

"One aspect which has affected the home and family and which should be discussed is family planning. The old world saw girls married off at the very early age of seventeen and eighteen. The girl in a short time became mother of a large family. The Chinese and Indian belief was that a man's prosperity was to be counted in terms of the number of children he had. There was no consideration of the effects this had on the mother. She had no say even in this subject which so vitally concerned her and which sapped her vitality, strength and zest for life.

"Today women have come to understand that they have a major say on this all-important question. The gradual change is to be seen in many countries. Women, much as they desire fairly large families, are aware of their responsibilities to the children they bring into the world. The child of today is a wanted child and the wanted child finds a home happier, for in it he has the possibility of getting a fair amount of individual attention. His unharassed parents become counsellors and friends; his brothers and sisters are a more closely knit unit. There are those who contend on religious grounds that this does not necessarily follow. However, I make these comments basing my facts on the general situation which exists in many countries which have a real population problem.

"In our fast changing world, where man's assault of the moon is said to be possible within our lifetime, it becomes necessary for us as women and mothers to keep the home and the family the sacred unit it was ordained to be. The woman's world is wide but her contribution and her work will be nullified if she forgets or neglects her home and family. A happy and full woman makes a happy home and happy homes make a happy nation and happy nations make a happy world where science and technology will be used for the benefit of mankind and not to his total annihilation."

Changes in Transport and Communications

"It is a far cry from the message stick and the smoke signal to the latest development in communications, telstar, and from the transport by pack animals, the yak, llama, elephant, horse and bullock to the jet aeroplane and outer space capsules," said Dame Alice Berry of Australia, Past President A.C.W.W.

"In the days when our forebears came to Australia, many weary months were spent on the voyage from Europe and great hardship was experienced. Today luxury ships traverse the same route in a matter of weeks and the comfort of the passengers is the first consideration."

After reviewing progress in transportation and communications over the last two centuries, Mrs. Berry said:

"This speed of communication is like a penny—it has two sides, a good and a bad side. A disaster or calamity befalls an European country or Africa or India. Within twenty-four hours we have heard of it and can send help, but mischievous information can travel just as fast. Because of speed in transport and communications we need to build up good relations and understanding between countries, because we can so easily be misunderstood or misled.

"We have wonderful machinery for transport and communications at our hands, but let us use them properly. Let us try to have our marvellous fast transport without unnecessary hazard and accident; and let us learn enough about each other so that we will not be misled by instant news which may or may not be wholly true. Transport and communications have been man-made for our convenience and knowledge; let us use them with truth and honesty for the good of all humanity. Let us draw closer together, the peoples of all nations, and share our experiences and our inventions so that a greater measure of stability and tranquillity shall be found in all nations."



Taken unaware at a handcraft sale booth, Miss McKercher, right, with two Australian delegates. In honor of her birthday or because she was giving a report that day, Miss McKercher is wearing gardenias from Mrs. Seaman, an Australian who visited Ontario last year.