

The problems of motherhood must be dealt with, and if necessary, a woman should have the power to enforce her economic independence against her husband. A husband's income was not his personal income at all. Take the case of a man who had twenty shillings a week and gave his wife five shillings a week to keep the family going. There were cases where it was far less.

It should be possible to take proceedings against such men. The rights and economics of the family must be made one of the great corner stones of the new social fabric of righteousness and justice which they were going to build up.

THE PROBLEM.

Finally, he wanted to lay down this proposition, especially for Socialists and Trade Unionists. In remedying the breakdown of existing society they must not construct an elaborate and expensive system of treatment as though they were doctors curing a disease. Their minds must be bent upon establishing a proper system of health preservation. Most of what was being done now was of the nature of giving medicine to a sick man, but a healthy man could not live upon medicine. The real problem they had got to face was to keep men healthy, and they must be very careful, when giving temporary aid, to remember that it must be regarded as merely temporary, and the real problem before them was the construction of a system of social arrangements which would establish the conditions of permanent health under which disease and sickness would be very rare incidents indeed. That was the problem, and the greatest service they could render to society to-day was to keep steadily before them the point of view and the aim which he had endeavoured to impress upon them.

The Chairman's address was received with every mark of appreciation from the audience, and at its conclusion George Lansbury, L.C.C., was called upon to open a discussion on the subject of "Public Health" in relation to the Poor Law.

Mr. Lansbury commenced by saying that he desired to put before the Conference just what was happening at the present time in regard to the Poor Law, and what he thought ought to take the place of the present methods adopted for dealing with the people who had to have recourse to the Poor Law.

The number of sick persons who were obliged to come to the Poor Law every year for relief ran into hundreds of thousands. In 1907 over 200,000 persons went for medical relief alone, and if the number who had to come to the Guardians in addition for food and shelter for themselves and their children were added, it would be found that the number ran to 400,000 or 500,000. There were no absolute