

EAST CAROLINA TEACHERS TRAINING SCHOOL  
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

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THE PRESIDENT

"The Morals of Cleanliness."

Cleanliness is no doubt - the strongest ally of morality, for it affects not only the outward appearance, but also the inner life. A person no matter how immaculately dressed, is not clean unless the inner life is pure. By morality we mean, correct deportment; virtue, rectitude of life, conformity to the accepted standards of right; proper dealings with our fellow creatures.

Cleanliness is the most far-reaching moral agent in this world. In these days of enlightenment, every one should know that cleanliness is absolutely essential to health, and therefore ~~for~~ happiness. If people are healthy and happy I believe they will be moral. Let us consider the slums in our large cities, they are the dirty, filthy sections, where disease flourishes and where crime and immorality run riot, necessitating the close attention of the police. I find myself bringing out the immorality of filth instead of the Morality of Cleanliness.



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Cleanliness is contagious, just as diseases are. I have known of a town that was almost painted over, just because one man moved in & remodeled & repainted his house, the contrast was so striking that the other residents caught the improvement spirit and went to work. Very often, a good example, accomplishes a great deal more than preaching & talking could ever do. Wonders can be accomplished by arousing the clean up spirit in children, by instilling into them habits of neatness, they may become models for older people &c. This indirect appeal exerted through children is often very much more effective & much more productive than a direct appeal from some grown people, as this is often considered officious & insulting, & people resent it. I have known some people to take correction & even criticism from children & profit by it, because they knew it was not intended as such, but it served to bring it too, & cause them to realize that they had made mistakes



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of which they were totally unconscious.

When we live surrounded by unsightly objects, we become so accustomed to them that they are really not-offensive to us, our esthetic sense becomes dulled. (That car) <sup>Bill Boards</sup> A good way to stimulate the clean up spirit is by contrast; much might be accomplished by beautifying some spot in an unkept part of the town. (Lot) <sup>B. Boards</sup> It is impossible to over estimate the value, of the far-reaching <sup>moral</sup> effect of a clean, beautiful town, upon its citizens. Environment affects the whole life, the physical, mental, moral and spiritual, by our environment we are either uplifted or degraded. How important then, that we all should strive to make the moral atmosphere in which we live, what it should be. If children have impressed upon them the value of cleanliness to their health, and the relation of health to morality, no doubt the standards of health, morality and civic beauty will be much higher in the future than has been in the past. We can easily see how at



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At the time of a fever epidemic, children could be taught <sup>as much</sup> in one week about infection, disease germs, antiseptics, value of cleanliners etc., as in several months study of hygiene, without word illustration - To make possible and to require a daily shower bath will do more to inculcate habits of health, than repeated lessons about the skin pores, evaporation & discharge of impurities - Cleanliness is a great help in stimulating morality, for instance, the boy passing from the rough & tumble age, as he begins to associate with girls who are beginning to pay more attention to their appearance, begins to pay more attention to his personal appearance, he will brush his hair carefully, polish his shoes, manicure his nails, and groom himself generally, in fact he is passing into the civilized state - The very foundation of a moral life rests upon the <sup>improved</sup> cleanliness of that life, hence it is most important that we mothers have the most intimate & sympathetic knowledge & association with the innermost lives, thoughts and feelings of our



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children. As a pure innocent girl or boy may be lured to his ruin by ill companions, just so, may one who has been contaminated by association with impure companions, be made better <sup>by</sup> companionship with those who have strong, pure, noble characters, & high ideals. Such characters

may of necessity, often be covered with grime & dirt; the result of industry (this is not considered filthy) while on the other hand, we may admire the politeness & cleanly appearance of a man whose morality we question. But take for example the outcast, who has been reclaimed from a life of dissipation and all kinds of immorality, the first signs of his restoration are usually in his personal appearance. Improvement in the outward appearance, very often indicates the cleansing of the inner life. Going back to the subject of a clean beautiful town, I believe if all of our Club women would stand together and demand that our town be kept clean, report unsightly places, and request that they be cleaned up by a specified time, I believe we would soon have a beautiful



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Clean town (after street improvements have been made)  
With what evils are we surrounded; and what can  
we do, as club women, to eradicate them; and  
and thereby elevate the moral standard  
of our city? The evils which surround us  
are about the same as those with which  
most towns are afflicted. We have thrown  
around us certain safeguards pertaining  
to health, Vaccination for Small-pox & Typhoid, antitoxine  
for Diphtheria, Quarantine for Scarlatina, measles etc, but  
there is Whooping cough allowed to run at large  
& those who would escape its dangerous attacks  
& often fatal after effects must stay out of its way.  
Every case of Tuberculosis, must now be reported  
by the attending physician, according to the law.  
It has been proven, that this disease can be  
prevented from spreading even within a family,  
by proper care and precaution, whereas carelessness  
due probably to ignorance has caused the disease  
to go through entire families - Maudslow, in his book,  
"The Crime of Silence" tells us, that there is a terrible  
venereal disease, which the law does not require



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to be reported, and which, the physicians for the sake of shielding their patients from embarrassment and disgrace do not make known. In order says that there are only two states requiring the report of this disease, whereas it is far more dangerous than any yet mentioned, and its effects are far more disastrous being not only confined to the person affected who becomes a menace to innocent people but who may <sup>also</sup> transfer the disease to future generations who ~~must~~ <sup>may</sup> become in a measure a public charge. It seems to me that it becomes the sacred duty of all who are aware of the existence of this terrible disease to, (in a measure) inform and warn the innocent young people, who are entirely ignorant of any such danger, and instruct them very carefully, how to avoid contamination with all diseases.

If our citizens have high moral standards, lofty ideals and noble aspirations, our officers will naturally be of the same class



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We will give freely of <sup>our</sup> legal and moral support to the enforcement of good laws for the uplifting, upbuilding of the community in every possible way and we will for the sake of future generations, exert their influence for cleanliness and morality.