

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL DOMESTIC SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

AS AN INFLUENCE FOR ENFORCING PURE FOOD LAWS AND CIVIC CLEANLINESS.

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Social service is a tremendous force in our new education. More and more the boys and girls of to-day are having impressed upon them their responsibility for their neighbors. They must do their share toward the health, comfort and happiness of those who are not only neighbors, but also of the whole community. As Mrs. Ellen H. Richards has said, speaking before the recent United States National Education Association Congress: "Social improvement means cleaner streets, more inspection of markets, dairies, factories and shops; in short, more expense for community living, but a simpler individual life. The cost of living must be considered a community problem."

One of the first laws taught the girl of our public schools is the law of supply and demand. It is the foundation of the commercial world. Commercialism quickly saw the opportunities in applying the factory system to home industries. It was not long before the housekeeper found herself face to face with the relative values of factory made and home made articles. At first the articles were of good quality, but soon competition became keen, and greed for gain made easy the temptation to take advantage of opportunities for adulteration. Before she was aware, the housekeeper became the prey of unscrupulous manufacturers who formed trusts, controlled the tariff, manipulated supply and demand, and increased the cost of living.

So the girl finds herself in a world of trusts that touch every phase of her daily life. Dr. Leffman has said, "a trust is a combination of persons who have obtained control of most of the means of production and selling of a certain article, who then proceed, by reason of such control, to limit the production, or make the community pay more for the articles than formerly, and who divide the increased pro-

fit among themselves." Here, supply and demand are manipulated for selfish ends.

As a means of self protection the girl is being taught the power of concerted, persistent demand. Where there is a demand, there is always a supply created. And she is beginning to demand pure foods and sanitary surroundings.

That individual efforts count, is shown in the work of one domestic science teacher in Portland, Oregon. She was asked to do something to improve the markets of that city. "Through the State Health Office all back doors were opened. She went to the newspapers; she asked the Woman's Club to go on a tour of inspection. All this was brought about in three days. On the fourth day a meeting of householders was called. The Health Department gave official sanction to the movement. Market men were notified they must clean up. A clean list and a dirty list were to be made and they must comply with certain regulations in order to be on the clean list. She worked two months, and the city once aroused, decided it was a good thing to have inspection made. A woman now has the office and has power of arrest."

The work of Miss Jane Adams is well known. She asked to be appointed inspector in one of the wards in Chicago where the death rate was highest. She gave special attention to garbage, and it was not long before that ward had the lowest death rate in the city. One could have no better example of the relation of filth to disease, or the importance of efficient inspection which means enforcing the city regulations.

The Woman's Clubs all over the land have been taking an active part in improving civic conditions, and have brought about many radical reforms, especially where women have been appointed inspec-