

Beyond science and medicine

Report of London Conference by Dr John Lester

DR ERNEST CLAXTON, until recently the Principal Assistant Secretary to the British Medical Association, was among the principal speakers at the Conference held at the Westminster Theatre last weekend entitled 'Prescription for a Nation'.

He said that whatever science can achieve, drugs, the population explosion, illegitimacy and venereal disease cannot be cured by science alone.

'Our profession has got to show the world,' he went on, 'that there is an inner discipline available to us if we are prepared to live it.'

The many doctors present from different branches of the profession, medicine, surgery, obstetrics, public health, and general practice dealt with the age of contrast we live in.

In one Western country nearly 20% of the population are 20% or more overweight. In the developing countries 60% of the population suffer

from malnutrition and 3,000,000 die each year of it. In Britain there is one doctor for 850 people. In certain other countries there is only one doctor for 41,000 people.

The meeting questioned what the answer was to this age of disparity and for the men in the Communist world, which was in ferment.

Fear was expressed that others may copy our permissive society which believes that our prime responsibility is to ourselves.

By 1970 there may be 10,000 drug addicts on hard drugs in London alone.

There are 50,000 attempted suicides in Britain each year. Forty-seven per cent of our hospital beds are given over to the mentally sick. One in ten pregnancies results in an illegitimate child.

These are the results, from a medical viewpoint, of a society that believes

that what we want we have a right to. The world pities the victims or blames them, but the fault may lie in all of us who refuse to care for the whole of the world.

It was pointed out that if the contrasts in the world are to be answered, all of us must accept responsibility for the whole human family—and realise that as a profession doctors have accepted limited responsibility and need to change.

They care for their patients. They dispense good medicine. If something goes wrong on the wards there is a conference to find out why—whether it was inevitable or whether there was a mistake. The patients are the doctors' responsibility.

But they have not always felt like this about their nations—and find it easier to blame someone else for the mess.

But this can change. As Dr Stephen Lester, consultant gynaecologist at the largest maternity hospital in England said, 'If the medical profession practiced and gave the nation Moral Re-Armament it would be the greatest catalyst this society has ever known.' Doctors had access to and were respected in all areas of society and had therefore a great responsibility beyond the maintenance of a nation's health. 'Never has a country been in greater need of accepting Moral Re-Armament.'

Dr Ian Robertson, plant physiologist from Edinburgh said that medical and scientific men had undertaken to raise the money necessary to film Peter Howard's play *Happy Deathday*, and that Rajmohan Gandhi had asked for the film urgently for India.

Miss Phyllis Konstam, the actress, said the film would be made in mid-September and everyone could have a part in completing the raising of the money. £26,000 have been raised. £19,000 have still to be raised.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN MEET IN CAUX See page 3

photo Maillefer



Mrs Henrine Ward Banks, Dean of Women at Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida, talks at Caux with Evelyn Thomsen from Virginia. Mrs. Banks said: 'I am very grateful for this weekend with women. It has given meaning to my commitment. I had to re-examine myself and decided to put my whole faith in God.'

EXPERIMENT IN BREAKING DEADLOCK

TANKS DO NOT CHANGE men's minds whether in Central Europe, the Middle East or Western Africa. Yet they have been increasingly used in the past twelve months with this in mind.

Could theatre succeed where tanks have failed? Not as a tool of government policy or pressure but as a means of restructuring the relations between men and peoples. Could theatre bring unity where force merely exacerbates division?

In this way the Westminster Theatre has conducted a significant experiment. *Annie*, a musical about the thirties in Britain, has run there for a year.

To it have come men and women involved in some of the central conflicts of the late sixties particularly in race and industry, both nationally and internationally. The violence of the social and national turmoil of the thirties—the setting of the musical—are very similar to the long hot summers of the late sixties in North America and Europe.

There is a line in *Annie* where one man asks a revolutionary what is going to happen after the violent overthrow of the Establishment. 'Will we have cured our own bitterness and hate by that time, or will there just be another lot out to destroy us?' he asks. The reply he gets is, 'We will worry about that when we get there.'

A leader in a revolutionary movement said after the play that he wanted to talk more about MRA starting with those lines. He and other men, through seeing *Annie*, have come to see that a revolution that fails to change human nature is only half a revolution. This man said, '*Annie* shows how to win the positive mind of man.'

Many of the thousands of West Indians, Indians, Pakistanis, Nigerians and Biafrans who have seen *Annie* say that MRA is the uniting philosophy making a society of many races in Britain workable.

Conrad Hunte, the former Vice-Captain of the West Indies Cricket XI, has led a campaign in the past 11 months which is changing attitudes and motives among both the British and the immigrants. Hunte has said, 'Britain is the last bastion where the races can develop mutual respect and unity.'

Britain's many races, he said, now needed 'a goal comparable to their tremendous genius and qualities'. The

world would respond to 'a partnership of purpose' built on character—beyond colour or race—for the creation of a new society.

On this theme Hunte has conferred with Home Office officials, Black Power leaders, businessmen and trade union representatives.

Annie was staged during the decisive events of the devaluation of the £ and the announcement of the policy of military withdrawal in Asia. The musical with its emphasis on what the ordinary person can do through MRA in the world has given many thousands a new sense of national purpose for Britain.

Tens of thousands have seen the musical from the major industries and factories of the country. Many of these people supported financially and in other ways the visit to India of seven British trade unionists on the invitation of Rajmohan Gandhi.

Gandhi had appealed for the help of workers from Britain to bring unity in both the industrial and national life

of India, whose economy was near collapse. They went for two to three months. They visited the industrial centres of Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Poona where they dealt with the root causes of industrial collapse—managerial blindness, trade union bitterness, inter-union rivalry, corruption, thugery and black-marketeering.

National trade union officials who have seen *Annie* have commented frequently on the relevance of its message to the British industrial situation.

Britain, America, France and Western Germany this autumn face potential crisis economically and industrially, and in the case of the USA and Britain also racially. Peter Jay in *The Times* analysed the possibility of serious unemployment in Britain. He said the evidence pointed to a 'winter of discontent'.

One hundred and eighty thousand people have seen *Annie* during its 399 performances. If enough men and women who have seen *Annie* apply its philosophy with sufficient passion and strategy, Britain this autumn could pattern a workable society for other peoples.

BRIAN LIGHTOWLER

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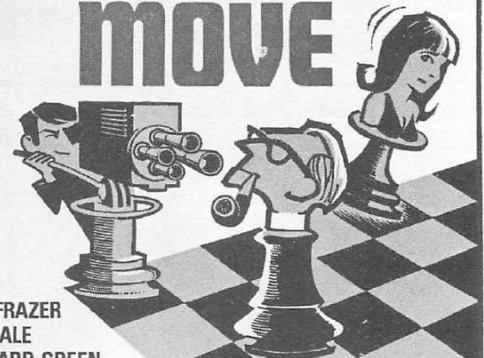
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ACTION PLANNED AT WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Madame Irène Laure addresses assembly

photo Maillefer

THE EVENTS IN VIETNAM, Nigeria, the US, France and Czechoslovakia have shaken the world. The social scientists and psychologists who say that man's behaviour is determined by his culture, environment and physical make-up offer no hope of reversing present trends.

Speaking at a special women's conference at Caux, Switzerland, Mrs Roger Walker, a young artist from Birmingham, said, 'We should all decide that the world does not make us what we are, but we make the world what it is.' With this statement she helped to set the tone for the conference which consistently put responsibility for the present and the challenge of the future in our hands.

One hundred and fifty business and professional women from 15 countries and five continents joined hundreds attending the women's weekend at Caux. They heard how personal decisions, often taken at cost, have affected events and situations around the world.

Future of the family

With the rumble of Russian tanks still ringing on the streets of Prague, Neerja Chowdhury, a young woman from India, said, 'Unless the West lives a moral ideology, the events of Czechoslovakia will be repeated. Who is to decide that the tyranny of sexual licence, drugs, and drink is better than the tyranny of tanks? Will this development shake awake your nations for a week, or will it change the way you live and the direction in which your nations go?'

Some social scientists argue that the family will soon be obsolete and an encyclopaedia describes its future pros-

pects as 'moderately optimistic'. The von Orelli family from Switzerland challenged this thinking, speaking enthusiastically of a vital family life, where character is forged as humility is learned, strong wills are crossed, freedom from controls is practised and absolute honesty is at the heart of life together. Their real experiences made the theory of the scientists seem very hollow.

Money for films

Many women responded to the urgency of the situation in the world and the challenge of the weekend by deciding to act. Neerja Chowdhury promised to raise the £10,000 needed to make MRA films available for use in India, dubbed into Hindi and Tamil. A Dutch woman responded by giving the money for one film.

Edith Wolfer, who runs a home for handicapped children, has found a replacement there in order to go to India for a year to join Rajmohan Gandhi's campaign to shift the thinking and living of his nation, and to bring unity and a new motive to its people.

Georgette Gamsohn, Deputy Secretary of the Non-Governmental Organisations of the UN Organisation at Paris, who was here with the President and Vice-President of the Women Employers' Association in France, will help to find the Paris theatres in which MRA plays can be shown during the next weeks.

Jocelyne Page, one of six Canadian women who came to Caux from an international conference of business and professional women in London, will join with women from other nations to see that business and profes-

sional women's clubs move beyond the problems of women's rights to facing the challenge of responsibility for the world.

Plans were announced for another women's conference early next summer in Caux, which will help to create a world force of responsible women.

Speaking at the end of the weekend Mme Laure, former head of three million Socialist women in France, challenged all present to be prepared to free themselves from the endless jobs they could be doing in the course of their professional lives to tackle the essential task of creating a new kind of person.

EVELYN THOMSEN



Neerja Chowdhury

TRAINING IN RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP GIVEN

THIS SUMMER at the MRA World Assembly at Caux in Switzerland training courses in responsible leadership for the modern world have been attended by men in business, the professions, the trade union movement and by students.

The courses were initiated last year in response to request from ministers of education, youth organisations and

other responsible authorities with the purpose of developing men and women capable of giving morally sound, independent and selfless leadership in any situation and in any part of the world.

Ramez Salameh, Beirut graduate law student (see photo), said of the course, 'I have learnt in three weeks what I have not learnt all my life. I

have learnt what is the challenge of the modern world. I have learnt what is human nature and how to change it. I have learned how to meet the deepest needs of man.

'I have learned how to remake my country and how to commit myself to the remaking of the world. . . This is the kind of education the developing countries need badly.'



Students attend a course for training in responsible leadership for the modern world at the MRA assembly in Switzerland. They come from Belgium, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Great Britain, Lebanon, Sierre Leone, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania and Tunisia. Ramez Salameh (left), graduate student in law from the San Joseph University of Beirut in the Lebanon, speaks on the Arab world. Centre standing is Professor Theophil Spoerri, former Rector of Zürich University.

photo Maillefer

In my view

Books are weapons

WHEN I was sixteen I picked up a copy of *Frank Buchman's Secret*. It is a book about the worldwide application of Moral Re-Armament. I read it through overnight. The book contained story after story about people whose whole lives had been moved and directed by an idea that had caught hold of them.

I wanted to know more. Here was something effective, that was big enough and clear enough for a young school student to go for.

Now, five years later, my work is to design and publish the books of Moral Re-Armament, with the conviction that they will do for others what one book did for me.

Books are powerful weapons in the war of ideas.

Some 'literature' demoralises and destroys. It makes free men like animals hidebound by their instincts.

Some books are educational. They feed the mind. But books can also feed the spirit.

The books that I want to help publish and sell are the ones that undergird and strengthen a country's morale.

One of these is *Modernising Man* by Paul Campbell. In it the author, a medical doctor, takes a new look at what makes people the way they are.

I was fascinated by the chapters in which Dr Campbell tells of the aims and motives that have guided him and his friends. The book is real because it is written from his own experiences. And as you turn the final pages you are given a great sense of hope and destiny for the future.

I want to see my student friends read *Modernising Man* because I believe it is relevant.

But beyond that I long to see the so called revolutionaries, the 'professional' students that are looking for some-

thing new, read books like this.

October could see a new revolution to modernise man.

This is the book that the revolutionary students need to study if they genuinely want see the change in men they are looking for. MICHAEL SMITH

