

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

CERTAIN MEDICAL ASPECTS OF THE ALIEN RACE PROBLEM.

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A FEW years ago I was attending an educational conference, and the Chairman put this question: "What is education?" There were a great many answers given but the one that struck home to me was the one that was given last, and it was this: "Education is the knowledge of how to live." And, as that answer was given, I had to reflect on the proposition what a stupendously ignorant people we Americans are.

Education is the knowledge of how to live, and yet 42 per cent of all the deaths that occur in the United States are preventable or postponable. Four out of every ten funerals we see are preventable.

I want to take up this morning one or two general aspects of our death rate, notably a subject and aspect of the death rate which is rather peculiar to the South, but is bound to develop in the West before long; an aspect that is practically unknown in the Northwest, the North, and the Northeast; I refer to the alien race problem.

We have in the United States four different races of people. We have the Indian, who belongs in America; the Caucasian, who comes from Northern Europe, chiefly; the African, who comes chiefly from the West coast of Africa; and the Asi-

atic, who comes chiefly from the Eastern and Southern portions of Asia.

We are bringing four races of closely allied animals together, expecting them to live in harmony side by side. Now, viewed from the standpoint of biology, this is one of the most absurd propositions that you can possibly bring forward. Closely allied species of animals closely allied species of plants do not live in harmony side by side. It is contrary to the rules of nature to expect them to live in harmony. As soon as you bring closely allied species of animals, or closely allied species of plants into the same restricted area, the competition between individuals extends to a competition between the races. Competition is intensified, bitterness develops, and you can not show me an instance in the history of the world where different, closely allied races of men have succeeded in living indefinitely in harmony in a restricted area.

One of the serious aspects of bringing different races together is the medical aspect. These four different races of animals that go to make up our population come from four different continents; these have different soils, different climates, and to a certain extent different diseases, and four species of animals, to-wit: the white, the yellow, the red and the black, have become accustomed to certain diseases on their own continents, and becoming accustomed to those diseases they develop into carriers. Now, bring your races together and you bring diseases into contact with races that are virgin

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to some of the infections. As a result a given disease is more intense on the new race than on the old.

What has happened to the American Indian? What has happened to the Alaskan? What has happened to the Hawaiian? What happened to the Roman Empire? and what has happened to Greece? and what has happened right here in the South? We have a white race with a white man's disease—tuberculosis. That disease has been transmitted to an alien race—a race that was virgin to the disease—the negro, and what is the result? The tuberculosis death rate in the negro is between three and four times that that we find in the white race.

Take the other side of the problem: The negro represents to us a tropical animal, and the carrier for tropical diseases: malaria, Cochin China Diarrhoea, and other tropical diseases. Those diseases are not so serious to him as they are to us. They have been transmitted to the white man, and who suffers most from them? The white man, not the negro. The effects of malaria is much worse in the whites than in the negroes. A whole colony of negroes may have malaria and yet not be specially sick. Give infection of the same intensity to the white man, and you have a much more serious illness.

From a medical point of view, this alien race proposition is a serious proposition, and we are paying the penalty today in our death rate, because we have these races here. And the Pacific slope is not taking example from our history and is walking right into the situation that we find ourselves in today. The yellow man is coming in there with the diseases of Asia. It can be only a question of time before such diseases as distomatosis, hepatic distomatosis, in-

testinal bilhargiosis and other Asiatic infections gain a foothold on the Pacific coast, similar to the foothold that has been gained on the Gulf-Atlantic coast by the African or tropical diseases; and when these diseases do come into the Pacific States, the white people are the ones who are going to suffer.

You see, gentlemen, that the alien race problem has a medical side of very serious significance. Now, fundamentally, what is the solution? Fundamentally, we must keep the carriers together and not bring the carriers into contact with the races virgin to those diseases any more than necessary. Take malaria: The mosquito that carries malaria does not fly very far, under ordinary circumstances. It is that negro family just across the street that infects you; it is not the negro family two, four, six miles away. And who infects the negro with tuberculosis? I am not saying, of course, that a negro with tuberculosis is not an element of danger in spreading the disease. He is an element of danger, though for a shorter time than the white man is who has the same infection, because the negro lives a much shorter time; therefore, the element of time entering into the consideration, the negro becomes a less danger than the white man in spreading this disease. Now, it is not the white man who lives five miles from a negro who gives that disease to a negro; it is the white man who lives close to the negro. Fundamentally, then, I maintain that in order to reduce the diseases we have in the South today, the alien race infections, the point of race segregation is an important factor in preventive medicine, and that is an important point with us. It means a reduction in disease; a

reduction in the death rate. Look at our typhoid statistics: According to the twelfth census the average typhoid death rate for the entire country is 46.5 per 100,000 inhabitants, against a negro population of 11 per cent, and in the Southern States it is 72.7 per 100,000 inhabitants.

A segregation of the races will confine the race diseases to more restricted districts; they will be easier to handle; they will not spread so rapidly. The question of race segregation has been discussed recently, chiefly from an economic point of view. That, of course, appeals to me to some extent, but it is not on that account I am in favor of it. I am in favor of race segregation in order to protect the white mother and the black mother. I am in favor of race segregation, not because I am more prejudiced against the negro than you are, but because I recognize the fact that when a child dies that it is a greater misfortune to the mother than to the child. It is the mother who loses most when a child dies. The child has not yet reached the stage where it appreciates loss. This child does not know what it has lost; therefore, it practically loses nothing. It is the mother who suffers when her child dies.

We should protect the children of the white mother and we should protect the children of the black mother, and race segregation will protect the children of both the white mother and the black mother.

This race problem is becoming more and more complex. With the increased difficulty in the servant problem, there is an increased change in our food. We are becoming more and more a nation of canned food eaters. It is easier to keep house with canned food than it is with fresh food, and our canned food

proposition is increasing stupendously and, curiously enough, with this increase in the consumption of canned foods, we have an increase in our mosquitoes, because our cans are thrown out of the windows into the yards, to gather water for the mosquitoes.

I was in a town a short time ago, looking into the mosquito problem and I organized the school children of the town. In two weeks they collected 36,000 tin cans from back yards, etc. We tackled the mosquito problem. But that is not the only medical aspect of this servant problem: Our white women today are glad to get almost any kind of a servant they can get hold of. It is so difficult to get servants, the white women will put up with almost anything in this line. They are driven to it—and why? I am going to surprise you with my conclusion on that point. I think there is no man in the room, no man in the South who is prouder of the American women than I am. I think there is nothing like them in the heaven above or the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you can fall down and worship them without breaking any commandment, but, gentlemen, they are the poorest housekeepers of the civilized nations of the world. The American woman keeps house the poorest of any civilized woman in the world. I have had the misfortune to live about eight years in Europe and have had the opportunity of seeing the housekeeping of the American wife and of the German wife. The German girl of sixteen is a better housekeeper than the average American woman. A Dutch girl in Holland, or a Swiss girl, would be ashamed to have her home as dirty as the average American home. Now, that is rather a bold

statement, gentlemen, but it is based on eight years of experience in Europe, studying the homes of Europe and comparing them with the homes of this country. And why is the American woman such a poor housekeeper? There are several reasons. First of all the American man does not give to the American woman the conveniences in keeping house that the American woman should have. There is a strain on the American woman, a strain in housekeeping, due to the lack of housekeeping conveniences, that makes the American woman take refuge in almost any kind of a servant she can lay her hands on or bull-doze into her kitchen. How many of the homes South of the Potomac today have running water in the kitchen? I would like to make the assertion that outside of the city limits not one home in five. Think of that strain on the American woman? I happen to know of one home where every drop of water used in the kitchen is carried by the wife about two miles. Now I admit that is the exception, but I can show you many American homes where there is running water in the barn but not in the kitchen. I can show you modern barns where you find modern machinery in the barn, but very few conveniences for the housewife. The American husband has made it almost impossible for the American wife to equal the European housewife as a housekeeper. Fundamentally the fault lies, not with the American women, that they are such poor housekeepers, but with the American husbands, because they put such an additional strain on the American women who are living under a greater strain than are European women.

The President, a moment ago, spoke of the decreased birth rate, I

don't blame the American women a bit; not a bit. If I were an American woman I would just revolt against bearing any more children until the American men braced up and made things a little more modern for them.

Now, I wish to bring forward at least a part of the solution of the difficulties mentioned. Primarily I am in favor of race segregation to protect us against disease. In the next place I favor as a health-protective measure a change or an addition in our school curriculum. I want to see two things introduced: While I am fully in favor of studying the Latin and Greek and Algebra and all the other things that they study in high school—excellent mental gymnastics these things are—I come back to the problem that education is the knowledge of how to live, and I want to see two changes take place in our high school course: I want to see the high schools of the South take example from Texas in teaching people how to live. Texas takes the lead in this kind of education in the high schools. Let's teach the boys of the high school that they have a duty toward the women of the family and that the back yards fall within their province. It is not a woman's function to take care of the back yards or to clean the privy. Recall that the average sanitation at the Southern home, outside of the city districts is, today, about 5-10 on a scale of 100. Why? The fault is with the American husbands. We must teach sanitation to the boys in the school. We must teach housekeeping to the girls. We must teach housekeeping as a health measure, for the simple reason that the mothers in the home are not capable of doing so. The average American mother is such a poor housekeeper

that she can not teach her girl to keep house. I am not referring to the better homes; I am not referring to the poorest homes; I am referring to the average home throughout the country and I claim that the average American mother is not capable of teaching her daughter what a balanced ration is or the proper food to take, or the best way to prepare them. We must teach these things in the schools; first, in order to put the stomach of that little baby Doctor Weston was talking about into condition that it can stand a drug when it has to take it.

We are a nation of dyspeptics. Show me a nation of dyspeptics and I will show you a nation of poor housekeepers. The white women of the South must become better housekeepers, to reduce the death rate of the children and to make them more independent of the miserable servants we have today.

Gentlemen, I am not pleading for the sake of the food that I want to put into my stomach; I am pleading for the life of the little child who today eats food mixed with negro filth instead of white brains.

Recently I have made a test on hundreds of children to see what they were really eating, and my tests have turned out this way: I am in a position to prove that in the Southern children I have thus far examined about 209 out of every 1,000 have eaten human excrement. I have a test now by which I can prove whether you are eating human excrement, and I have been applying it as far North as New York, as far South as Alabama, and as far West as California, and I find about one out of every five persons examined has actually eaten human excrement—due to the fact that the American father is feeding that excrement to

his children, because of the unsanitary surroundings of the American home. Add, now, the state of housekeeping that is burdening the American woman, the servant problem, add to these facts the strain that falls upon her in taking care of the sick children, and you have to conclude, "My God! it is a wonder the American housekeeper is as good a housekeeper as she is."