

WILEY



Report of the Proceedings of the Third International Congress for the Welfare and Protection of Children

Review by: Helen Bosanquet

The Economic Journal, Vol. 13, No. 51 (Sep., 1903), p. 413

Published by: [Wiley](#) on behalf of the [Royal Economic Society](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2221538>

Accessed: 07/02/2015 18:59

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



Wiley and Royal Economic Society are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Economic Journal*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

clearly the difficulties of the position are apt to underrate their own influence for good. But the picture must be accepted as a whole ; and perhaps the main impression left by it is that of an appalling amount of wasted and misdirected effort. In almost every parish we meet with bands of men and women wearing their lives out, and breaking their hearts, in the attempt to force religion upon a people for the most part utterly indifferent to it. And, saddest of all, is the fact that too often these devoted workers are degrading both the cause for which, and the people for whom, they give themselves so unsparingly.

HELEN BOSANQUET

Report of the Proceedings of the Third International Congress for the Welfare and Protection of Children. (London : P. S. King & Son. 1902. Pp. xxviii, 348.)

THIS Report contains a number of valuable papers by experts and amateurs, together with summaries of the discussions which took place in reference to them. The fact of such a Congress is in itself of great interest, as illustrating the increased social attention which is now directed towards the care of children. A striking instance of our change of attitude is mentioned by Sir James Crichton-Browne in his address to the medical section, when he speaks of the serious and favourable reception now given to the suggestion that school children should be weighed and measured, as compared with the universal derision with which it was greeted twenty years ago, and a glance at the list of subjects dealt with is enough to show the extremely practical nature of this increased attention. Some of the papers are a little florid, but for the most part they are brief, very much to the point, and embodying the experience and hopes of those in actual contact with the difficulties of childhood.

Much of this experience is important from the economist's point of view, though as might be expected amongst so many and such varied writers we have sometimes to reconcile apparently opposite tendencies. For instance, against Sir James Crichton-Browne's statement as to the decadence of the population of our towns and the increase of meningitis due to compulsory schooling, we must set Mr. Bousfield's hopeful account of the progress and improvement due to elementary education. On the question of State *versus* voluntary effort there are also divergent opinions, but divergences like these only serve to emphasise the large amount of positive work which is being done to make the next generation more fit to meet the responsibilities of life. Children suffering under abnormal difficulties, such as the deaf and dumb, the feeble-minded, criminals, or the children of criminals, naturally receive a large share of attention ; but the right methods of educating and feeding the normal child are still the subject of discussion and suggestion. Of special interest in this connection is the paper by Mr. Legge on Technical Education and Industrial Training. HELEN BOSANQUET