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**Child Welfare**

**I. National and International Aspect of Child Welfare.**

Man is, by nature, a social being. That is, his gregarious instinct has been developed to such an extent that nowadays you very seldom see any one living entirely by himself. In fact, it is almost impossible for anyone to completely isolate himself from the world and still maintain a living for himself.

As we look over the social history of the world we find that in the early times the family group, the smallest social unit, was practically independent. The family lived on their own tract of land, cultivated their own food. The mother made the clothes, taught her children the little knowledge which she had, and raised them as she saw fit. Money was not necessary and laws and governments were not needed.

Contrasting them, with conditions today, we notice that every one is dependent upon some one else for our food, clothing, and education. Man no longer is content to live in isolation, but flocks to immense cities in order to abide with his fellow beings. A man no longer is able to produce all that his family needs. He must turn to the labor of others. Not only are people in one locality or one country dependent on one another but gradually we find that a feeling of international division of labor is spreading rapidly so that in time we will be dependent upon the entire world. Inventions such as the telephone, telegraph, wireless, radio, and television only confirm this belief to a greater extent.

Man must associate with others and because man must associate, now governments are nothing more than instruments, which raise and maintain standards and laws which society and the individual members of society must conform to if they expect to continue living in happiness and prosperity. Personal freedom must be restricted to the benefit of the majority. The needs and desires of many are more important than the expressions of one.

In accordance with its fundamental purpose of maintaining law and order among its citizens, modern governments have taken upon themselves many other important tasks. Now these tasks are important in that they are all working toward the benefit of the largest number of people. Their ulterior motive is to raise the standard of living and the general condition of the people. Foremost among these functions is national defense, administering of equality and justice, relief and protection from forces of nature, granting of private legal monopolies, regulation of private industry, care of dependents and defectives, education, and protection against disease.

Out of the last two mentioned functions of government, has come the movement of Child Welfare.

Now Child Welfare is a national problem. Thinking in terms of the government, it is the duty of the government to provide opportunities and facilities for the future development of the children. The younger generation will take the place of the older in carrying on the multi-fold business of our nation. How practical then, that these children be taught along lines that will make them more efficient. How practical, then, that they be able to grow into fine upright men and women.

Taking the problem from the humane point of view, it is the moral duty of those who brought children into this world to give willingly and gladly all that they need in order to grow along the best lines. When a woman has a child she puts all of her happiness and health into the hands of that child. When a country has a large number of children living under its flag, it should put all of its happiness, health, and advantages into the hands of those children. Thus we come to the conclusion that a government has definite obligations toward the children in that country.

Now comes the international aspect. If the world progresses as the future as it has in the past, I am confident that the time is not far off when the world will be like one family with everyone living in harmony and unity. Even if it doesn't ever reach this stage of development, the world will be so inter-related that when a country does not maintain a high standard of Child Welfare, we will feel the bad effects just as much as the country itself. Therefore it is to our advantage that we spread as much as possible, the advantages of Child Welfare to the backward and ignorant countries of the globe.

**II. State and Local Aspect**

We are all agreed that Child Welfare is an international problem which is growing in importance. In order to find a remedy for the existing evils which are predominate today, we must begin with a small area first.

Now some people have the wrong conception of just what Child Welfare means. Some people invariably think of the term in terms of clinical weights and trying to get children to drink milk and eat hot mush to gain a standard weight.

We who have been so fortunate as to have had the opportunity to discuss this thing freely in class, know that this is a wrong idea.

The real meaning and purpose behind Child Welfare is bigger and higher than this. Its aim is to develop through instruction to mothers and through school education, a race of men and women who will just naturally observe health rules because they don't know anything else. It will develop a race of men and women who will shrink from anything low, mean and dirty because their minds have been trained along higher levels of thought. It won't be necessary to force them to drink milk or eat mush or teach them other health habits because they will do it anyway.

As an outgrowth of this, we will have fewer diseases because people will know how to stamp out epidemics. When scarlet fever or other contagious diseases break out in a community, everyone will take part of the responsibility of stamping it out. They will observe quarantine rules. Not only because they have to, but because they want to and they know that it is the right thing to do.

The criminal rate will decrease. There will be fewer insane and feeble-minded people in the world. Illiteracy will decrease. Physical defects will be corrected to a larger extent. The child death rate will decrease as will also the death rate of mothers during childbirth.

So you can readily see that this is not an easy problem and one that can't be remedied quickly.

The best place to start working in is a small territory, gradually spreading to larger areas. If one community can see what another town did along lines of Child Welfare, it is going to be anxious to adopt similar reform and start working on a Child Welfare program.

Up to the present time, local work has been handicapped by the lack of support from the State and Federal governments. Even with this handicap a great deal of work has been done in some cities. Parks and playgrounds have been

(Continued on Page Seven)



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