

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

First National Conference on Race Betterment

January 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1914

BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

PUBLISHED BY THE RACE BETTERMENT FOUNDATION

EDITED BY THE SECRETARY

“To be a good animal is the first requisite to
success in life, and to be a Nation of good animals
is the first condition of national prosperity.”

—*Herbert Spencer.*

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THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

To assemble evidence as to the extent to which degenerative tendencies are actively at work in America, and to promote agencies for Race Betterment.

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Battle Creek Dental Society.
Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce.
Battle Creek Board of Education.
Normal School of Physical Education
Battle Creek Sanitarium and Hospital Training School.
Nurses' Alumni Association of the Battle Creek Sanitarium and Hospital
Training School.
Battle Creek Sanitarium School of Home Economics.
Young Men's Christian Association.
Young Women's Christian Association.
Charitable Union.
Woman's Club.
Woman's League
The Ladies' Aid Societies of Nine Churches of Battle Creek.
Woman's Society of the Congregational Church.
Dorcas Society.
Women's Christian Temperance Union.
Sanitarium Women's Christian Temperance Union.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO THE CONFERENCE

J. H. KELLOGG, LL.D., M.D., Superintendent of the Battle Creek Sanitarium,
Battle Creek, Michigan.

I feel it an honor, as well as a great privilege, to extend to you in behalf of the Board of Trustees of this Institution a most cordial welcome to this Conference, the first of its kind to be held. And I wish to tell you that if you esteem it a privilege to gather here for the discussion of great questions which concern the welfare of the race, you are most of all indebted to our greatly esteemed friend, the eminent Doctor Hillis, of Plymouth Church, for it was he who last summer suggested to me and to other members of the Central Committee the idea of this Conference. I said to him in reply, "But, is it possible to bring to this small town the busy men who are giving serious thought to altruistic questions of this sort?"

"Certainly it is," said he, "and I'll help do it."

Professor Irving Fisher happened to be here at the time, and when consulted, he said, "By all means, let us have the Conference," and he also promised to help. Both of these men, who are individually doing such splendid things for the uplift of their fellows, have helped so efficiently that the program which is in your hands has been arranged and the Race Betterment Conference is launched.

It is not expected that this Conference will be great in numbers. Those who attend come by special invitation, and as indicated by the names of speakers shown on the program, are representative thinkers and leaders in various lines of work which have for their aim the advancement of human welfare.

From the start it has been most gratifying to note the unanimous interest shown in the great purposes of this Conference. Practically every person who has been asked to take part in the program has readily consented to do so unless prevented by some previous engagement. The questions which will be discussed here are the greatest problems which face the world today. They are not merely questions of sect or section, finance or politics: they are race questions, biologic questions, whose roots run back to the very childhood of the race and whose branches cast their shadow over every phase of human life.

The real purpose of the Conference is not to formulate conclusions nor to propagate doctrines, but simply to raise in a more definite way certain questions of world-wide significance which have in recent years been more or less casually discussed, and to set in operation methods

of inquiry which it is hoped may lead to a disclosure of facts of tremendous importance. If the race is degenerating, it is highly important that the world should know it and that such agencies should be set in operation as will save the race of man from the common fate of all other living forms as told and foretold by the geologic records of the earth's crust.

The Conference is to be congratulated in having for its Central Committee and Executive Officers a body of men eminently qualified to give expert guidance to the studies and discussions which may be opened up, and to protect us and the public from the evils of sensationalism on the one hand, and the dangers of preconceived opinions and conventional blindness on the other.

We are all to be congratulated that we have with us as the President of this first Conference on Race Betterment, our young and greatly beloved and honored friend, Dr. Stephen Smith, whose whole life has been devoted to the very objects of this Conference, and who at the age of ninety-two years—thanks to Eugenics and Euthenics—is still one of the most active men engaged in the service of the great State of New York.

After seventy years of public service, fifty years as State Commissioner of Charities, Doctor Smith is still active as ever. As President of the Tree Planting Association he is transforming the desert wastes of New York City into pleasant groves and parks. After waiting two average life-times for Doctor Smith to show some symptoms of old age, the people of New York have finally become convinced that he is endowed with eternal youth, and possesses the vitality of his beloved elms and oaks, and so have recently commissioned him for another six years' term as Vice-President of the State Board of Charities, a Board which carries a heavier load of responsibility for human life and happiness than any other like body of men on earth. We hope he will unfold to us and to the world the secret of his perennial youth and vitality. His example and his presence here are a proof and promise of the possibility of race betterment.