

doing than "Tom Brown" schoolboy stories, or the conversation of horses in a Vermont pasture. He has the most vertiginous imagination of his generation, and it is not to be wasted on "Youth's Companion" stories. It found its fittest material in lands near the sun; lands of mystery, where there are mountains that have not been scaled, rivers that have not been bridged, deserts that have not been crossed. Surely, the temple bells are calling him "on the road to Mandalay." There are a dozen men who could have written "Captains Courageous" very nearly as well as Mr. Kipling—no, not half as well—but there is only one hand in all the living world that could have written "Without Benefit of Clergy" or anything like it.

In "The Day's Work" Mr. Kipling's experimental playfulness of mood seems to have affected his workmanship. Several of the stories exhibit an alarming departure from the single purpose and swift, vivid execution which has been one of his most meritorious qualities. The opium dream and the conversation of the Hindu gods in "The Bridge Builders" is an entire departure from the original theme of the story, and has nothing whatever to do with the fate of "Findlayson's" bridge. Mr. Kipling has dropped the familiar "but that's another story;" he now tells two stories in one. In "William the Conqueror" the love story is certainly forced unduly into the foreground to make it a love story at all, and, moreover, it is somewhat conventionalized. The elaborate discussion of "Georgie's" military career in India is diametrically opposed to the mystic strain in "The Brushwood Boy," and cannot be excused as a means of contrast, as can the recital of his experience at school. "Georgie," indeed, smacks a little of "Bobby" in "Only a Subaltern," and yet he has a very different part to play, and is supposed to have a poet shut up inside of him somewhere. I could understand the hero of "The Light that Failed" having possessions in a dream world and riding the Thirty-Mile Ride with "Maie," but I cannot understand it in "Georgie Cottar" and the girl who lisped. In "Georgia's" Indian experiences the writing has a jocular ring that detracts from the dignity of the main theme, and if Mr. Kipling had subordinated "Georgie's" obtrusive virtues to the poetic mysticism of the background, he would have made a better story. It might have been one of the greatest stories that bear his name, and it is not. When he wished to use women for a high end, he used not to make them lisp, though his attitude toward the gentle sex has never been overly chivalrous. In "The Brushwood Boy" I miss something of the intense earnestness and tenderness which were so terribly present in "Without Benefit of Clergy;" something of the imperious splendor of imagination which made "The Gate of a Hundred Sorrows" one glorious debauch of color. I miss them, and I am unconsolated for their loss.

Plumbers were at work in Marjorie's home, and they conversed in their native tongue.

"Mamma," questioned the four-year-old, "why can't I tell what those men are saying? I've listened and listened, and I can't make out a word!"

"Of course you can't," said mamma; "they are talking in German."

That evening Marjorie was drumming on the piano.

"What are you playing?" asked her brother.

"I'm playing 'Home Sweet Home.'"

"That isn't 'Home Sweet Home!'" he said, scornfully.

"Yes it is," was the reply; "I'm playing it in German!"

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CLUBS.

[LOUISA L. RICKETTS.]

The third National Congress of Mothers which convened in Washington February 14, 15, 16 and 17, was, in spite of the heavy snow and severe storm, one of great interest and one of the most notable in the history of the movement. Nearly all the railroads throughout the east were blockaded, many delegates were thus prevented from reaching the city at all, while others were delayed. Owing to weather conditions the opening session was delayed until the 16th and even on that day Washington was visited with a rain storm which converted the deep snow into a sea of slush. The president, Mrs. Theodore W. Birney, called the congress together and at her request the audience bowed their heads in silent prayer. Then followed the opening address of the president, in the course of which she said:

"With an unalterable conviction that in the home lies the only solution to the problems which confront the world today, we have striven to reach the mothers of our land, and through them the fathers, because it is they who have in their possession the priceless material of which future civilization will be wrought. Are they building of stone or sand? That should be the question of most consequence before the world, and yet is it so regarded?"

"Organization is one of the greatest powers of the world today. It is very important that all branches of the child study movement, which is a comparatively new one, shall be closely banded together for the advance of the cause. In no way except by union and concerted action, can it be successfully demonstrated that in training mothers we most truly help the children and protect society from countless social, civic and moral evils. Such union will greatly increase the efficiency and importance of the individual club; the stronger clubs will have the pleasure of widening their influence by service to the weaker; the weaker clubs will feel the stimulating contact with the stronger."

The membership in the congress consists of members of mother's clubs and homemakers' clubs, associate members, life members, contributors, benefactors and affiliation clubs. Nineteen organizations have paid their dues and come into the congress as members during the past year.

The National Congress of Mothers keeps headquarters in Washington during the entire year, where those interested in this great work will receive all possible assistance; address, Mothers' Congress, Washington, D. C., Loan and Trust building. They have put many helpful things in circular form which they send to clubs or organizations affiliated with them. Their great desire is to waken public sentiment to a recognition of the responsibilities of parents and to their need of training to properly discharge these responsibilities.

They have no official organ for as Mrs. Birney says: "We have almost the entire press of the country as champions of this movement." It is the hope of the congress, however, to establish a publication which will be a kind of quarterly review, but it will be confined strictly to the progress of the movement throughout this country and the world.

The amount of work accomplished in the two years existence of the congress is wonderful. In Chicago, in New York city, in Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco and other large cities mothers' clubs have gone into the study of child ethics and the relation of squalid homes to criminal statistics with an energy that must be appalling to evildoers. They have established day nurseries for

the children of women who must work to sustain life. They have instituted night schools, whose teachers are bright young women and young men, who take from happy, care-free lives filled with social duties the two or three hours daily that help to enrich their poorer, more ignorant and less unfortunate brothers and sisters. Cooking schools have been established, sewing schools and schools of domestic science. They have set up free kindergartens for the children of the slums, started soup houses in the saloon infested parts of some of the large cities. The basic idea is the "home," and the hope of each is to help the weak, encourage the faint hearted and strengthen the bond of the family and the home.

Mrs. Birney, who was the originator of the idea, first put on foot by the Fortunatus purse of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst, has been the president for two years and she is the best example of a good mother that can be found. She has not neglected her children or her home in her soul-absorbing work for the advancement of the mother idea, but she says they have inspired her to renewed effort when her spirits were sometimes flagging as she saw the enormous task before her. She further says that the work ramifies till it has gone beyond anything that was ever dreamed for it and believes that ere many years congress will feel the subtle influence of the movement. "It may take a whole nation for our present influence to be felt, but a generation is but a short span when it reaches from evil to better times."

In connection with the congress in one of the rooms of the church was conducted a full-fledged kindergarten, one that would have delighted the heart of Froebel were he living. Here the mothers who wished to attend the meetings and could not leave their little ones at home had them cared for free of cost. It was called the "children's room" and here the needs of the little ones were catered to in the shape of crackers, bread and milk and the like. There was a bureau of information, also a postoffice, at the church and a hot lunch served to visitors in the basement. On the pretty programs was printed this sentence: "Delegates and visitors are requested to remove their hats and bonnets during the sessions."

Mrs. Mary E. Green, president of the National Household Economic association, was greeted with hearty applause when she was introduced to deliver an address upon "Some of the Needs in the Education of Mothers." She began by saying she had been three days trying to reach the city.

She spoke of the importance of women knowing all about home hygiene and the preparation of foods. She thought daughters ought to be trained in domestic science. In speaking of the ignorance in regard not only to proper foods, but to the care of the body, the speaker expressed the opinion that there would have been little sickness in the military camps in this country during the war with Spain if the men had known how to take care of themselves.

She believed, she said, that modern women, members of numerous clubs, are familiar with about every art except the art of living. Many women take a lively interest in the cleaning of the streets of cities, while the sinks at their homes were neglected. She spoke of the encroachments of boarding house life upon home life, and said there was a growing ignorance of how to manage a home.

In the opinion of the speaker, the duties of a wife and mother constituted a profession, and there should be a proper education and training before entering upon the life work. At present, the speaker said, this profession was entered into without the slightest preparation.

She advocated the establishment by Congress of a national health bureau, which should be used for the dissemination

of information about the care of children; about tuberculosis in men as is now done in the case of animals; the dangers of polluting the streams with sewerage and in general the health of the nation.

This suggestion about the health bureau apparently met with the favor of the audience, as it was greeted with the hearty clapping of hands.

This Mother's Congress was largely interspersed with fathers. It is the hope of the progenitors of this movement that it will, at an early day, merge into a father's and mother's Congress, preliminary to this several gentlemen were asked to take prominent parts on the program. Mr. Horace Fletcher gave an address in favor of an effort to improve the condition of the colored children. He said the effort to improve social conditions ought to begin in the lower ranks, in the slums, and especially with the children. He referred, he said, to the negro population merely as illustrating his thought. In elaborating his argument he gave some statistics about the situation in New Orleans.

In that city, he said, 90 per cent of those arrested for committing crime are negroes, while 53 per cent of the money raised by taxation is devoted to the correction of crime and disorder. He urged that the delegates, upon the return to their homes, seek to create a sentiment in favor of educating and caring for the children of the city, and in this way, he said, such a revolution would be wrought that in the course of a few years no child would be neglected or allowed to grow up in ignorance.

Dr. G. Stanley Hall read a carefully prepared paper on the results of investigations as to the development of children, especially during the period of adolescence. He described at some length the characteristics of this period of life, one of the most marked of which is the craving for excitement. He dwelt upon the importance that the child at this time should have plain food, should sleep on hard beds and have plenty of exercise. He said that adolescence was the center of all human interests, the church, the home, the school and all other influences of civilization were the forces by which this period of maturity is brought to its highest privileges, that in its highest stage it was manifested by its love for the beautiful and good, and in its lowest by dissipation.

One entire session was devoted to papers and discussions of the desirability of a closer relation and co-operation between parents and teachers, and so many bright, interesting, helpful things were said that 'tis pity lack of space forbids our spreading this feast before you.

The afternoon of February 16th, the ladies were received by Mrs. McKinley at the White House at 3 o'clock. At 4 o'clock, Rev. H. H. Hart of Chicago, gave an able address on Environment versus Heredity, discussion led by Mrs. Roger McMullen Evanston and Dr. Rebecca Cole of Washington. In the evening Dr. Josiah Strong of New York, lectured on the "Supreme Peril of Modern Civilization." The program was long and full of good things, but we have not room to give more specific mention. Our object in mentioning in detail some who participated was to show the general trend of this movement towards a mixed congress. Many important changes were made in the by-laws, and several important resolutions passed, perhaps the most vigorous, the one adopted against seating Brigham H. Roberts the polygamist, which is as follows: "Whereas, the election of a polygamist to Congress threatens the sacred institution of monogamous marriage; be it resolved, that the third national Congress of Mothers request the National Congress of the United States to repudiate the result of the November election in Utah, either by refusing to allow