

were moved by Dr. Hedger's speech of the thousands of young women who would never know the joy of happy motherhood because their health was left behind them on the machines of the sweetshops.

"I was once connected with a large mail order house, employing 4,000 girls," said Dr. Hedger. "More than 2,000 of these girls were treated every month. The medicine was made in five-gallon lots. One-fourth of them had headaches caused by eye-strain; others had hysteria from nerve strain; others had pains in the back from too much stress in Chicago life.

"Girls may be divided into three classes as to future motherhood. To the first class belongs the girls who are so fine that nothing hurts them. These girls may go through college without harm. If of necessity they enter the economic mill to earn their own living they come out without physical injury. They marry at about 30 years of age and have children. But few girls belong to this class.

"The second class of girls should never be allowed to marry. They were never intended to reproduce their kind and become a factor in the race. They should be educated to work. They have inherited nervous troubles or perhaps are tubercular. Reproduction would possibly cost them their life.

"To the third class belong the great army of women who have one or two weaknesses, but who are not unfit to take their places in the scheme of life. They should think of marriage and learn of the divinity of motherhood.

"France is greatly worried over the low birth rate, but the birth rate among American mothers is just as low. It is the foreign women who make the birth rate in this country. The American mothers are unable to nurse their children for the necessary nine months. This is the cause of all the infant mortality we hear so much about.

"There are two causes for the inefficiency of Chicago girls for motherhood. These may be traced to the school and the home. In neither place have the girls been conserved. People have been so carried away with the economic necessity in the last fifty years that a girl has never been considered as a race factor. She has been judged as an earning power, not as a future mother. The question now is to have girls capable of

both earning money and becoming mothers.

"In schools girls are pale from climbing stairs to get to algebra lessons. And if they don't go to schools the truant officers are after them.

"Schools were made for men. The present education scheme is bad enough even for boys. But our girls outstrip them in school work at the expense of motherhood.

"A normal rhythm should be established in every girl. This can be done by eliminating too much standing and too much rush for the girls in the working world or in the colleges."

Mrs. Washburne's opinion is not quite as scientific, but is intensely human. She knows working girls and understands their sorrows. She doesn't quite take the same view of the question as Dr. Hedger. She holds out more hope for the second class of working girls as described by the doctor. She sees a light far ahead. But the light is held in the rather doubtful hands of the employer of girl labor.

"The question is simply an economic one," she told a reporter for The Day Book. "The hard work and the terrible conditions that the working girls of today have to face are not conducive to motherhood.

"Girls who have to worry about the necessities of life can not very well plan for the future. The environment of the sweatshop destroys the spirit of motherhood in the girls. I know that in some of the big plants of this city fine, young girls are losing their chance of becoming mothers of