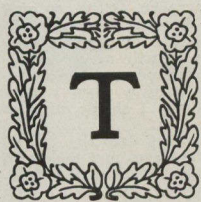


WOMAN AND HER INTERESTS

A Leader in Reform Teaching



THE name of Mary Carpenter is not so well known in our day as that of Florence Nightingale, of Elizabeth Fry, or of some of the other leaders in great movements, yet it has a place in the annals of notable women of the last century.

Miss Carpenter was one of the first to take an active interest in the uplift of unfortunate children, a duty now recognized by all civilized communities. More and more is society concerning itself with the children who through bad environment, lack of proper training, or some inherited evil have little chance of growing to be useful and respectable citizens. The idea has developed in reform and industrial schools, settlement work, juvenile courts for the trial of young offenders with probation officers to take them in hand and try to lead them away from the downward course, playgrounds to keep the children of the crowded districts off the streets. Canada has fewer sociological problems than older countries, but even in Canadian cities there is need for a helping hand for children who would otherwise not get their chance.

About the middle of the nineteenth century in England a feeling of sympathy grew up for children of the vagrant classes, and attention was turned to the question of their reformation. As early as 1788 a reformatory movement had begun under the auspices of a philanthropic society which established a sort of farm-school, on the family system, where children could be trained, but for fifty years afterwards very little was done on reform lines. Then Miss Mary Carpenter, a mistress in a school for young ladies, had her attention drawn to the needs of so many miserable children, and

she determined to make it the special object of her life to obtain for them the education and training which would fit them to help themselves.

Mary Carpenter was the daughter of Dr. Lant Carpenter, a theological writer, minister, and teacher. She was born in April, 1807, at Exeter, England. In the matter of education, which was under the father's superintendence, Mary and her sisters shared with their brothers in a wider range of subjects than were usually considered necessary for girls. Dr. Carpenter, finding his health failing, gave up his work of teaching, and Mrs. Carpenter and her three daughters decided to commence a school for young ladies, in order to eke out the diminished income of the family. The sisters went to Paris for a few months to improve their French, the school was opened, and it proved very successful. Not only were what was then termed the genteel "female accomplishments" taught, but also the classics and mathematics; and training was also given in needlework and other useful handicrafts.

After devoting many years of her life to training girls of the higher classes of society, Miss Carpenter took in hand the education of a very different sort of pupils. She entered into the spirit of the movement with enthusiasm. She felt keenly that it was not the fault of the vagrant children that they were depraved, but that their depravity was owing to neglect, their having worthless parents or no parents at all, and the lack of example or incentive to do better. Left to themselves, there was nothing before them but a life of degradation, perhaps of crime. It was the duty of society, Miss Carpenter held, to give these children the education and chance to improve their position, which as the rising generation in a civilized and Christian community they had a right to claim. Public interest in the reformatory movement waxed stronger. Miss Carpenter gave evidence before a Parliamentary Committee appointed to inquire into the condition of destitute children among the criminal classes. She published in 1853 a book on "Juvenile Delinquents: Their Condition and Treatment." The adjectives in the title of another book written by her two or three years previously are significant: "Reformatory Schools for the Children of the Perishing and Dangerous Classes." In 1854 an Act was passed by Parliament for the better care and reformation of juvenile offenders in Great Britain.

One of the friends whom Miss Carpenter interested in her efforts was Lady Byron, widow of the poet. In 1854 Lady Byron purchased Red Lodge at Bristol, and turned it into a rescue home for young girls. Red Lodge was a fine old building, of historic interest, built as a monastery, fitted up as a knight's residence in the reign of Elizabeth, and afterwards used as a young ladies' school. The grand carved oak drawing-room, once the scene of brilliant and distinguished gatherings, must have seemed splendid in the eyes of girls rescued from sin and misery. As to the methods pursued in this Girls' Reformatory, Miss Carpenter said: "One great object was to train the physical as well as the mental powers of these girls, so that they might get their living as domestic servants, or take care of their own little homes if they should be married. For this purpose they were employed in active work; they were also taught needlework, and in their hours of relaxation they took walks, indulged in innocent recreations, and frequented the society of good persons. Music was also taught on account of its peculiarly refining influence, and the coarse songs which the girls had formerly been in the habit of singing were exchanged for hymns and songs of an innocent and elevated character. They also learned to read and write; their reading was not extensive, but what little they did was well understood. The girls were no longer outcasts,

but were received into the society of respectable people." The Red Lodge Reformatory had about seventy inmates at a time, remaining for different periods. They did not all turn out well, but the great majority were really reformed.

In 1866 Miss Carpenter made a visit to India, and was astonished to receive, the day after her arrival in Bombay, a copy of instructions issued by the Government to the heads of departments, requesting them to furnish her with all possible information in regard to education generally and to youthful and other reformatory, and to afford her every facility for visiting and inspecting institutions. His Excellency-in-Council, the instructions went on to state, looked forward to Miss Carpenter's visit to Bombay as likely to be of great public benefit, by aiding in the solution of many problems, in which India could learn from the results of European inquiry. Miss Carpenter received the communication with some regret, as she had hoped for a few months of relaxation, but she felt that an opportunity so courteously given of studying the institutions of the country was not to be lost. The education of women, the importance of which was only beginning to be felt in India, was a subject in which she showed much sympathy and interest. After her return to England, Miss Carpenter was granted an interview by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, to show Her Majesty's appreciation of Miss Carpenter's labors and her sympathy for the women of her great Indian Empire.

In 1868 Miss Carpenter again went to Bombay, and offered her services as Superintendent of the Bombay Normal School, which had been established by the Indian Government.

In 1873 Miss Carpenter made a visit to Canada and the United States. She died at Bristol in 1877.

A CABINET MINISTER'S WIFE



Mrs. MARTIN BURRELL

Wife of the Minister of Agriculture. Mrs. Burrell was born at Wolverhampton, England. Her father, Mr. Joseph Armstrong, was General Superintendent of the Great Western Railway. A few months after their marriage in 1886, Mr. and Mrs. Burrell came to Canada. They resided near St. Catharines, Ontario, until 1900, when they removed to Great Forks, B.C.

A CABINET MINISTER'S WIFE



Mrs. W. B. NANTEL

Wife of the Minister of Inland Revenue. Mrs. Nantel is of French-Canadian Ancestry, and before her marriage was Miss Georgiana Gauthier, of St. Jerome, Que., at which place she married Mr. Richard Bruno Nantel in 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Nantel have a family of three sons and one daughter.