

school, but solely against the present reality of the school. But this latter is precisely the problem that the enquiring parent has to face—the school as it is. It is some consolation to know that the ideal school is coming—how rapidly few people realize—but it does not solve the present problem. Meanwhile the children are here and something must be done with them. My own solution is somewhat radical. Poor schools are better than none for children who come from still poorer homes, but poor schools are worse than none for the children of a more fortunate heritage. The home which has any adequate resource and is more than a mere sleeping and feeding place, the mother who has any degree of culture and leisure, these combined can offer wholesome life conditions and a chance for self-activity and genuine sentiment far ahead of anything offered by crowded, unhygienic, mechanical schools.

I know that bachelors' children are brought up much better, are more clever and better behaved and more charming every way than real children, and remembering this I hesitate to say what I should do with my own little ones. But, after all, this I am sure is what I would do—I should not send them to school at all, unless, indeed, the rare school were available. I should keep them at home with their mother—bachelors' wives are also models—and have them grow up healthy, sincere, interested; grow up in an atmosphere of warm sentiment and undisturbed quiet, of unaffected simplicity and generous thought. Fourteen years of this real love and life would not be too much or even eighteen years if the college preparation could be accomplished at home, but if this proved an impossible task I would regretfully let the high schools have them. • This sounds a bit gratuitous—let them have them, indeed when not a single high school in the land would take them. They prefer the regulation product of the grammar schools. But there are private academies that would receive them, and if there are not, I would go without and make the impossible task possible by preparing them at home.

Out of this prolonged childhood would come the larger type of men and women. These dream children of mine, who know how to walk and run and ride and swim and skate, and row, who have strong, beautiful bodies, who can use their hands and eyes and voice, who have had the companionship of good books and cultivated people, who