

**THE SOCIAL OUTLOOK. PAPERS ON
SOCIAL PROBLEMS READ AT THE
SECOND OXFORD CONFERENCE OF
THE WESLEYAN METHODIST UNION
FOR SOCIAL SERVICE. EASTER, 1910**

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FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

EASTER, 1910

London

ROBERT CULLEY

25-35 CITY ROAD, AND 26 PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

PREFACE

FROM March 29 to April 1, 1910, the Wesleyan Methodist Union for Social Service held its second Easter Conference in the Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford.

The present volume incorporates most of the papers read and addresses given at the Conference. For the convenience of the general reader the papers and addresses have been regrouped in four sections—viz. 'The State and the Worker,' 'Destitution,' 'The Rebuilding of Society,' and 'The Church and Social Service.'

The objects of the Wesleyan Methodist Union for Social Service—which was formed in 1905—are 'the collection and study of social facts, the pursuit of social service, and the discussion of social problems and theories from the Christian standpoint, with the view to educate public opinion and secure improvement in the conditions of life. . . . Membership does not commit any one to the support of any political party or social theory, or to the opinion of any individual member.'

It will be clear from these sentences, culled from the Constitution of the Union, that the contributors to this volume, while one in the recognition of social wrongs and the determination to work for their redress, often differ—and sometimes widely—as to the methods by which advance can be most speedily and surely made.

PREFACE

Differing points of view are therefore recognizable in the following papers—a fact which will probably increase the interest with which they are regarded by serious students of social life. The Union thus offers a platform on which men and women of all parties, or of none—so they be men and women of Christian goodwill—can meet to study and help to solve the intricate problems of contemporary social life. A step toward progress has certainly been won when party proclivities are for the time set aside, and men and women meet simply as servants of humanity in Christ's name.

The essays and addresses are published at the request of the members of the Oxford Conference. In the Wesleyan Methodist Church, as in all the Churches, there is a large and steadily increasing body of readers of the literature of the social movement. To their service this book is dedicated, in the hope that, as they peruse its pages, they may gain the quickening of spirit and resolve which their comrades experienced who were privileged to forgather at Oxford.

The Executive of the Union present their cordial thanks to all whose papers and addresses were included in the programme of the Conference. To the Mayor and Mayoress of Oxford, Councillor J. E. and Mrs. Salter, who graciously received the members of the Conference on the first evening of its assembly; to the Rev. A. J. Carlyle, M.A., Rector of the United Parishes of St. Martin and All Saints, Oxford, and to the Rev. J. Vernon Bartlet, M.A., D.D., who voiced the welcome of the Churches of the City; to the Rev. Grainger Hargreaves, and the Trustees of the Wesley Memorial

PREFACE

Church for their renewed hospitality; and to Mr. A. Pearson, M.A., whose intimate knowledge of Oxford was freely placed at the disposal of the members during the sunny afternoons of our visit, grateful acknowledgements of courteous assistance are also due.

HENRY CARTER.

HARROW, 1910.

**The
Wesleyan Methodist Union for Social Service**

Watchword: 'See and Serve.'

THE aim of the Union is to apply the principles of Christianity to modern industrial and social life.

It claims that the teachings of Jesus should shape and control the affairs of the State and society as well as the life of the individual.

It therefore seeks to enlist men and women both in personal sacrificial endeavour to befriend the needy and in patient and self-denying public service of the commonweal.

While engaged in these tasks expressly amongst the adherents of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Union also seeks to enter into cordial co-operation with all whose aim is to bring life, communal and personal, under the sway of the Will of God.

Inquiries respecting the Union should be addressed to either of the Honorary Secretaries: Rev. W. F. LOFTHOUSE, M.A., Handsworth College, Birmingham; and Mr. J. J. STARK, 'Ashmead,' Oricans Road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

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