

One of the first public speeches I made, which stands out in my memory, was delivered before the Annual Meeting of the Pittsburgh, ^{and Allegheny} Milk and Ice Association in October 1903.

This meeting was held in the old Chamber of Commerce Assembly Room in the Keenan Building and was largely attended by a group of prominent men and women interested in civic and philanthropic undertakings.

I ^{well} ~~very~~ remember that added interest was given this meeting, as a ^{new} ~~new~~ set of officers was proposed by the Nominating ^{ing} Committee, headed by the late Rt. Rev. Cortland Whitehead. The Bishop had visited me in my home and ^{had} honored me by ^{which Presidency I have held for 27 years.} asking me to become President of the Association. ^{ing} I accepted the call and in making the address as the newly-elected ^{Executive,} ~~President,~~ I was exceedingly nervous. My knees trembled so, that throughout the delivery of this "speech" I was silently thanking the God who protects women, that long skirts were then the vogue and hid the ^{shaking} ~~shaking~~ of those knees from the distinguished and discriminating audience!

^{Then upon gaining my mental equilibrium,}
I strove ^{would be made} to impress upon my auditors that the work of the Association only ~~was~~ possible through the cooperation of the public - through ^{their} ~~their~~ enthusiasm, their encouragement, their support, ~~and that only through these~~ ^{could} ~~and~~ the work ~~go on in an effective and practicable manner.~~

I assured them that the fairies - the good fairies - were not all dead yet, even in those days of crass and rampant materialism, - that the real story of the founding of the work read like a fairy tale and like most fairy tales - ancient and modern - began with the story of a little child. I then recounted how a generous benefactor, Mr. W.S. Kuhn, had given a goodly sum to provide modified milk to save some sick infant, as his own child had been saved by modified milk; how he placed One Hundred (\$100.) Dollars into the hands of Doctor Amelia Dranga, a member of the Board; and how she in looking about to minister to such a case, came face to face with the serious problem

of sick and dying babies; that she at once associated ^{herself} with ~~her~~ a few generous-hearted, broad-minded, public-spirited, men and women, ~~whic h~~ action resulted in the formation of the Association.

To "Help Save The Babies" ^{was} ~~is~~ the slogan of the organization. It was the inalienable right of every child, I set forth, to be well born, to be reared healthfully and to be happy. Biologically, I said, the first two or three years of a child's life are extremely important, because these are the foundation years and for millions of children the whole of life is conditioned by these first few years.

The work, I assured my hearers, was not only philanthropic but educational and patriotic as well, ~~in that we would stimulate the public conscience~~ ^{into} demanding a pure milk supply for the city and arouse an interest in the questions. Given a pure whole milk during the first two years of its life we assure a child's ^{physical.} well-being; with this developed we may be sure to produce often a strong mentality; to strong mentality there must accrue a vigorous morality and a high sense of spirituality.

On every side, I declared, we hear the cry of the conservation of our natural resources. To my mind, I said, the conservation that should most seriously be looked into is the conservation of child life, for the child is the greatest asset of the state - it is the hope of the Nation.

I reminded my hearers that we are our brother's keeper and that it is for us to make ourselves permanently useful to these less fortunate babies. Why, I asked, will then our men and women, young and old, not aid in work such as this, for people suffer, (I insisted) and they grow sensibly lowered in vitality if they only pursue pleasure and freedom from care and responsibility. Those who remain away from work such as this, (I fairly shouted) lose the most, for there is nothing that so deadens the sympathies, nothing that so stunts the powers of enjoyment, as the constant keeping away

from the opportunities of helpfulness; and the persistent ignoring of the starvation struggles that make up half the race !. ^(New paragraph) I sat down and Bishop Whitehead in his

inimitable way - with a low bow to the audience and an equally chivalrous bow to me -

said "Ladies and Gentlemen, we have chosen well; ^{for aside of the ability, the experience and the knowledge which Mrs. Taub brings with her for our work,} We have with us, ^(new paragraph)

~~we have with us~~ a regular Chauncey Depewess." ^{Hearty laughter}

^{painful} greeted this finale. ~~to the next day~~ To this hour I can remember the embarrassment

suffered through this couplet. I arose and with blood suffusing my face, I bowed

in mock solemnity and retired ^{precipitously} ~~precipitously~~ in the audience.