

PUBLIC OPINION

THE HOME AND THE NEW WOMAN

After reading the article entitled "A Woman at the Head," in the October Magazine Number, I beg to call attention to the following points: Mr. Evans, the writer, says: "Advocates of woman suffrage thought at first that this very definite proof of woman's progress in the world of affairs would strengthen it, but the disillusionment followed soon. Mrs. Young believes in woman and in her work, but she believes more in the home, and she has the courage to say so."

These cryptic utterances call for elucidation. Thus, for instance, what evidence of disillusionment has Mr. Evans observed on the part of advocates of woman suffrage? We all congratulate Chicago, the children of that city, and Mrs. Young upon her well-merited promotion. Incidentally her appointment is largely due to the far-sighted statesmanship of Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, who, when chairman of the most important committee of the Chicago Board of Education, successfully urged the appointment of Mrs. Young to the charge of the Cook County Normal School, a position of which her present one is the logical consequence. Miss Addams, an active advocate of woman suffrage, now shares, naturally, in the general satisfaction over the fortunate fruition of her efforts.

Mr. Evans's English in the sentence quoted is not perfectly lucid. Does he mean that we thought that this admirable appointment would strengthen "woman's progress in the world of affairs" or the woman's suffrage movement? We rejoice in the conviction that it strengthens both. Every public task nobly performed by a woman sharpens the point of the question, "Is it not a loss to the Nation that this woman is debarred from helping to decide who shall make, and interpret, and enforce the laws?"

What does it mean to "believe in woman and her work" but to "believe more in the home"? In what work? It is precisely because the homes of this Nation are invaded by alcoholism, vice, disease, poverty, and crime that we insist upon having a vote and a responsible share in selecting the law-makers and the judges. Our homes are not now effectively protected. Our boys and girls—the sacred treasure of our homes—are not safe on our streets. Laws for their protection are notoriously not enforced.

Because we "believe in the home" we propose to come to its rescue, not merely by means of persuasion and influence, as women have done for unnumbered centuries with

sadly incomplete success, but henceforth with the full power and responsibility of voting citizenship.

Finally, Mr. Evans says, "One looks in vain for any evidence of the 'new' woman in Mrs. Young." What is a new woman? Are advocates of woman suffrage new? Is it not sixty years since Lucretia Mott, that exquisite Quaker exemplar of the domestic life, became an advocate of woman suffrage? Is Mrs. Howe new at ninety? True it is that during the international ovation accorded her in the Metropolitan Opera-House during the Hudson-Fulton celebration Mark Antony's words anent another woman sprang to one's lips as appropriate to Mrs. Howe, "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." Is lovely Madam Severance, in Los Angeles, new at eighty-eight? Is Anna Howard Shaw new at sixty-two, after forty years of public work? Is Jane Addams new after twenty years of arduous work at Hull House? We are all advocates of woman suffrage. Warned by the Atlantic Monthly, we know that, if we are—or ever were—new, we need not hope to become old ladies, because "a new woman can never grow into an old lady." But are we new? If so, in what respect?

New York City.

FLORENCE KELLEY.

CARELESSNESS THAT IS CRIMINAL

Apropos of the slaughter of human life by automobiles, which has become a National disgrace, I beg to call your attention to a somewhat similar situation in Michigan, and to the remedy found. During the open hunting season it has been customary for years for large numbers of hunters to go to the northern districts of the State in search of game. Along with the slaughter of beasts each season there was always a startling record of men killed by accidental shooting, especially by one hunter's mistaking a fellow-hunter for the quarry. Each such shooting being regarded as wholly accidental, for many years nothing was done by way of remedy. But in 1903 a drastic measure was undertaken to meet the evil. It is found in Act 121 of the Public Acts of Michigan for 1903. I quote it entire:

An Act to punish the negligent or careless shooting of human beings by persons in pursuit of game. The People of the State of Michigan enact: Section 1. Whoever, while hunting or in the pursuit of game, negligently or carelessly shoots and wounds or kills any human being, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding ten years, or by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars. Section 2. It shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorney and sheriff in the county

in which a violation of the foregoing section occurs, to forthwith investigate and prosecute every person who therein violates the provisions of this act.

It was hardly anticipated, I believe, that the law would have to be enforced against any person. It was hoped that its presence on the statute-book would be sufficient to make men careful of the lives of others. I judge from the reports in the press and from my conversations with hunters that the act has had this desired result.

It would be well for the statute law in each State clearly to recognize the accidental killing of human beings by the careless driving of automobiles as manslaughter. A New York jury, as reported in *The Outlook*, has done so; but the matter should not be left to the discretion of juries. With such statutes a check would be put on the criminal negligence of those who run automobiles, or are responsible therefor.

LEW ALLEN CHASE.

Ann Arbor, Michigan.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? Dr. Abbott's timely advice to parents, presented in his article on "Shall We Send Them to College," has, I believe, met with strong approbation from parent and college alike. As a further means of protecting the young and inexperienced student-to-be, however, I would like to add a few suggestions gleaned from my observations as a faculty member in some of the large colleges of the Middle West.

When a young man of exemplary habits and high ideals enters college and there acquires dissolute habits, atheistic principles, and even broken health, the blame is all too often laid at the door of the educational institution. Is such a conclusion just? Let us cite an instance: Frank B. had been brought up in a respectable home where no effort was spared to protect him from every phase of wrong-doing. The fall following his graduation from high school, at the age of seventeen, he was sent to a State university to pursue a seven-year course leading to an M.D. During his high school course he had been required to perform no manual labor other than a few duties about the house, responsibility was unknown to him, and the father's pocketbook always opened

on demand. Early in his first term the men of the "fast set" "spotted" him as a good fellow, with plenty of money, and liberal. In his inexperience, he could hardly refuse their proffered friendship or read their true character; and from this insignificant beginning resulted a downward career by steps well known to the average college man, until the bitterly disappointed father shut off on his allowance and told him to come home or go to work.

The logical causes for cases like the above are not hard to find.

The average high school graduate, hardly past his eighteenth birthday, as most of them are, has not the moral stamina nor the experience to meet the world single-handed as he finds it in the college. One or two years should intervene between the high school and the college, in which the young man should, in his home community, earn his own support, and thus learn the meaning of work, as well as the "value of a dollar," at the same time acquiring the power to say "No."

Again, it is conducive to the student's welfare if the parents will limit him in his regular allowances, placing this limit where it shall meet all the actual college expenses, and allowing a little for pleasure. The required size of such an allowance can easily be ascertained from the college authorities. Keeping an accurate expense account would also be of value.

Furthermore, wherever possible, the student should first spend from one to four years in the small college before entering the university. The general tone is apt to be higher, his habits and morals are much more carefully regulated by the faculty, he learns the *modus operandi* of college life, and is then far better fitted to enter the great university, where his habits of life and conduct are never investigated or questioned except in cases of flagrant offenses.

I would not be understood to advocate these remedies as substitutes for thorough and careful training in that fortress of a young man's character-building—the home; but I am convinced that they are of vital importance in the solution of that great problem of the college man and his morals.

Cedar Falls, Iowa.

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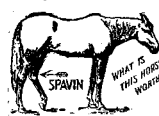


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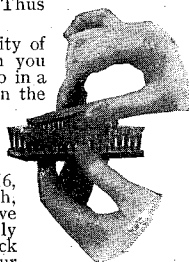
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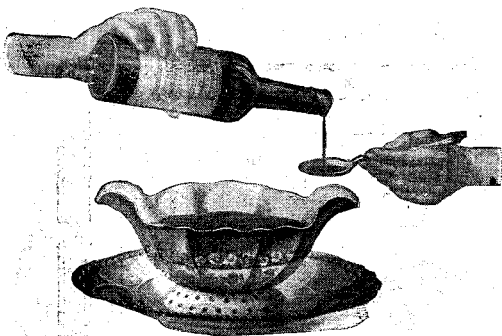
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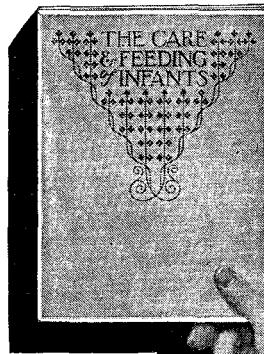
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