

PROPOSAL FOR
AN INTERNATIONAL BUREAU
OF MORAL EDUCATION

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THE remarkable gathering of September, 1908, which constituted the First International Moral Education Congress, made it very evident that the moral factor in education has become a matter of deep concern throughout the civilized world to all who are actively engaged, or otherwise closely interested, in the work of public instruction. The nationalities represented in that Congress were almost as many and as varied as were the different kinds of moral training which were discussed at its sessions. Nevertheless, there was a general recognition of the perilous tendencies of some aspects of education as it is conducted to-day; and opinion at the Congress was unanimous as to the paramount position which should be assigned to moral training and instruction in any educational system intended to meet the needs of a modern State.

The Congress welcomed all information which recounted serious attempts to develop character through educational agencies and instruments of all kinds whatsoever; it also gave a respectful hearing to the statements of those principles which underlie the various attempts to solve the urgent problem of moral education. Recognizing the advantages which accrued to them from such frank expositions of principle and practice in this most important field, the members of the Congress appointed a Committee to draw up a scheme upon an international basis which should make possible the collection and dissemination of information of this kind, so that it might be at all times easily accessible to inquirers, irrespective of nationality, religious conviction, or particular point of view.

The Executive Committee appointed by the Congress to consider this and similar matters was constituted as follows:

Prof. M. E. Sadler, Professor of the History and Administration of Education in the University of Manchester, President of the Congress of 1908

M. Léon Bourgeois, late French Premier, late President of the French Chamber of Deputies, President of the General Committee

Geheimrat Prof. Dr Wilhelm Foerster, Professor of Astronomy in the University of Berlin, President of the International Commission of Weights and Measures, Vice-President of the General Committee

Mrs Sophie Bryant, D.Sc., Litt.D., late President of the Headmistresses' Association, Chairman of the Executive Committee

Prof. J. W. Adamson, Professor of the Theory and Practice of Education in King's College, University of London, Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee

Mr Harrold Johnson, Secretary of the Moral Education League, Hon. Secretary for Great Britain

Mr Gustav Spiller, Secretary of the International Union of Ethical Societies, Hon. General Secretary

To whom were added by co-option:

Prof. Felix Adler, Professor of Applied Ethics in Columbia University, New York

M. Emile Boutroux, Member of the Institut de France, Hon. Professor in the University of Paris

Prof. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University, New York

Mr St George Lane Fox-Pitt, Hon. Financial Secretary of the Congress.

Dr Georg Kerschensteiner, Stadtschulrat, Munich

Prof. Francesco Orestano, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Palermo.

The Committee so appointed has, after careful deliberation, drawn up the following scheme for an International Bureau of Moral Education. It will be observed that its successful issue depends upon three things. First, the judicious selection of a small body of distinguished and influential persons who would consent to assume the functions of Governing Body of the Trust which is created by the scheme. Second, the appointment of the right man (or woman) to fill the extremely responsible office of Director. Third, a large measure of financial support.

For the last, the Committee appeals to all who are willing and able to assist in founding an organization intended to serve the highest interests of national life throughout the world. The second must be the care of the Governing Body when appointed; the appointment of the members of this body rests with the General Committee of the Congress.

It would be the work of the Bureau, when fully organized and established:

1. (a) To publish, at yearly or half-yearly intervals, a volume containing an accurate record of the facts and of the developments of opinion in different countries bearing upon the problem of moral education. The Reports of the United States Commissioner of Education, the Special Reports of the English Board of Education, the publica-

tions of the German Centralstelle für Volkswohlfahrt, the Reports of the International Bureau for Labour Legislation, would, in their different ways, furnish precedents for such a publication.

(*b*) To publish at more frequent intervals shorter bulletins dealing with special points.

(For the purposes of the above the officials of the Bureau would need to travel, as occasion might arise, to investigate various problems in different countries.)

(*c*) To publish bibliographies bearing on the different aspects of moral education and well-arranged indices to important articles in periodicals and newspapers of different countries.

2. To publish pamphlets based upon the ascertained results of the Bureau's inquiries, and designed to secure a wider popular interest than would be found for the ordinary publications of the Bureau, with a view also to bringing about practical educational reforms.

3. To appoint correspondents, with special knowledge, in all parts of the world; to lay down the lines of most effective international communication in regard to the whole question.

4. To establish a central library and reading-room which should place at the disposal of all engaged in this sphere of work—practical or theoretical—the whole literature, in various languages, bearing on the subject, and all educational periodicals.

5. To take the preliminary steps to establish an International Journal of Moral Education.

6. To organize Conferences, especially for the purpose

of considering urgent practical questions that bear upon Moral Education.

7. To establish relations with all international organizations having similar aims—*e.g.*, the International Peace Congress, the International Congress on School Hygiene, the Federal Education Congress, the International Congress on Popular Education, the International Bureau of Bibliography, the International Federation of Teachers' Organizations, and the International Bureau for Labour Legislation.

The formation of such a Bureau, under the distinguished and world-wide patronage which has already been secured for it, with a thoroughly equipped staff whose duty it would be to inquire into, and impartially record, every variety of educational experience bearing on the problems connected with moral education, would prove one of the most beneficent agencies for promoting the unity of the peoples and for supplying an age, especially marked out for material progress, with those moral safeguards and incentives without which civilization will prove a curse rather than a blessing.

It is believed that, if the existence of the Bureau could be guaranteed for a period of five years, at the expiration of that period its work would have shown itself so valuable as to justify its continued maintenance and development. Particulars as to the expenditure which would necessarily have to be incurred are furnished in Sections 8 & 9 of the following scheme.

SCHEME OF BUREAU.

1. **PURPOSE.** The Bureau will collect and disseminate, on an impartial basis, information and ideas concerning moral education, more especially with reference to the work of educational establishments.

2. **BASIS.** In dealing with the problems of moral education the Bureau will impartially record different forms of educational experience and will have respectful regard to all forms of conviction, but will abstain from theological and political controversy.

3. **GOVERNMENT.** The government of the Bureau will be vested in a small body of unpaid Trustee Governors, chosen with special regard to personal qualifications but independently of nationality, though with due consideration for their place of residence.

4. **STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE BUREAU.** Subject to the general supervision and control of the Board of Trustee-Governors, the administration of the work will lie with the Director, who will be appointed by the Trustee-Governors for a period of five years, at the expiry of which period he (or she) will be eligible for re-election. The staff of the Bureau will consist of men and women, who will be appointed by the Trustee-Governors upon the recommendation of the Director. The latter will have the power of suspending any member of his staff (their dismissal lying with the Trustee-Governors, to whom any case of suspension must be immediately reported by the Director), and of making temporary appointments on probation.

5. **WORK OF THE BUREAU.** It is proposed that in the first instance the Bureau should investigate and report upon the following matters:

(a) Methods of School Discipline in the light of character-training;

(b) The part which the pupils may bear in their own education—*e.g.*, the place of practical work in a liberal education (especially work done for the school community);

(c) Ethical aspects of co-education;

(d) Moral Education in China, Japan, India and other Eastern countries.

It is hoped, also, to deal with the following:

(e) The problem of Moral Education during adolescence—*e.g.*, moral and civic instruction in Continuation Schools, Sex;

(f) The place of Art in Moral Education;

(g) The need and place of ethical influences and agencies in University life;

(h) The education of the criminal;

(i) Construction of well-balanced curricula suitable to various types of schools;

(k) The training of teachers as moral educators;

(l) The attitude of States towards the relation of religious and moral education.

6. **PLACE OF THE BUREAU.** It is proposed that the Bureau should be established in some suitable centre of international activity, preferably The Hague.

7. SIZE OF STAFF. The staff should consist of the Director and four assistants, with the necessary complement of stenographers, typewriters and office attendants, women being eligible for all appointments.

8. ANNUAL COST OF THE BUREAU. In order to secure a staff of the calibre and experience adequate to the task of the Bureau and competent to establish its authority in the educational world, it will be desirable to offer good salaries to the higher officials.

Salary of Director	£ 1,000
Salaries of Assistants (average of £500 per annum each)	2,000
Rent of Office, insurance, taxes	300
Printing, postage, cost of distribution of reports, etc.	400
Clerks, stenographers and office attendants	450
Purchase of books and periodicals	200
Travelling expenses of investigation, including members of permanent staff and fees for special reports—say	500
	Total £4,850

9. POSSIBLE MEANS OF REDUCING COST.

(a) In the first instance, an effort might be made to raise the sum necessary for carrying on the Bureau for an experimental period of five years. This would amount

(according to estimate given above) to £24,250. But for the first two or three years the expenses of the Bureau would be much less, and economies might be effected by using temporary premises (possibly lent by some learned body for the purpose). Also, it would be undesirable to make all the staff appointments at once; and the amount of printing would be small at first. It may be estimated, therefore, that a sum of £12,000 would enable a very useful beginning to be made and carried on for an experimental period of five years.

(b) Universities might be found willing to present the services of some member of their professional staff for special service on the Bureau for a short term of two or three years. Such experience would be of the highest value to a University teacher, and would give him or her an unrivalled opportunity for the comparative study of different branches of education. By this means the cost of the investigating staff of the Bureau might be greatly lessened, with mutual advantage to the Bureau and the University concerned. For the sake of the experience to be gained, it is possible that competent young students would offer their unpaid services to the Bureau for short periods of work.

(c) Eventually the sale of published reports would form some off-set to the cost of printing.

(d) Governments might find it convenient and economical to commission the Bureau, from time to time, to make special inquiries on their behalf. The fees paid for

such inquiries would be a small but additional source of income.

Signed by the Executive Committee of the International Moral Education Congress:

J. W. ADAMSON, *Chairman.*

GUSTAV SPILLER, *Hon. Secretary,*
63 South Hill Park, London, N.W.

MICHAEL E. SADLER.

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GEORG KERSCHENSTEINER.

FRANCESCO ORESTANO.

March, 1910.

