

"That Insolence"

By MARY JOSEPHINE TROTTER

Demanded by the Unborn.

TO be born and doomed before birth to unsoundness, physical, mental and moral, is an insolence to the victim of the act, much more a reproach to the nation than to the parents.

Offspring ought to be, to a certain extent, consulted. In which connection, a clever, happy, hard-working young woman said, lately: "My parents gave me the full equipment I had any right to demand—a normal body, namely, and a normal mind." Now, had she a right to demand them? The question is open.

On the other hand, there can be no doubt that obviously unfit persons should be prevented from marriage—by the nation. The country must be the prohibiting agent since the country pays the cost of the care of the inmates of asylums, the inhabitants of prisons, and the other types of partial beings whom the unfit propagate.

Women Seek Legislation.

WHEN his "official wife," as Lady Aberdeen recently dubbed the National Council of Women, lately presented Sir James Whitney an order for legislation—so large an order that it is said he smiled—an important idea was advanced by Mrs. Huestis. It touched the important subject of "Eugenics."

Now eugenics, as lately defined by a writer in the *Clubwoman*, is the study of agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations, either physically or mentally. It has otherwise been broadly defined as the science of race-improvement.

Mrs. Huestis petitioned that an act be passed under which any person applying for a marriage license shall present a doctor's certificate of mental and physical fitness. The suggestion may or may not have been "crude"; Sir James so characterized it. The realization, at any rate, which prompted the suggestion was the fearfully belated one, on the part of the country at large, that the production of fit children is as vitally its business as the perfecting of stock, say, for its markets.

The suggestion may be, not crude, but premature, on the ground solely that law to be effective must follow, not precede, public opinion.

Greatest Sphere Least Guarded.

TOWARD the ripening of public opinion this much may be suggested, touching women: Authorities deem it expedient that a young woman on application to enter the nursing profession present a physician's certificate of good health. The same is exacted; so intimate is the service of a nurse, so vital in its relation to the human beings it touches. How infinitely more vital, how much more intimate, the service of women who bear the generations! How overwhelming the numbers who enter matrimony in comparison with the numbers who join the ranks of professional nurses! Yet of these there is no certificate exacted. Nobody bothers—despite the enormous cost such neglect has entailed.

The National Council and sympathizers are "bothering" now, however. The lately proposed reform has a powerful advocate in Dr. Forbes Godfrey, M.P.P. for West York, who introduced some years ago the essence of this same measure, but received very little sympathy from the House. This year the mover will endeavour to fight it through. He is fully convinced of the immediate need of such a law to prevent the spread of the inherited diseases now increasingly crowding the institutions.

Can Heredity be Controlled?

IN the meantime, there is no need to idly abide the issue, if, as was recently stated at the Normal School, Toronto, by Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, of the Dominion Experimental Farm, environment and heredity play almost equal parts as influences

in determining the race-fibre. While germ cells were not changed by environment, he believed certain characteristics might be prevented from finding expression. Much may be done, much is at present being done, especially by women's organizations, throughout the Canadian cities, in the way of warding off future slum conditions.

In Manchester, England, eugenics are taught in the schools. Teaching begins with the flowers; and gradually life, reproduction and parenthood, are learned about in all their natural beauty and sacredness. Schools here might reasonably adopt a similar line of teaching.

Significant, too, in this connection, is the item of the new Medical Insurance Law in Britain which will benefit thousands of poor mothers of babies born to want—of whom in the United Kingdom there are 300,000 to 400,000, yearly. "Until to-day," says the *Literary Digest*, "the child

sands cause to resent their existence—thousands the very dumbness of whom cries out more loud than Omar:

"What, without asking, hither hurried whence?
And, without asking, whither hurried hence!
Oh, many a cup of this forbidden wine
Must drown the memory of that insolence!"

Recent Events

OTTAWA recently was added to the cities which have undertaken to give their children playgrounds. The association was formally launched and has an initial membership of about one hundred persons. Among the Ottawa women most actively interested are Mrs. J. W. Garrett, who is vice-president, Madame Rheame, and Mrs. Adam Shortt. But the majority of the executive body are men.

The first convention of Women's Institutes of New Brunswick recently was conducted in Fredericton. About fifty women were in attendance.

The convention was called for the purpose of ascertaining just what strength and possibilities lay in the Women's Institute work throughout the province. It was felt to be filling a social need, in the rural communities especially, and Mr. J. B. Daggett, Secretary of Agriculture, congratulated the ladies, in his greetings, on the enthusiastic and representative gathering.

Mrs. M. G. Siddall, of Port Elgin, fitly replied to the welcome and was careful to draw attention to the organization's motto, "For Home and Country." Addresses by the women at subsequent sessions were pregnant with suggestions for rendering woman's life in the country something more than the treadmill of tradition.

The Municipal Chapter, I. O. D. E., of Hamilton, convened on March 3, in its annual meeting. Mrs. P. D. Crerar, Regent, occupied the chair.

The organization's treasury is in a healthy condition, according to the report read by Mrs. James Dickson, treasurer. Disbursements during the year have been large, for objects detailed by Mrs. Denholme Burns in her splendid report of the year's accomplishment. Reports from the primary chapters recalled good work.

Mrs. Crerar read a letter from the head office instructing the meeting to re-elect the present officers for the coming year, pending an amendment to the new constitution regarding the formation and working of municipal chapters, to be brought before the annual meeting in May, to be held in Winnipeg. The officers are:

- Mrs. P. D. Crerar, regent.
- Mrs. T. O. Greening, first vice-regent.
- Mrs. VanAllen, second vice-regent.
- Mrs. Denholme Burns, secretary.
- Mrs. James Dickson, treasurer.
- Miss Rennie, standard bearer.
- Mrs. John G. Lavan, secretary for India.
- Mrs. W. E. Baker, Echoes secretary.

Councilors—Mrs. Southam, Mrs. T. W. Watkins, Mrs. Robert Evans, Mrs. Oliver, Mrs. W. C. Morton, Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. H. C. Baker, Miss Unsworth, Mrs. J. S. Henderson, Mrs. Edwin Raw.

A recent despatch from London, England, announces that Miss Frances Howes Galbraith, daughter of former Alderman Galbraith, Toronto, has passed her full probation and full student's examinations at the Royal Academy. The girl-artist is seventeen—an impressionable age. Has she haply escaped? Or, is she impressionistic?

Predicted the future occupant of Maud Adams' trillies, and by no less a critic than Arthur Stringer, was the pretty Toronto actress, Miss Mary Pickford recently. In "A Good Little Devil," according to Mr. Stringer, the clever lady has subjugated New York.

The Quebec Ladies' Curling Club, in a series of well-played games, has again carried off the Royal Caledonia Cup. The finals were played with the Montreal ladies on Caledonia ice and Quebec won by a score of twenty-three to seventeen. Curling is gaining amazingly as a sport for Canadian women!



LADY ROSEMARY LEVESON-GOWER.

An English Rose That Occasionally Appears Amid Canadian Wheat is the Pretty Daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland, Here Pictured. The Family Has Property in Alberta. Rumour Has Lady Rosemary Engaged to a Prominent Member of the Peerage.

and mother have suffered and the whole national standard of physique has been lowered because in thousands of cases it has not been possible to provide the necessities the mother needed, and because she was obliged to return to work before she had fully recovered from her confinement." The maternity benefit, by bringing 30 shillings to parents in each of 1,000,000 cases, will do much toward removing this serious danger to the nation's health. Of course, that is Britain; but here is an example of how the poor in Canada are faring. It is estimated that in Montreal, among the working-classes, one out of every two of all the babies born dies before the age of five is reached.

Removing a Reproach.

A GOOD many strong shoulders are, after all, at the wheel, the tardy revolution of which will put away the reproach which gives such thou-