

## CONSIDER MOTHERS' AND PHYSICIANS' VIEWPOINTS

Dr. C. A. Aldrich and Mrs. Alfred Alschuler Speak at Child Study Conference

(Contributed)

After the consideration of the problem of parents' mistakes from the teachers' and psychologists' viewpoints, the mothers' and the physicians' approaches were presented at the child study conference, conducted by the Winnetka Woman's club, by Mrs. Alfred Alschuler and Dr. C. A. Aldrich. Brief summaries of their talks follow.

Mrs. Alschuler introduced her subject by saying that by virtue of her own mistakes any mother of five children becomes an authority on "Parents' Mistakes." There is a percentage of mis-

takes in any situation, she explained, and it is our business to study our mistakes and profit by them, thereby raising the level of our span of living.

The following typical mistakes were then discussed:—*Threatening or bribing*: This is always an exhibition of weakness. Rather than resort to it we must analyze a difficult situation, see what has created it, discover the nature of the difficulties, and then secure the co-operation of the child in carrying out a constructive program. *Nagging*: Calm analysis is essential and then the handling of one thing at a time. Living for our children rather than with them. We should not try to ordain conditions in our homes but to evolve a home through creating a joyous, interesting atmosphere in which everyone shall move freely without interfering with others. *Partiality*: We often exploit a child at his expense and at the expense of others in the family. We should develop a friendly appreciation of every child for every child. *Lack of co-operation between parents*: This means the child is pulled in two directions, thus decreasing his sense of security, which is so essential. *Failure to live through our vision,*

to realize our ideals. We must not only formulate a philosophy, but we must think and build that philosophy into our being if we are to live constructively with our children.

### I Believe—Today

In closing, Mrs. Alschuler read a stimulating statement of the philosophy she had formulated for herself. This statement, entitled "I Believe—Today," follows:

"Life is a mirage and life is an effort—and the fullness of life for every individual depends on the strength and beauty of his vision and the strength and beauty of his effort.

"And I would have my child know that one lives by truth—but that truth is only relative. That in this great world so full of positive impressions, sensations and experiences, there is only one unchanging truth, and that is the spirituality of the world. This spirituality is evidenced in power—human and superhuman, in the re-creative powers of nature, and the creative powers of man.

"I would tell my child and live for him an inner freedom—a freedom from fear, a freedom from the outlived traditions of the past, and from the futile allegiances of the present—a freedom which should enable him to think through

every experience, to act and to react freely, and to realize daily living with all the capacity of a free spirit.

### Life Is Constructive

"I would tell him that life must be lived constructively, that love should be the motive power of action—I would have him know that hatred, envy, malice, evil in any form is a boomerang and consumes its begetter.

"I would have him think that every human being has unrealized and almost unlimited possibilities which it is his joyous responsibility to fulfill. But I would have him keep his sense of personal accomplishment balanced by realizing that any individual accomplishment is infinitely small, if one thinks in terms of the cosmos—of what is being done, what has been done and what remains to be done.

"And in time I hope he shall come to know that a talent for living consists in a capacity for adjustment, that happiness and fulfillment consist in realizing life to the fullest at every moment and in losing one's self through one's love and one's power to the sum of human welfare.

"Can we teach those things—appreciations of truth and beauty—understanding of inner freedom—the joys of world love and service? Probably not! One can only sense them and perhaps impart them through the quality of one's own being."

### Discusses Parents' Mistakes

Dr. Aldrich approached the subject of "Parents' Mistakes" from the standpoint that ill health is so often associated with poor mental hygiene that he would not limit himself to purely physical considerations. He said he would not enlarge upon such simple facts as that a child should never be threatened with a visit from the doctor or that one should never say that a doctor won't hurt, or that evil tasting medicines should not be proclaimed delicious. Neither would he ride his hobby about appetites, though he thought its path was strewn with flagrant mistakes. He would rather point out some attitudes and habits of parents which seem to be at the root of difficulties. He then discussed the following points: Parents tell too much about illness not only among themselves but even before their children. This not only builds up in the child associations of fear with illness but also often results in medical mistreatment on the basis of advice unreliable in its source and garbled in its travel.

Physical and mental health cannot be bought. Parents should not relegate too much of the detail of children's care to hired help, professional or otherwise. The primary object of the doctor is not spectacular cure. His greatest usefulness depends upon his ability to prevent disease and its harmfulness by carefully applying his knowledge to nature's methods and upon his proper diagnosis and treatment of emergencies.

Many people do not enjoy their children enough. They are over-solicitous and this tends to develop mental and physical weaklings. Many parents give only the ragtag and bobtail part of their time to their children. Mothers of young children should husband their strength for the really important problems so that they will not be too tired to realize the personal satisfaction to be derived from intelligently meeting the problems of their children.

## "Lost World" Turns Up to Swell Library Fund

"The Lost World" has been chosen as the first of a series of movies to be presented at Greeley school. This thrilling story, laid in the dim past when mammoth animals ranged the world, will be given next Thursday afternoon, April 12, the first performance coming at 2 o'clock and the second at 4, in the auditorium of the school.

"Robin Hood" will be the second film presented.

There is a two-fold purpose in showing the pictures, it is explained, first, to give the children movies of real worth; second, to use any extra funds raised to swell the Greeley school library fund.

### "ADAM AND EVE"

Arthur Guiterman, in a rhymed review of John Erskine's "Adam and Eve" sums up the provocative best-seller thus:

"Though Adam still repeats his fall—

For Eve through all the ages lands him,—

Yet now and then he goes to call  
On Lilith:—Lilith understands him."



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