Action in the Senate, it is believed, will be followed promptly by he was not in accord with the President; Senator Lodge, the ranking Republican, pledged his support to the President's determination to secure to Americans their rights on the high seas, and Senator John Sharp Williams, just from a sick bed, delivered a withering denunciation.