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# DESERET EVENING NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1908 SALT LAKE CITY UTAH

FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR

Are You Progressing or Just "Keeping Shop?" In Other Words: Are You Advertising or Not?

PART TWO

## The Saturday "News" Special Foreign Service.

### LEADS MOVEMENT TO SAVE BABIES

American Woman Establishes School for Mothers in the Slums of London.

### IGNORANCE AND MORTALITY.

Good Results in Checking Death Rate Among Infants Starting Agitation For Similar Schools.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, April 2.—To an American woman, the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, formerly Mrs. Alys Pearsall Smith of Philadelphia, is due the establishment of a school in London which, as its beneficent results become more apparent, is likely to lead to the establishment of many similar institutions in the metropolis and elsewhere.

"School for Mothers," and its object is to teach poor mothers how to take proper care of their babies. One of the burning shames of England is its high infant mortality. The average death rate of infants under one year old in most American cities is about 55 out of every 1,000 born. In England the average is 135 and in some districts of London as many as 200 babies out of every 1,000 die before they reach their first birthday. The chief cause of this terrible waste of child life is ignorance. Poverty alone can be held accountable for only a small portion of it. Compulsively few mothers are so poor that they cannot nourish their infants if they know how. It is ignorance, more than anything else, which is decimating the infant population of England.

### WORST DISTRICT.

In no district in London, probably, is the infant mortality higher than in Somers Town, where, however, poverty and poverty abound. Through Dr. Sykes, medical officer of health for the borough of St. Pancras, of which Somers Town forms a part, Mrs. Russell was made aware of the terrible slaughter of the innocents that goes on in that squalid region, and determined that she would do something to check it. Study and investigation convinced her that to strike at the fountain head of the evil remedy must be found for the ignorance of the mothers. They should be taught. She decided to open a school for them in which competent instructors should teach them how to look after their babies so as to assure them a fair chance of developing into healthy men and women.

### STARTED IN SMALL WAY.

She worked hard and organized an influential committee of which she is the chairman. Money was collected and a house was taken in Chilton street. The school was placed in charge of Mrs. Barnes, an experienced woman superintendent, and invitations were sent round to the mothers of the neighborhood asking the mothers of young babies to come to the school and be taught how to take care of them. Great placards, explaining the nature of the school, were exhibited in front of the building, and the school started a year ago with three pupils. It has now 150.

Chilton street is what is known in London as a "coster's market." That is to say that Chilton street is lined from end to end with hucksters selling goods of every description from farrows and hand carts, and in the midst of this noisy and busy scene, the school is a quiet place where the mothers of young babies come to be taught how to take care of them. It is also well supplied with public houses, each with its attendant staff of loafers. The school is a quiet place where the mothers of young babies come to be taught how to take care of them. It is also well supplied with public houses, each with its attendant staff of loafers. The school is a quiet place where the mothers of young babies come to be taught how to take care of them. It is also well supplied with public houses, each with its attendant staff of loafers.

### NIGHTLY CLASSES.

The school began with nightly classes for the mothers, who were invited to attend and bring their babies. Dr. Dora Butterfield talked to the mothers on the importance of natural feeding and warned them that to give the babies a drop of gin or tea and a little of everything they ate themselves meant certain death to the babies. The mothers were taught how to take care of their babies. Dr. Dora Butterfield talked to the mothers on the importance of natural feeding and warned them that to give the babies a drop of gin or tea and a little of everything they ate themselves meant certain death to the babies. The mothers were taught how to take care of their babies.

### FIRST DIFFICULTY.

A difficulty soon presented itself. The first principle taught by the school was the importance of natural feeding, for artificial feeding is frightfully prevalent among the poor mothers of England. Many of them, in fact, think it is natural to feed their babies with a spoon. It is not natural, and it is not good. The school is a quiet place where the mothers of young babies come to be taught how to take care of them. It is also well supplied with public houses, each with its attendant staff of loafers. The school is a quiet place where the mothers of young babies come to be taught how to take care of them. It is also well supplied with public houses, each with its attendant staff of loafers.

### SEWING CLASSES.

In addition to the health lectures there are sewing and cutting classes at which the mothers are taught to make babies' clothes and to cut down their own and their husbands' old clothes for the older children.



## Mrs Humphry Ward's Great Work for Poor Children

How the Efforts of the Gifted Authoress, Now in America, to Realize Some of the Ideals of "Robert Elsmere," the Book Which First Made Her Famous, Have Led to the Establishment of Institutions Where the Waifs of the Slum, Removed From the Temptations of the Streets, Are Made Happy and Taught Useful Occupations.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, April 2.—When the International Congress of School Hygiene was meeting in London last summer, several of the American delegates visited at the Passmore Edwards settlement, the Vacation school founded there six years ago by Mrs. Humphry Ward. After passing through all the department where 500 or 600 children were basket-making, sewing, cobbling, cooking, clay-modeling, drilling and working in wood, a delegate remarked, "Well, it's true we had vacation schools in America before you had them here, but we have nothing like this." But while it is generally known that Mrs. Ward took from the United States the summer vacation school idea which she has brought to England, few people are aware that in the mind of this English novelist originated the evening recreation school or play center for poor children which of recent years has been taken up so extensively by American municipalities. When this article is printed, Mrs. Ward will be enjoying her first visit to the United States. It is her intention to travel for two months at least, and although she declares that the trip, on which she will be accompanied by her husband and daughter, is solely for a holiday, she is looking forward with much interest to seeing what American cities have done and are doing in the direction of what seems to her the greatest educational reform of the future.

"THE PLAY SCHOOL." It was in the autumn of 1887 that Mrs. Ward first thought of the "play school." To realize some of her "Robert Elsmere" ideals, she had previously visited near King's Cross. As a center for the education and recreation of working people, this naturally would be used principally in the evenings, so before the building was finished Mrs. Ward began considering how its rooms could be utilized in the day time. Among the first plans occurring to her was a Saturday morning playground for poor children from 6 to 14, whose only resource outside school hours was the streets, and this Mrs. Ward proceeded to act upon by opening the play school.

### STICKS IN THE THROAT.

It is a mistake to suppose that this paralyzes the mothers. Mrs. Barnes told me that the chief difficulty was to induce the poor mothers who could not pay to accept the free meals. "The food I don't pay for sticks in my throat," one of them told her.

Other mothers have to be watched to prevent them from carrying the food to the elder children at home. "How can I eat when I know they are hungry?" the women say. "The food chokes me," Mrs. Barnes has to explain that the school is particularly concerned only with the latest baby, but she often manages to supply a little extra food for the hungry mouths at home.

Every fortnight the babies whose mothers attend the school are weighed, and apart from its scientific value, this weighing has proved one of the most valuable features of the school. There is great competition among the mothers to show the heaviest baby, and the mother whose baby has made the greatest gain during the fortnight is as proud as if she had won a substantial prize. This element of competition has done more to secure the health of the babies than anything else in connection with the school.

### HINTS FROM THE DOCTOR.

The men were invited to come to the school once a week. They are allowed

ing's large hall to the children of the immediate neighborhood.

### SINGING GAMES.

A fascinating feature of these play-schools called "singing games" attracts so many children on Saturday mornings that Mrs. Ward began thinking of some provision for recreation during the late afternoon. Thus came the "Children's House," the Settlement beginning with one or two recreative classes a week. Soon, however, the demand for admission to these classes made necessary an increase to three or four every evening. Mrs. Ward worked constantly at her new plan despite other calls upon her time. One evening a week she read to a class of boys. She interested her two daughters in the games, stories and handicraft work, and gradually enlisted the services of many friends. Presently the Duke of Bedford became helpfully interested. For these the London county council has allowed the use of public school buildings. A superintendent, on a salary of \$200 to \$250 a year, assisted both by paid and voluntary helpers, carries on the games, dancing and gymnastics, the classes in manual training, cobbling, cooking, etc., as they now exist at the Passmore Edwards settlement.

### SUCCESSFUL CENTER.

In a narrow, mean street between Commercial road and the still noisier Ratcliffe highway is situated one of the most successful East End centers. This district is a portion of Stepney Metropolitan Borough whose population, three-fourths the size of Buffalo, lives an average of more than nine to a house, and where every year about 1,500 babies die under one year of age. As one turns into the district, children seem to swarm the

tures which meet the eye on entering the general room is a huge placard bearing the words, "Bring your baby to be a teetotaler." This may sound rather ridiculous to American ears, but it is a very serious injunction in England, for it is the custom among English women of the poorest class to give their babies a little sip of beer, gin, or whatever else they drink themselves. One of the commonest sights in the public houses in the poorer quarters of London is the barmaid with women, each carrying a baby, and when the public houses close at midnight these women can be seen leaving them, still carrying the babies.

### FOOD CHARTS.

Then there are charts and diagrams showing the food value of different articles and proving that some foods that are much despised are more nourishing than others that are much more expensive. When the daily dinner is being cooked the mothers are instructed in the preparation of cheap and nourishing articles of diet.

The most recent development of the school is the class for fathers which has just been started. This is the idea of Mrs. Barnes, who, as superintendent, who found in her visits to the homes that many of the fathers were anxious to help their wives if they only knew how. Others were entirely careless of their most elementary responsibilities. "We found," she says, "that the fathers of Somers Town can be divided into three classes, the attached, the semi-detached and the detached. The last class lives in the public houses and goes home only to sleep."

### HINTS FROM THE DOCTOR.

The men were invited to come to the school once a week. They are allowed

of the household is going on. As a rule the children are turned into the streets with the babies after tea and told not to come home till bed-time. There is, of course, a certain amount of street-trading and wage-earning for the older boys after school, and in some districts where the mothers work out till late, and the men lead a nomadic existence, the older children seem practically to do the work of the house. But allowing for these various occupations, there still remains an army of children in London who roam the streets after school hours and for whom, in certain districts, at any rate, the life of the street is a school of sharpness indeed, but at the same time of idleness, mischief and dishonesty.

### CHILDREN AT WORK.

In one big, bright room, thirty or forty girls between eight and fourteen, were weaving baskets. Next door a cobbling class of boys was making rapid headway; some sitting in stockinged feet while they mended their own, by pair of shoes. For other boys there was wood-work, while in the room two or three dozen tiny girls held tea-parties or played with dolls. In a large gymnasium at the Highway school, nearly 60 girls were drilling and dancing Morris-dances, to lively music, while in another room half a hundred boys, mostly all but naked, were swinging dumb-bells. One of their number, mounted on a table, was leading, to the music of a Sousa march played by another youngster at the piano.

### HOW HER WORK BEGAN.

"My first thought was to counteract the horrible street life which fascinates poor children so early," said Mrs. Ward in telling the writer how her work began. "No proper provision has ever been made for the play-time of the children attending the elementary schools of London and our large towns. The richer classes and all secondary schools lay great stress upon organized games, and up to the age of fourteen, under supervision during the leisure hours of a child's day. Play-time is considered as important as lesson time, but in the majority of cases London's poor children must play after school hours either in the streets or in the small, overcrowded living room of a tenement where all the daily work

to smoke and have a "sing song" which is the chief delight of the British workingman. Then a man doctor who has worked among them and can talk their language drops in and apparently in the most casual manner gives them a talk on general hygiene, including the care of their own health and that of their families. Sometimes the talk is pretty personal.

"I saw your old woman today, Bill," he will say to a burly navvies' wife, "looking a bit clemmed (starved). Better see that she gets more to eat," or, "Jim, that last kid of yours is a regular little watermelon; why doesn't his wife take better care of it? Better buy more milk and less beer."

The men take these admonitions in good part because they are couched in language that they can understand and because they know that the doctor is all right and "no toff." They usually act on his advice. One to whom the doctor said that his wife was spending too much time in the public house and too little looking after her children, announced his intention of going home and "bushin' her face." The doctor persuaded him to try gentler treatment.

The cost of running the school as it is at present is about \$2,000 a year, but its expansion is checked by lack of funds. The experiment has been such a success that other districts have asked for the establishment of similar institutions and a series of drawing room meetings is now being held in London to interest society women in this light to save the babies.

### BEAUTY AND BRAINS.

The Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell, to whom the movement owes its inception, is a woman to whom the fates have been unusually generous. She has been

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### PARLIAMENT TAKES IT UP.

In the revised education bill prepared for the present session of parliament there is a clause giving local authorities power to establish play-centers and vacation schools, and if in the event the state takes over and continues her work, Mrs. Ward's ambition will be realized. Such a clause went through both houses of parliament without opposition last session, but necessarily was lost when the bill of that time was defeated in the house of lords. A short "enabling act" however, went through last session. Under this, cities may assist recreation schools, and the London county council is now considering to what extent it will use this power.

### BETTER PLAY GROUNDS.

Although American cities, by means of the public money they can spend, have provided a much more complete playground organization than exists in England, the playgrounds of London are much better than the playgrounds of New York, and in summer almost all the play center games and occupations are transferred to the open air and the playgrounds. Moreover the whole scheme looks to the future. The handwork classes are designed to be a preparation for special study of some art or trade and the play centers are becoming feeders to the public evening schools.

From the viewpoints of efficiency and order, great importance attaches to this purpose. Investigators report that in the poorer districts of London not more than one boy in a thousand attends school after the law will release him at

has an unconquered kind heart. It is the latter which has led her to devote her talents and energies so unstintingly to movements for the betterment of humanity. And she does not spare herself to obtain a knowledge of conditions at first hand. A few years ago she disguised herself as a factory hand and as such obtained employment. The result was the publication in a leading review of an article exposing the conditions under which women workers labored in certain industries which caused a great sensation and a stricter enforcement of the factories act. She is one of the most eloquent speakers on temperance in the kingdom. She is a suffragette, but not one of the seeking variety that goes about seeking martyrdom by imprisonment. Her husband is a brother of Earl Russell and came at first to the Paris Academy of Sciences, but one of his fellow coun-

### INFLUENCE OF RADIUM.

Result of Researches of M. Bordaas on The Subject.

One of the last of the scientific "sensations" that have come by way of the cable was that which told of the creation of precious gems by the exposure of colorless corundum to the influence of radium. It is not fair to lay at the door of M. Bordaas, the author of these experiments, the blame for the assumptions which have been drawn from his communication to the Paris Academy of Sciences, but one of his fellow coun-

### INFLUENCE OF RADIUM.

trymen, in the pages of Le Temps, has done a public service in accurately defining the extent of M. Bordaas' achievements and in making plain what he did not do or claim to do. Unless it be that radium constitutes a menace to the quality of the finer precious stones, jewelers and jewel owners have nothing to dread as a result of the Bordaas discovery. According to M. Henry de Vaugondy, that discovery amounts to no more than that the most precious stones of the corundum group—rubies, sapphires and emeralds—are subject to degradation by the action of radium. The colorless variety, it is true, changes into yellow topaz, but the ruby loses its red color and turns to violet, the sapphire turns to blue, and each of these, if the exposure be prolonged, becomes a worthless yellow. This is a very different thing from the "synthesis of precious stones" hinted at in the cable dispatches, and while it would be too much to say that science will not find a way to reverse the order of change, and so create the precious out of the worthless, truth compels the assertion that it has not done so.

### INFLUENCE OF RADIUM.

A natural inference from M. Bordaas' paper is that all the precious stones were originally red, and that they have become yellow or colorless as a result of the action of radium. The colorless variety, it is true, changes into yellow topaz, but the ruby loses its red color and turns to violet, the sapphire turns to blue, and each of these, if the exposure be prolonged, becomes a worthless yellow. This is a very different thing from the "synthesis of precious stones" hinted at in the cable dispatches, and while it would be too much to say that science will not find a way to reverse the order of change, and so create the precious out of the worthless, truth compels the assertion that it has not done so.

14. With his family in serious need of the few shillings he can earn, he takes the first job offered; frequently works without learning much that will be valuable later on, and at 18 finds himself stranded; too old for boys' work and fit for no man's occupation except the unskilled laborer, if he happen to be strong enough. Just here is it pertinent to remark that the question of boy labor is one of the principal subjects under consideration by the royal commission now overhauling England's poor law administration.

### DECREASE IN CRIME.

From small shopkeepers and from the police in play center neighborhoods, one learns how petty theft, street fighting and gambling, and other juvenile crimes have decreased as a result of the counter attractions. Many children who roam the streets are taught in their earliest years first how to beg, then how to steal, and the influence of the play center is of great value in overcoming these evil habits.

Recently a police sergeant, visiting one of the play centers, expressed himself as "fair struck" at the sight of several old acquaintances busily mending shoes and weaving baskets. At all times, however, the play centers are steadily rising, until this winter 14,000 and 15,000 have been common weekly attendance. At the same time the annual cost of maintenance has climbed from \$300 per center to \$750.

"Of late," Mrs. Ward tells me, "at a suggestion of a member of the county council's education committee, a few children who have got into trouble with the police and have been brought up before the industrial schools section have been sent to neighboring play centers instead of being committed to an industrial school. The results have so far been encouraging."

"Not all centers are equally successful, but to those of us who have watched it from the beginning, it is evident that the play center movement has the most potent of all influences, the completion of the child's school time and would do more to save our growing boys and girls of the elementary school age and class room from hoodlums and degenerates than any other single reform."

### ROBERT HOLMES EIMENDORF.

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### BAVARIAN BARBER BAD BLACKMAILER

Tonsorial Artist Who Gainer Wealth and Fame by Deceitfully Shady Methods.

### HE BLEEDS AN ARISTOCRAT.

Rich German Parts With Over \$150,000 to August Woelfl Before He Finally Interviews the Police.

Special Correspondence.

MUNICH, March 30.—One of the most astounding blackmailing cases ever brought before a European tribunal has just been disposed of in the criminal court here. The victim, a wealthy German aristocrat and lawyer, parted with \$150,000 or more, before he finally screwed up his courage and went to the police. His persecutors, a one-time barber and his wife, who had been living like princes on their ill-gotten gains, have been sentenced to five years' hard labor. Owing to the recent important developments in the case, the world only brief cablegrams have been sent from here regarding the case, the details of which are so extraordinary as to merit much more extended treatment than the crash came.

The most prominent character of the story was August Woelfl, who beginning life as a working barber, developed into one of the gayest members of the world of pleasure in the Bavarian capital. He owned a number of barber shops, then went into the amusement business, bought up cafes and tea rooms and concert halls meanwhile spending money like water. He was launched into all kinds of ambitious projects, the last being a scheme for the advancement of modern music, by a tour through the leading capitals of Europe with August Lehar, author of "The Merry Widow." Oscar Straus and other great lights of the musical world. The principal music hall in Munich, with the famous orchestra known as the "Munich Orchestra," was Woelfl's latest acquisition. He was one of the best-dressed men in the city, owned motor cars and horses and gave gorgeous champagne entertainments. But finally the crash came.

### MOTOR SMASH DID IT.

Recklessly driving a big motor car through Augsburg, Woelfl ran into a street railway car and as a result of the smash was arrested and sentenced to two months' imprisonment. Before it was over the police found he was owed for as much more serious affair, which went back some 15 years.

There lived in Munich at that time a young and wealthy lawyer, belonging to one of the most aristocratic families in the city. August Woelfl had formed an indirect acquaintance with an idle and disreputable young loafer named Goetz. The precise nature of their intimacy is not clear, but Buorkl maintained that it was purely innocent. The lawyer seems to have been a weak, good-natured young man, and frequently gave small sums of money to Goetz. The latter was well known to Woelfl for a long time, and in some way Woelfl soon found out that his friend was getting money from Buorkl. After some years Goetz died. In May, 1893, and shortly afterwards Woelfl learned that Goetz had been blackmailing Buorkl. At this point the unfortunate Buorkl which continued until a few weeks ago. It began with Woelfl asserting that he had received from Goetz some compromising letters and spent a lot of money in mailing the unfortunate Buorkl which continued until a few weeks ago. It began with Woelfl asserting that he had received from Goetz some compromising letters and spent a lot of money in mailing the unfortunate Buorkl which continued until a few weeks ago.

### WAS AN EASY MARK.

Buorkl, who seems to have been very much afraid of his family hearing of the affair, was an easy mark, and in the end he was completely ruined. Woelfl was a very clever man, and in some way Woelfl soon found out that his friend was getting money from Buorkl. After some years Goetz died. In May, 1893, and shortly afterwards Woelfl learned that Goetz had been blackmailing Buorkl. At this point the unfortunate Buorkl which continued until a few weeks ago. It began with Woelfl asserting that he had received from Goetz some compromising letters and spent a lot of money in mailing the unfortunate Buorkl which continued until a few weeks ago.

### ROLD FRONT AT TRIAL.

Before a court packed to the last seat, the trial lasted two days. Woelfl and his wife put up a bold front. The former insisted that the imaginary persons for whom he had received money actually existed, and had duly received all the sums stated. Pressed for their present addresses, he finally said that it was so long ago that he had entirely forgotten them. After Buorkl had told the whole story, other witnesses related instances of the extravagance of the Woelfl couple. The man had paid \$5,000 for an automobile and \$5,000 for a second one. His tailor's bill was \$1,000 in one year besides several hundreds more for shoes and haberdashery. Although he had been a

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(Continued on page fourteen.)