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A Parent-Teacher Association in Every School!

By CAROLYNE E. FORGRAVE

AIMS AND PURPOSES

To raise the standard of home life.

To give young people opportunities to learn how to care for children, so that when they assume the duties of parenthood they may have some conception of the methods which will best develop the physical, intellectual and spiritual nature of the child.

To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of the child.

To surround the childhood of the world with that wise, loving care in the responsible years of life that will develop good citizens.

To use systematic earnest effort toward this end through the formation of Parent-Teacher Associations in every public school and elsewhere; through the establishment of kindergartens and through the distribution of literature which will be of practical use to parents in the problems of home life.

To secure more adequate laws for the care of blameless and dependent children, and to carry the mother-thought and mother-love into all that concerns childhood.

The Congress believes that with the aid of Divine power these objects will be accomplished.

TWELVE THOUSAND new members have joined the ranks of the Iowa Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations the past year. What does this vast increase mean? It means that Iowa people are realizing that the problems of child welfare are grave and are uniting their efforts to help solve these problems.

You may ask, "What is a Parent-Teacher Association?" It is an organization which brings into closer touch two vital factors necessary in shaping the ideals of the youth of the land—the parent and the teacher.

The National Congress of Mother's and Parent-Teacher Associations was organized at Washington, D. C. almost twenty-five years ago. Since then, branches have been established in nearly all the states in the union. The Congress includes organizations for mother circles, for the preschool age, Parent-Teacher Associations in schools and churches, and child study circles.

The Iowa Congress was organized in 1900 by its first president, Mrs. Isaac Lea Hillis of Des Moines. While all departments have been organized, the Parent-Teacher department has made such wonderful progress the last few years that it is of it we are writing particularly, at this time when so many inquiries are coming in because of the opening of the school year.

The report for Iowa for the past year shows that we have 15,500 members, 235 associations, have contributed $590 to the national birthday offering and have sent relief packages to 500 Austrian children. We have cooperated with all organizations interested in child welfare, and we have been assisted in our work by the best educators in the state. The state colleges, the state Board of Health, the state department of Public Instruction, all state and national officers and department chairmen have helped us in every way.

Why not a Parent-Teacher Association in every rural school? In every consolidated, high school? This at least is what we hope to bring about in the near future.

In answer to the many questions which have been coming in from schools and communities where there is no Parent-Teacher Association, it might be well to state here the definite purpose of this organization; by whom it can be organized, who is eligible for membership and other definite information which will be of value in the formation of any new associations. In the first place the purpose of the Parent-Teacher Association is:

To unite the school and home into a stronger bond of fellowship. The teacher and parent may combine their efforts to train the child for better citizenship.

To help build up an organization that shall by virtue of its splendid citizenship of its members be a recognized power in matters pertaining to the child and the home, both work and progress.

The power exerted for child welfare by the combined study and efforts of parents and teachers, those who are actually caring for the children, is greater than can be exerted by any other combination of people. It is meeting health problems in home and school, saving lives of countless babies and little children, providing more up-to-date constructive sympathetic methods of dealing with truancy and children's faults, awakening parents and the community to a deeper interest in all that concerns childhood, and laying the foundations for a higher standard of citizenship.
A PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION IN EVERY IOWA SCHOOL
(Continued from page three)
lined with references for those who wish to look up any topic. The Iowa Congress also, has a list of speakers and papers available for programs.

The reasons for joining the Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association are many but they might be summarized like this:
1. Because Child Conservation rests primarily and principally with mothers.
2. Because through mother-education in Child hygiene, the Congress of Mothers has proved it can reduce infant death-rate 70 percent.
3. Because it is the only sufficient funds to make it possible to reach every mother of a baby can save infant lives.
4. Because it is for the public welfare that it should be done. The National Congress of Mothers estimates that babies' lives might be saved it is possible to reach every home and every mother with the education that would enable her to give her child the right care. To organize this everywhere will make the country richer by adding hundreds of thousands to the future citizens of the state.
5. Because in the homes of the country the character of the future citizenship of the state is being formed. It is, therefore, a matter of vital moment that mothers and fathers should know what ideals to give.
6. Because America must be a united nation. The education of children in schools is but one-eighth of their education. The home has seven-eighths in its hands.
7. Because right education by parents would reduce children's misdemeanors to a minimum. The result would reduce criminality immeasurably.
8. Because right education by parents would raise the standards of the entire nation; would build up a race of men and women in whom unselfish service to others service to their country as much in peace as in war would be the animating principles of their lives. Not one home, not one father or mother can be left without the inspiration and knowledge of how to develop the children's highest possibilities physically, mentally and spiritually.
9. Because child training is a science which does not come by instinct, but which, rightly understood by fathers and mothers, will give to every child the chance to develop the God-implanted possibilities that lie in every child.
10. Because the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations has established the agencies through which this can be accomplished and wishes to organize them in every village, hamlet and town. To do this, it requires money. Prevention is better than cure. Only through right care of children in the home can any nation lay the foundation of good citizenship.

While we cannot definitely measure the educational value of the child welfare program as promoted by the Parent-Teacher Association, we do know that it is one of the most important movements shaping the ideals and life of the community today, and no community can afford to do without such an association. A Parent-Teacher Association in every Iowa School! Why not?

GRADUATE HOME ECONOMICS

Work
Graduate work in Home Economics at Iowa State College is growing, and gives promise of developing even more rapidly in the near future. During the first session of this year's summer school, about seventeen girls having degrees from several different colleges took graduate work in Home Economics here.

Miss Elizabeth Miller, who will receive her Ph. D. degree from Chicago University this summer, is to come to Iowa State College this fall to take charge of the graduate work in the division of Home Economics. Miss Miller was three years ago the head of the household science division in the Home Economics department here and for the last three years has been studying at the University of Chicago.

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