1924

The Why of College Training for Motherhood

Lulu R. Lancaster

Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation

Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol4/iss1/2

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
The Why of College Training for Motherhood

By LULU R. LANCASTER, Assistant Professor of Home Management

In the course of human events, it is well to stop and take stock of ourselves. The world of affairs rushes by at such a furious pace we sometimes lose sight of our goal.

Our only aim seems to be to keep up with our neighbors or else to get a bit ahead of them. We scheme and plan to make our dollars go farther than they will, we cultivate our minds, bedeck our bodies, and what is it all for? It rather looks as though we had selfish ends in view. But have we? Mortal man is essentially selfish, nature has so endowed him. But could not that selfishness be born of a higher motive?

I have faith to believe that every man and women endowed with average intelligence is given that immortal spark of inspiration which consciously or unconsciously impels him to feel the claim of coming generations. I believe that human nature, dwarfed though it may seem in spots, has within its soul the desire to leave a better world than it has found. It is all too true that our good intentions often get lost because they are crowded out by the exigencies of the moment, or because of no legitimate chance for outlet, but the challenge to progress is still there and rises to stimulate the stony heart.

When thinking folks take stock of themselves they are apt to ask themselves questions, and I believe one of them is this: "What percentage of the population are increasing and at what rate?" If we are to face our statusquo honestly we must think in terms of increase or decrease. As the population increases and the death rate remains the same, we must think of the future. And, men of the ministry. Art is showing her the way.

When we think at all about the burden of needy sick and neglected children, both mentally and physically sick, which the people of all countries are carrying, we think with alarm. Looking back and looking ahead we find conditions in our minds clearly see that the world needs better mothers. Better mothers would increase the sound sound element in the population and decrease the inferior. Better mothers would raise the entire physical, mental, and moral standards of mankind. Better mothers would see that the country has a proper ratio of better mothers. If better mothers would leave the world a more fit place in which to live.

But how shall we get better mothers? Motherhood has been exalted thru the ages as a heavenly function. Motherhood is certainly closely related to something divine, but between the two terms there exists a chasm as deep as the seas, so it seems. Only a little love means inspiration. Motherhood means knowledge.

Where are the mothers of the nation getting trained? Where are they getting their ideals of motherhood? Is it not true that educated classes, those who would naturally have high ideals instilled into them from youth, are not raising the children who will run the affairs of the next generation? This class of people, it must be admitted, are the ones who are not struggling so to better the mistresses of their generation before, but they are not the child bearers. The mothers, the fathers, and the others are apt to look upon the standards of the next generation from mothers who have followed the line of least resistance, from neighbors in community life who are victims of an uncontrollable environment. The mothers of the large middle class are the ones who are framing the policies of the nation for the years to come. How shall we make better mothers of them?

The day has passed when the girl who goes thru high school and on to college is almost overwhelmed with the many resources it has to offer. Business is pointing to the countless number of women who are making financial successes. How many college graduates are placing before the young women the greatest of all professions and vocations—Motherhood?

If women could have a glimpse of the work that is done by the trained mind, little girls, both mentally and moral standards of mankind are progressing or retrograding.
The Why of College Training for Motherhood (Continued from page 3)

with other subject matter relating to homemaking, to economics, to science, to sociology and so on. We are continually trying to learn how to be better homemakers, but how can the colleges omit the vital part of home-making, that of being a parent and a mother? To raise the standards of the coming generation it is going to be necessary to equip mothers with a knowledge for their job. That knowledge will have to be well organized, and a school that teaches homemaking is not doing its full duty when its courses do not contain actual training in motherhood. Intelligent motherhood can be nothing less than the foremost factor in the nation's progress. We look to the colleges for dissemination of knowledge. We should not look in vain for this help in fitting womenkind for her highest function in life.

April Showers—(Continued from page 5)

ty, slender, striped, languid spreads among the leaves. Dutchman's Breeches are displayed in lines uplifted, large and small ones, pink and white on banks beneath the trees. Spotted Lamb's Tongue, proud of her blossoms stands with her family aloof and alone. Brown flowered Ginger, seeming apparently, nothing but leaves, covers its head with its wide umbrellas. Few but flies know how to search for these.

Far and wide with the coming of April showers search the children of men thru the realms of the Goddess of Agriculture for their lost flower kingdom. Men themselves look, in vain, for the gardens of their childhood, but the vision is lost to him whose spirit sees not, for hands have displaced but can never replace the work of the winds, the wilds and the glaciers.

“Moronitis” (Continued from page 9)

courts show that few have normal intelligence. We hang large numbers of moron murderers with the intelligence of 11 year old boys and expect by so doing we shall deter from crime. Over one-half of our paupers are feeble-minded, while upwards of two-thirds of our immoral women are feebly-minded or high-grade morons.

If we could eliminate the sub-normal or half-mind from society, we would do away with most of our crime and poverty. Holland according to Dr. Rutgers, has eliminated a large share of these defective classes thru scientific control of families. Eugenics is cheaper than lawyers, courts and penitentiaries, asylums and poorfarms. The railing around the cliff is better than the ambulance below.

What should a Eugenic Program include? How shall we save civilization from decay?

Natural selection or the abandonment of society to blind Providence will not suffice. Primitive peoples escapes the penalty of dysgenic reproduction, because their cripples either died off in infancy or were killed. Among wild animals, weaklings live but a short time, and rarely reproduce themselves. Our humane modern civilization revolts at such cru-