

some conditions of life, indeed, and in some countries more than half. Roughly speaking, therefore, in order that two children may attain maturity and be capable of marriage, even under the most favorable circumstances, four must be born. The other two must be provided to cover risks of infant or adolescent mortality, to insure against infertility or incapacity for marriage in latter life, and to make up the categories of soldiers, sailors, imbeciles, cripples, and incapables generally.

"It is pretty clear," says Mr. Allen, "that the best ordered community will be one where as large a proportion of the women as possible marry, and where the burden of maternity is thus most evenly shared between them. Mr. Galton has shown that a certain amount of over-population is necessary for survival of the fittest; and also that if the best and most intelligent classes abstain, the worst and lowest will surely make up the leeway for them. Admitting that certain women may have good reasons for avoiding maternity on various grounds—unfitness, or, what is probably much the same thing at bottom, disinclination—and admitting also that where such good reasons exist, it is best those women should remain unmarried, we must still feel that in most cases marriage is in itself desirable, and that limited families are better than large ones. In other words, it is best for the community at large that most women should marry, and should have moderate families: rather than that fewer should marry and have unwieldily large ones; for if families are moderate there will be a greater reserve of health and strength left in the mothers for each birth, the production of children can be spread more slowly over a long time, and the family resources will be less heavily taxed for their maintenance and education. Incidentally this will benefit both parents as well as the community. That is to say, where many marriages and small families are the rule the children will, on an average, be born healthier, be better fed, and be launched more fairly on the world in the end.

Where marriages are fewer and families large, the strain of maternity will be most constant and most heavily felt: the father will be harder worked, and the children will be born feebler, will be worse fed, and will start worse equipped in the battle of life.

"I have the greatest sympathy with the modern woman's demand for emancipation. I am an enthusiast on the Woman Question. Indeed, so far am I from wishing to keep her in subjection to man, that I should like to see her a great deal more emancipated than she herself as yet at all desires. Only, her emancipation must not be of a sort that interferes in any way with this prime natural necessity. To the end of all time, it is mathematically demonstratable that most women must become the mothers of at least four children, or else the race must cease to exist. Any supposed solution of the woman problem, therefore, which fails to look this straight in the face, is a false solution. It cries, 'Peace, peace!' where there is no peace. It substitutes a verbal juggle for a real way out of the difficulty. It draws the attention of thinking women from the true problem of their sex to fix it on side-issues of comparative unimportance. And this, I believe, is what almost all the Woman's Rights women are sedulously doing at the present day. They are pursuing a chimera, and neglecting to perceive the true aim of their sex. They are setting up a false and unattainable ideal, while they omit to realize the true and attainable one which alone is open to them.

"Most women should, therefore, be trained physically, morally, socially and mentally, in the best way fitting them to be wives and mothers; and that all such women have a right to the fullest and most generous support in carrying out their functions as wives and mothers.

"Women ought equally to glory in their femininity. A woman ought to be ashamed to say she has no desire to become a wife and mother. Many such women there are, no doubt—it is to be feared with our existing training, far too many; but, instead of boasting of their sexlessness as a matter