



FOR GOD, AND HOME, AND HUMANITY.

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PICTURE POSTERS.

Most of our New Zealand cities and many of the towns have Beautifying Societies, and officers, whose duty it is to plan a city clean, wholesome, and healthy. Children are sent into Health Camps to benefit their bodies and to ensure a sound and healthy manhood and womanhood. National Health is a valuable asset, and worth all the money spent to secure it.

But, is there not a tendency to look upon our young life, our boys and girls as merely young animals. In theory we admit our threefold nature, body, soul and spirit, but, too often in practical politics, the last two are overlooked.

And we can't afford to overlook any part of our complex nature. Illtreat the body and it takes its revenge upon mind and spirit. Debase our intellect, soil our spirit, and the body at once suffers in unison with its nobler partners. Our hospitals and mental institutions contain a large percentage, brought there by debasing habits and evil passions.

John Bunyan tells us that Eyegate is one of the principal entrances into the town of Mansoul. Now, what are we allowing to enter through this gate into the soul of our children. Much that is unsightly we have banished, pigsties, fowl-runs,

slaughter yards, must not be allowed to contaminate our cities and injure the health of their inhabitants.

But, in every street of our cities are to be seen pictures, more hurtful to the Holy of Holies in every child's soul, than pigsties or fowl-runs are to the body.

They lower the child's ideal of beauty. Many even of our picture advertisements have great artistic beauty, and are no disfigurement to our streets and no injury to our youth. But the picture poster has no artistic beauty. It simply panders to all that is lowest in our human nature. Speaking of the gutter press, Ruskin says: "When you might have been holding converse with the kings and queens of literature, you were content to talk with the scullions in the kitchen." And may we not say, that while our children might have been feasting with the kings and queens in the realms of art, we are forcing them to eat with the lowest dabbler who wields a paint brush.

And worse even than the injury to their artistic development is the wrong done to their moral nature.

One writer has said: "It takes an angel to make a devil." Because the reproductive power is the highest in our nature, being the power by which we join hands with the Eternal, for the creation of a new life, so it is capable of the deepest

degradation. And in these picture posters the holiest mystery of being is degraded into a mere animal instinct. If you stand in our streets and listen to our boys' commenting upon these pictures, you will discover how they realise this viewpoint.

Many preachers and writers are blaming the young people for their lack of high ideals. Instead of blaming them, should we not be on our knees asking their forgiveness for the wrong we have done them in allowing their young minds and souls to be so soiled?

Is it any wonder that our divorce courts are kept busy, when, evening after evening, our young people watch pictures where chastity is sneered at, and where adultery is treated as a joke.

Do you expect Heavenly ideals in souls whose eyes gaze only on vice glorified, and whose ears listen only to the strains of jazzy bands? If so, you expect to gather figs off thorns; and this can never be done.

if we want to fulfil the poet's ideal of

"A nobler race than ere the world has known to rise," we have got to provide an environment suitable to its growth.

Can this be done? Yes, when mothers and fathers are really in earnest about it, it will be done and done pronto.