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...pten will occasionally report their work in order that the members of all other clubs may know how their mission is prospering

We propose to have the national office of the Congress of Mothers always in Washington. We will have a board of officers of not more than seven members who will always be chosen from resident Washingtonians, and who will look after the organization from a national standpoint. The places of annual meeting will be likely to vary each year, so that the members of all localities will be equally provided with an opportunity for attendance. The national officers will maintain a permanent office in Washington. They will supply literature explaining the purpose of the Congress; they will give suggestions as to books helpful to clubs and to individuals interested in this work; they will prepare a programme for the annual conferences, and notify all the members of the city selected for such meetings.

In addition to this, an account will be kept at the national office of the progress of all work which will not be given at the annual meetings through delegates. In this a perfect history of this movement will be yearly recorded.

It was proposed during the session of the first Congress to institute an official organ for the Congress of Mothers. I am opposed to such a course. As I have said, I desire nothing local to creep into the work. Most of all universality is necessary. Therefore we ask the press of America to be our official organ. It has already done us noble service. To the press primarily is our deepest debt of gratitude. With clearness of perception the true import of our mission was recognized by the press, and if our work succeeds it will be because of the aid it has rendered us.

In conclusion I can say nothing more fully illustrating my hopes and aims in advocating this first Congress of Mothers than to quote the mothers I used in the Kindergarten magazine: The children are crying to us, and when mothers will place in imagination their own babies and little ones in the haunts whence issue those most piteous cries, then the world will see an uprising against the powers of darkness the like of which was never seen before. The savage mother will fight for her offspring and sacrifice her life if need be in their defence. The civilized mother will do as much and more, for with the glimmering in her soul of that dawn which is coming with the brotherhood of man her heart will yearn with maternal affection over each child of God's because it is God's, because it shares with her own little ones the common heritage of youth and helplessness, and because only through its highest development can the world be redeemed from its bondage to sin and poverty.

Oh, mothers, and all ye who hear the cry, cease not calling upon the world to heed it until the world recognizes that all its splendor is but as dead sea ashes compared to the joy which would come from the existence of a universally happy, wholesome childhood with its rare promises to the future. EMW

Every man and woman who begins to comprehend the sacred obligations due helpless little children, and who longs for their higher development, possesses the attributes which will lead him or her to forward this development. Cannot all of us at the close of this nineteenth century be filled with the spirit of the crusaders, with that zeal and fire which made of each individual in those times a soldier in the cause of Christ? No man waited for orders from superior officers, no organization could meet his need, no soldier could take his place. In such a cause there could be no substitute, and thus it should be in this crusade against ignorance and indifference.

Alice McCallan Birney