

make up our homes of the future. It is a greater thing to have an educated democracy and to have our girls taught higher mathematics and such, but there is another side to the question. The majority of the girls that are attending our high schools will become the homemakers for the artisans who, while not wealthy, form the backbone of our modern national life, and within ten years of their graduation, they will be the mothers of the new nation. It is a great thing that they be able to solve the quadratic equation, but there is a far greater need that they be able to understand the bigger equation of life, and all that the great institution of the home means to them. There is a great need for some practical training along the matters that so vitally affect them, and that will go to make up three-fourths of their lives immediately after graduation.

We are meeting a problem to-day with the boys and girls of our homes, and we are wondering why they are to be found away from rather than in it. Large numbers of our parents are at the end of their resources to know just what to do to hold the boys, and despite their efforts and pleadings the boys are finding the pool-hall and the club more congenial than the home. The pith of the question is there. The pool-hall is the more attractive place, and the boys naturally gravitate to it. We have failed to realize that they are boys and that as boys they must have company that is congenial to them, and if this is not to be found in the home then they will naturally seek it outside. One of the manufacturers of a certain kind of pool table has put across their advertisements this caption: "Buy one of these tables and keep your boy at home." It is not our purpose to discuss the qualities of the table in question, but the remark that they have made regarding the possibility of bringing such amusements home that will hold our boys. He will naturally go out to seek companions that are of his class, and if he feels that he can bring them home and enjoy an evening with them in those pursuits that make up his life, he will be found in that place that can be made attractive to him. The trouble is that we are too busy to-day in making money to put into this matter the thought that we ought. Some time ago a certain father was talking to a Sunday School expert regarding the delinquencies of his son. The expert turned round to the father and asked him what equation his son was trying to solve in algebra and where he stood in the team at school.

"Why, Sir, do you think I have nothing else to do but to enter into the boy's sports? How should I know where he stands in the school team? I am a busy man."

Exactly; that father was too busy with the getting of the world's goods that he had forgotten that his son was bearing burdens at school and that the biggest thing in his life was to get to be the captain of that school team. Was it any wonder that the boy went out evenings to have a talk with the boys around town and later joined a clique such as his father thought to be a disgrace to him?

The boys and girls are boys and girls, not grown men and women, and the problem of the home is simply one of keeping them at home with the amusements that really matter to them. If we were to make the homes of the nation the place where the young people in them could bring their friends, and if we were to become the chums of the children they would not drift to the places that are hurting their lives.

Then the home should be the place of education in those great big facts of life. After all, the home is the first great school to which we go, and where we learn the lessons about God and the world. There is, after all, no wonder that the women brought their children to the great Master teacher, for they knew that he could tell them the real things about God and life. If a census were to be taken of all the scholars of the country, I venture to think that the majority would say that the greatest lessons they ever learned were learned at their mother's knee, for there they learned to pray and about the great things religious.

While the home is such a place of education, yet there has come into our life a prudishness about the real facts of life. Too few mothers for instance take their daughters aside and tell them the great miracle they have within them, and speak to them about the real facts of life. We tell them about Jonah and we are

very much concerned if some day they come home to tell us that they have learned some new explanation of the story, and that they no longer believe it in just the way in which we taught it them. We are anxious that they be able to tell the story about the feeding of the five thousand, but we fail to tell them that they have as great a miracle within themselves as ever that was, the possibility of bringing another life into the world. Some day the girl comes home with a story that she loves some man whom she has met, and we fail to tell her just what is involved in that greatest of all human experiences. When we are taxed about the situation we blush and say that she will find out for herself, and let the matter rest there. There are about ten thousand girls who go wrong on the North American continent every year, and the majority of them through sheer ignorance of the real facts of life.

A certain juvenile court missionary said sometime ago that while it is the girls who pay the price in this detestable traffic, it is the boys of our homes who buy them, and who often suffer the consequences afterwards. I have said that the fathers of the nation should become the chums of the boys in the homes. There is no way wherein this could be accomplished as by taking the boys into confidence about this great mat-

ter of themselves. Let us away with the old prudish feeling and be frank with those who are to be the home makers of the future, and we shall find that they will find that the home is, after all, as sacred as the church, and they will seek it in the days when they are faced with the real hard, cold facts of life.

The strange thing, too, about this apathy regarding the real things of life is the fact that there has grown up a wave of obscene talk about the sex that are opposite. If we think that we will keep the boys in ignorance of these things we shall find how badly we are mistaken, for all around us there are those who are waiting to give them the information in the story that is as bad as the man who tells it. Some time ago a minstrel troupe visited a prairie town, and in excuse for a part of his programme explained that it was necessary to tell some of the stories that were told to fit into the tastes of a part of the audience. Needless to say, that the part-referred to was best left out, yet that man was laboring under the delusion that has gripped a lot of people to-day, that anything to be funny has to be rude. One of those things that the best comedians are doing to-day is to show to us that this is not so, for there is a great deal in life that is really witty without being vulgar. If there is one thing that the young men ought to do to-day it is

to suppress by their influence all the dirty stuff that is passed upon the streets of the cities and towns, and only have those jokes told that are clean and good. Let us remember that those women of whom that is told are somebody's sisters, wives, mothers, and perhaps sweethearts, and we should take the same position as if they were our own relations. If the men were to join a campaign against such talk it would pass out of our life in a year.

We are hearing a great deal about reconstruction in these days, and we are necessarily talking about what we are going to do after the peace has been declared. There is no department of our life that needs reconstructing as does this, and there is no matter to which we ought to give greater attention than to this matter. The boys are overseas fighting for the safety of the hearth and home; shall we bring them back to conditions in America that will make their hardship vain? One of the enemies that is arrayed against us as a nation and against our national autonomy, is just this spirit that is destroying the home-life, and there is no time to destroy, as really as we are going to destroy, the Hunnish system as now. There is no greater thing that we can do for the boys than to bring them back to homes that are as sacred to them and us as the place where we worship and pray.



MR. HOOVER "Citizen of Honour and Friend of the Belgian People" Pleads for the Belgian Children

Mr. Herbert Hoover, Food Controller of the United States, has earned the title bestowed upon him by King Albert and the Belgian Government—"Citizen of Honour and Friend of the Belgian People."

The world knows what was accomplished under Hoover's administration before America's entrance into the War. In July of this year, he was in London in connection with his responsibilities as Food Controller, and took the opportunity to learn how things stood in Belgium.

So terribly serious are conditions there among the children that Mr. Hoover wrote an urgent plea, parts of which are quoted:

"On May 14th, 1917, I advised you of the financial arrangement with the United States Government whereby funds were provided for the general rationing of the civilian population of Belgium I stated my hope that the various committees of the Commission for Relief in Belgium that had already accomplished so much would hold together despite the new financial arrangement in order to support certain needed special charities"

"It can be readily understood that in providing a general ration for the whole nation the rigorous system necessary to handle such a great project can make little provision for special cases and for special needs. These cases, running into hundreds of thousands, of sick and defective children. . . . cannot be taken care of by the general funds. There is an increasing need for funds in these cases. The gifts are running low, and our last reports show that the soup lines of Belgium have increased from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half million persons. . . ."

"I wish particularly to remove any doubt as to the acceptability of contributions to the Commission for Relief in Belgium for the special purposes above indicated. . . . This transmission of money is absolutely guaranteed by virtue of an agreement between the belligerent Governments, the C.R.B. and the Neutral (Spanish and Dutch) protecting Ministers in Brussels."

Read between the lines of Mr. Hoover's letter to his associates, and you will realize the ever fresh tragedy of Belgium. You will see little babies, pinched with hunger, waiting in line for the bowl of soup and two the pieces of bread that form their daily ration.

Think of it! Is it any wonder consumption and kindred ills sweep through the stricken country, har-vesting the starved orphans left behind by soldiers who died holding back the Hun in the first days of the War.

Put your sympathy into practical form. Don't shudder—and then do nothing! While you wait, children are dying. Be generous! Be quick!

Make cheques payable and send contributions to

Belgian Relief Fund

(Registered under the War Charities Act)

A. GOUZEE and R. T. RILEY, Joint Treasurers, 290 Garry Street, Winnipeg

