

OUR PLANS FOR PARIS, OUR HISTORY, AND OUR IDEAL

“THE same sky covers us, the same sun and all the stars revolve about us, and light us in turn. We are all citizens of the earth together,” said Comenius.

The great Moravian educator struck the universal note which has been echoed in our International Congresses of Moral Education. This does not mean that we are merely “Internationalists,” and only concerned with the international motive in the training of youth in family, school, college, associations, or church. We are, indeed, enthusiastically concerned with that motive, and the eulogy of peace and arbitration has been heard in all our gatherings. The term “International” is used here to signify that—whatever our problems, religious or ethical; problems of personality, and the perplexing intricacies of human nature; problems of social life and environment, problems varying with language, creed, and race—we assume our common interest, we are sure of our common sympathies, we discuss in a common atmosphere. We apply to our general moral expression and quest the principle which the noble French philosopher Blaise Pascal detected in the continuity of research in mathematics: “The whole succession of men through the ages should be considered as One Man, ever living and always learning.” We seek to associate with the term “Education” the largest possible breadth. Indeed, we may rightly labour for a time when the word “Moral” may be discarded in its formal usage, and the word “Education” will spontaneously and necessarily imply the moral impulse and vision. Meanwhile, whenever we discuss self-activity or activities of classes in arts and crafts, of workshop and husbandry, of school journeys and visits to museums, etc., whenever we discuss æsthetic training and the scope of imagination, studies in history and literature, the sciences and training in investigation, the realm of law and citizenship, industrial and professional preparation, or the introduction of adolescence to the region of economics and finance, we insist