

sacred religious rite, should be regarded more as a divine than a civil contract. Then what is more rational than that ministers of the gospel, representatives of the spiritual life, should be among the most active workers for better marriage laws?

If you would rob, says a recent writer on this subject, the holy marriage rite of its present capacity for permitting the infection of your sisters and daughters with loathsome diseases; if you would divest a sacred custom of its potentiality for perpetuating epilepsy and idiocy; if you would make the union of two souls synonymous with the union of two clean bodies, there must be established a custom which will permit science to stand as a faithful guardian of health and happiness for the two hearts that are drawn to each other.

The recently organized British National Health Week constitutes a movement worthy of emulation elsewhere. In Britain the medical profession, the parliament, the local authorities and a very large proportion of the educated classes have co-operated in an effort to impregnate the great mass of the people with a conscious interest in making the most of their own physical existence.

In this regard the question may be asked will the concentration of thought upon health not produce hypochondria frustrating in the long run its own endeavors? No. It is only the victim of half truths who becomes hypochondriacal, he or she who has only taken that fraction of the gospel of health which is congenial to his own moral weakness.

Professor Johnson, of the Vineland (N.J.) School for the Feeble-Minded, visited Toronto last month and came to the conclusion that Toronto should establish, as part of its school system, special classes for mentally defective, as well as backward children.—Let us beware that we do not overdo this business of classification; that we do not take as synonymous terms, "the feeble-minded" and "the backwardness of childhood." Let us continue to recognize that "*mens sana in corpore sano*" for all of us demands in its fulfilment general sanitation, the open door to larger, more restful physical health and the

placing of *each individual* in our schools normally apart rather than abnormally classed from the standpoint of education.

The recent decision of the Louisiana Supreme Court upholding the State Board of Health and the constitutionality of the sanitary code and the pure food and drug law is a victory for public health conservation.

Mercenary, grasping, selfish business interests have not scrupled in the past to enhance their gains by practices that science now acclaims to be injurious to the health of the people. With progress has come in health legislation a tendency to obstruct or nullify the movement by appealing to the courts, and setting up the crafty lawyer's usual plea that the constitutionality of the new provisions were defective. It is gratifying, therefore, to see that the Supreme Court in one part of the country at least has made this question so plain. With unfettered hands, sure of their position and backed by the courts, authorities having the laws affecting the public health to administer can, under such circumstances, go ahead more surely.

No teaching in years has left a stronger impression or caused a more general awakening of the public conscience than the Child Welfare Exhibitions being held from time to time in the various cities of the American continent. As a demonstration of the possibilities of evolution and the stage that modern philanthropy has attained through the exercise of man's higher faculties, such exhibitions are highly significant. Philanthropists and humanitarians a quarter of a century ago never dreamed of the methods which their successors have devised and are employing for the human uplift. With the growth of social problems has come the ability to handle them.

Child Welfare Shows have brought the world a long step nearer to the time when public school education, that greatest of human emancipators, will be obligatory and school buildings open as public assembly halls where the discussion of topics, and problems of public interest may be freely held. It will take time, as most things worth while do and as the greatest human achievements always have, but it will come.