



Minety

Address to the Cirencester Rotary Club by the Rev W S Emberson.

Attacks on our educational system, attitude to sex problems, methods of using our leisure by taking part in Sunday games, and on the present divorce laws, were made in an address given by the Rev W S Emberson, of Minety, Wiltshire, to the Cirencester Rotary Club on Tuesday.

At the opening of his address, Mr Emberson made it clear that he proposed to make many provoking statements, and put forward Utopian views in the hope that it would stimulate interest and also bring discussion.

He began with education, and declared that speaking generally, the British are uneducated, and this in turn was responsible for many of our village problems. We were failing to educate people to realise that real education is an understanding of everything beautiful and true in life.

“Children are crammed in small barracks, “ he said. “There is a small underpaid staff, and they are given few books.”

“The trend of education is based on the parents’ purse. If the parent has money, the boy or girl goes to the university, but if the parents’ purse is small, the child is placed on the market at 14, uneducated and untrained.”

Mr Emberson then expressed the opinion that the British Empire’s greatest need at the present time was to use the brains of the citizens.

Sex Problems

When speaking of sex problems, he pointed out that his remarks were not made as a minister of religion. He thought sex was being given too great a prominence in modern novels, stage plays and films.

“I am in favour of co-education, because in it there is no prudery,” he declared.

“People get married without due thought,” he continued. “Divorce, despite Mr A P Herbert, ought not to be allowed except in extreme reasons.”

“I would tighten legislation rather than loosen it. We have unduly and highly romantic films when there is so much else for which the screen could be used. It is a great pity that if you take a person to a cinema you are never sure what you are going to see.”

Mr Emberson also spoke of the responsibilities of property owners to their fellow men. He considered that all property should be regarded as a stewardship, and it should be used for the benefit of the community.

Speaking of the problems of leisure, he thought that most people did not know how to use it.

Sunday Games

“I say at once that I am hostile to Sunday games,” he said. “There is a time for the culture and cultivation of the soul. Unless we are to have the Continental Sunday we are not to be so fond of pleasure. What we need is far more discipline.”

“You cannot worship so well on a Wednesday as on Sunday.”

He referred also to crime, and the mistake of thinking that the giving of punishment was the only consideration when this subject was being discussed. Punishment merely shut the door of progress in life for the wrong doer and often for his family also.

In his concluding remarks, Mr Emberson attacked the popular press, which he said were commercial enterprises and often used for the purposes of propaganda.

Several members joined in a discussion that followed. All disagreed with the opinions Mr Emberson had expressed on the topics he had mentioned, and in each instance the speaker gave replies to support his views.

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