

we are aiming very high. In general, it may be said that our ultimate object is to provide the right conditions of life for the full development of human personality. But we recognise that this cannot be done at one stroke, nor by any formal plan, nor for one body of folk alone. We would, therefore, like to emphasise at the very outset that our proposals must be regarded as tentative in many respects, subject to many modifications of detail as the scheme develops; that we do not look to form a perfect and self-contained community—a little paradise of saints safe from the evils and dangers of a wicked world around! We know that the failings of the ordinary men and women who will live in New Town would make that impossible, and we wish its citizens to take an active and important part in the wider affairs of the county and the nation. It is largely because of the recognition of the need for sober beginnings and continuous progress towards better conditions that we lay so much stress on the educational proposals in connection with the scheme. Make these right, and other right conditions will follow in due course. Holding such provisos in mind, we yet assert our belief in the possibility of providing, by a united effort, a striking example of what can be achieved by voluntary association in improving the conditions of social life in an English town. We believe that, while action by political and semi-political methods is always necessary, yet a greater step forward can often be taken by a body of people who have the will to venture and the plan ready; and that, in fact, effective action on a larger scale, whether by legislation or otherwise, can, usually, only follow after such voluntary experiments have shown the way. An excellent example of this is seen in the way in which the work of Letchworth and the various co-operative and other voluntary housing schemes have made possible and easy the issue of such Local Government Board regulations as those which provide that in the