

# MOTHER'S CONGRESS

The Best Speech Made by a North Carolinian.

SPOKE ON A "NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL FOR WOMEN."

MRS. SALLIE A. COTTEN

IT WAS WARMLY PRAISED

The Government Has Provided Training for the Boys, Indians and Negroes, but Has Made no Provision for Mothers.

Washington, Feb. 20.—(Special)—The Mother's Congress has adjourned and its permanent results are being gathered together. From beginning to end it has been what all mothers work is—good. The sessions have been harmonious and pleasant and have been crowded by interested men and women. North Carolina has taken her place among the leading States in the able representatives sent by her.

Mrs. Cotten's address was one of the ablest delivered and has had a most marked influence. The Times says of it "Mrs. Cotten was energetically applauded. Nothing that has been presented at the Congress has been more heartily endorsed."

The Evening Star in most appreciative words devotes more space to the matter and manner of Mrs. Cotten's paper than to that of any speaker of this great assembly.

## TRAINING FOR MOTHERS.

The final paper of the morning was read by Mrs. Sallie A. Cotten, of Falkland, N. C., on "A National Training School for Women." In her address Mrs. Cotten said in part:

"Scientific motherhood means more than a casual thought can grasp. It means a grander, nobler race, an altruistic humanity, which shall fit the earth for the Saviour's advent. It means the reformation of the drunkard, the redemption of the criminal, the repentance of the murderer, the abolition of asylums for the blind, dumb and insane. It means the elimination of selfishness, the death of oppression, the birth of brotherly love, the uplifting of mankind through true spiritual Christianity, and the control of hereditary weakness of mind and of body, all by pre-natal influences.

"The blessed results will not come in a day, nor a year—perhaps not fully in a century—but the sooner the first effort is made toward it the sooner will its full accomplishment be reached. Oliver Wendell Holmes said truly that the time to begin to train a child is one hundred years before it is born, and now is not too soon to begin to conquer the evils which fill the earth.

"It is evident that woman's most imperative duty to the government under which she lives is to supply a population composed of the highest types of men and women, and it is equally evident that a scientific motherhood is necessary to the proper performance of this duty. But all duty is reciprocal, and it is the duty of the government, which seeks the welfare of its people, to offer to its women an opportunity for the attainment of this scientific motherhood, which will

be fraught with so much good to the nation.

"The message of a nation's greatness is the elevation of its women, and any increase of national greatness is dependent upon the mothers of the nation. Nowhere on earth does woman hold a more honored position than in the United States, and it is hoped that this government will lead the world in offering to its women the opportunity for acquiring the scientific training necessary to the performance of the high duties of woman's sphere.

"Scientific motherhood will gain no marked impetus while restricted to a fortunate few. It must be made a national possibility in order to become a national benefit. Like all our national blessings, it should be 'by the people, for the people,' and it is the duty of the government to give woman an opportunity to acquire this scientific knowledge.

"It can be done through the establishing by the government of a national training school for women, where the women of the nation shall be trained in the sciences of domesticity and peace, just as at West Point and Annapolis the men are trained in the science of war.

"In this school woman should be taught the highest domestic science in all its diversities.

"She should be taught applied chemistry because the nutrition of the nation is her charge.

"She should be taught architecture, because she makes the homes, and should know what architectural conditions are most conducive to health and comfort.

"She should be taught sanitation, disinfection and the prevention and care of disease, because it is to her arms all the nation returns in sickness and death, and she should be familiar with the foes of health and know how to combat them.

"She should be taught the care of infants and their foods, for upon her knowledge and care the sons of men are dependent for strength in manhood to make the nation great.

"She should be taught the application of science to all departments of household labor, with a view to lightening that labor, in order to give more time to scientific thought and study.

"She should be taught the mysteries and possibilities of heredity, and impressed with her duty to improve and develop her race, for the benefit of mankind, and for the government which provides such opportunities for women.

"There will be no need to teach patriotism in such a school. Patriotism, already spontaneous in woman's heart, will increase a hundred-fold when she is recognized by her country.

"This national training school should receive its quota of pupils from each State, just as do the other national schools, and its curriculum should embrace a higher course of study than is pursued at the industrial colleges of the various States. These State institutions form the first step by which woman may ascend to a more perfect womanhood, and this national training school will be the second step in that ascent. One will develop her practically, the other will develop her scientifically. The first will give her skillful hands to obey practical minds, and the second will give her deeper scientific knowledge, and teach her how to use it for good.

"The boys of the nation, the Indian, the negro, have all received educational opportunities; the arts and sciences have been prosaized, but woman and her natural colleague, domestic science, have been apparently forgotten. The schools at West Point and Annapolis for the

training of the boys of the nation; the schools for the training of the Indian and the negro; the schools for the advancement of agriculture and mechanic arts, are all proper and useful—but are they all-sufficient?

"The elevation of domestic science to its proper place among the other sciences will do much to dispel the poverty, drudgery and disease, which are the results of ignorance, and which in so many homes rob woman's heart of happiness and life of its brightness.

"Thrift will dispel poverty, but thrift is born of knowledge and training. Drudgery encourages stupidity, and disease feeds on the ignorance of woman despite all the doctor's learning.

"Would it not be well to recognize woman as the real guardian of the public health, and teach her whatever is necessary to the proper and safe performance of these duties? It is true that there are schools in some of our cities where such things are taught, but they do not reach far enough nor multiply results fast enough. It must be a national opportunity to produce national benefits. To reach and benefit the people it must be broad and extensive, and should be done for the people, by the government with the people's money. This would assure its performance on a scale commensurate with the importance of the subject."

## NOTES OF THE CONGRESS.

Mrs. R. R. Cotten, of Falkland, N. C., who delivered the address to-day on "A National Training School for Women," is stopping with Mrs. P. M. Wilson, 117 15th street. Mrs. Cotten was a commissioner of the World's Fair and organized the Virginia Dare Association. She has long been a leader in all educational objects for the advancement of women.

## "NOT EXACTLY RIGHT."

Thousands of people are in this condition. They are not, and yet they are by no means well. A single bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla would do them a world of good. It would tone the stomach, create an appetite, purify and enrich the blood and give wonderful vigor and vitality. Now is the time to take it.

Hood's Pills cure nausea, sick headache, indigestion, biliousness. All druggists. 25 cents.

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My wife was bedridden for eighteen months, after using BRADFIELD'S FEMALE REGULATOR for two months. Is getting well.—  
J. M. JOHNSON, Malvern, Ark.  
BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., ATLANTA, GA.  
Sold by all Druggists at \$1.00 per bottle.

Children Cry for

**Mother's Congress.**

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