



Social Welfare

A NEW NOTE is being sounded in public affairs—one that awakens hope in the breasts of many thousands, who on account perhaps of obscurity and lowly surroundings have not been regarded as entitled to more than a passing regard—it is that of **SOCIAL WELFARE**—the recognition of the rights of every human being no matter what the conditions of birth or material possessions. The spirit of **Brotherhood**—the desire to spread more generously over our race, the comforts and happinesses of life—is taking possession of the hearts of men, and is manifesting itself in a thousand ways—all tending to lighten the burden that rests upon the poor, and to make possible for them to enjoy advantages and opportunities that hitherto were beyond their reach. Because of this advancing tide of humane sentiment it is necessary that there should be wise legislation and administration, and that social work should be given the status of a profession, calling for ability and special preparation.

In social customs and in the administration of great public enterprises for the benefit of the poor, the unemployed and the unfortunate, we have been inclined to follow time-worn pathways that lead nowhere, instead of originating new and better highways to social happiness and prosperity. Charity has too often been made the excuse for social shortcomings, and a blind for the exploitation of human distress and weakness. That a better remedy is needed all will admit, and the following thoughts are merely by way of suggestion to those who have the interests of humanity at heart.*

*This general review of Social Welfare work was written in 1909 at the request of a group of University students, but has not been published hitherto. J.I.K.