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SIDE TALKS.

By Ruth Cameron.

HOW THEY GO TO COLLEGE.

I heard a group of club women talking about colleges the other day. One of the younger members of the group started by asking another college she went to. She gave information and asked the same question in return. Presently the older ones of the group were talking about their colleges. Then an older woman said, "My daughter goes to college at Second Hand."

At that several older women had been left out of the talk. They were young again in their children's youth and I had a momentary vision of how much a parent can share in his child's happiness and successes and privileges.

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Why She Does.

I have a friend, not himself a father, who thinks parents deny themselves too much for their children. He cannot understand why a woman whom he knows who has been left a widow with a very moderate income and four children is denying herself all the luxuries that other women of her set have to send those children to college. "They don't have to go to college," he says. "I don't see why they should expect it when their father is dead. She didn't go to college. Why should she have to give her children so much more than she had?"

Why indeed, except that that is the greatest ambition of all the best mothers and fathers—to give their children the things they wanted and had to do without. To give them the best possible equipment for living. To guard them from their own disappointments and mistakes. To hand on the torch not dimmer, but brighter, if possible.

They Well Deserve It.

And as a blessed compensation they are able to enjoy the child's pleasures and successes in a way which is possible in no other human relationship.

Of course the child can heighten or lessen the enjoyment by the way he realizes or fails to realize his opportunity for sharing all the generous bounty he is receiving. I have known children whose parents were making an effort to send them to school or colleges who answered their monosyllabic all the questions their pathetic eager parents asked about their work and their friends, and who were ungracious hosts when the college customs forced them to entertain their parents.

One's rise when one thinks of such a child. Had Shakespeare lived to-day it might well have been a son, who was not keen about having his father visit him at college, who caused him to say: "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child." (Do not be too quick to refute that, by saying Shakespeare's child would not have been ashamed of his father. I am not at all sure of that.)

There is but one excuse for them. They do not realize how much their lives mean to their parents. But I do wrong to call that an excuse. An explanation, if you will, but never an excuse.

An Industrial Entente.

The following letter by Lord Morris, is taken from a recent issue of the London Times:

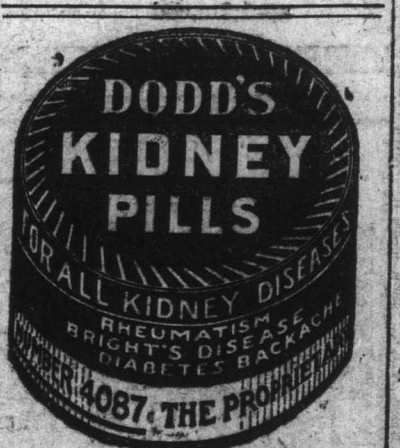
Sir—The Industrial League and Council has done valuable service to the industrial community by its statement "of the ultimate aim and purpose of industry in the light of the present-day conditions and facts." The entente it proposes between employers and employees is undoubtedly the vital necessity of the moment. How are we to attain it?

The Industrial League and Council suggests that a group of employees and trade unionists should meet "in more or less continuous session" to formulate a policy, to work out its application to the problems of to-day, and to consider ways and means of securing its acceptance by all concerned in industrial affairs.

The suggestion is an admirable one, providing it would not merely add to the industrial machinery at present in being. That criticism the Industrial League and Council anticipates, and I really do not think there is much weight in it. Industrial strife is now recognized on all hands as disastrous. If a real attempt were made to prevent it, I believe it would command the support of all parties in the State. Less than a month ago Mr. Frank Hodges came out with a proposal for a ten years' industrial truce, after Sir William Noble and Mr. J. R. Clynes had definitely urged the formation of an Industrial Parliament.

These various proposals show, to my mind, the sincerity of the desire for a real endeavor to rid the country of the incubus of industrial strife. Then show that the time is ripe for fresh attempts to translate our pious aspirations into practice.

Who is to take the first step? On that subject, opinion is bound to be divided, but I think most people will agree that Mr. Arthur Henderson was



right in his contention in your own columns that it should not be the government, but an independent body without any official connection with the State. Rightly or wrongly, State interference in industry is suspect. The failure of the attempt to set up a National Industrial Conference in 1919 is still remembered with some bitterness. Is there anything to prevent the Industrial League and Council itself from taking a bold step and arranging the preliminaries? It has a strong executive committee of employers and employees; it is in close and confidential touch with both sides; it has taken a prominent part in bringing the urgency of the matter to the light of day; it has all the machinery to act at once.

Let the Industrial League and Council give a lead to the country, and it will at once command support. Yours very truly,

MORRIS.

2, Queen Anne's-gate-mansions, S.W.1.
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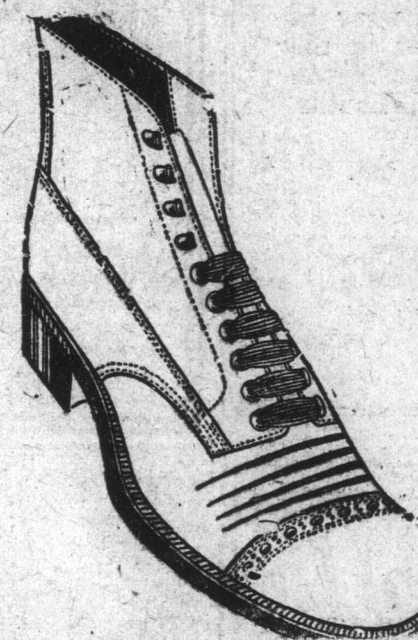
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—By Bud Fisher

