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EDITORIAL PARAGRAPH

{BRYN MAWR AND MALTHUSIANISM.}

By DANIEL DE LEON

PITY that the Bryn Mawr statistics on the number of graduates who in the twenty-one years from 1890 to 1911 married and became mothers, showing these to be less than 40 per cent. of the total, are being used as an evidence that high education means few babies, and has a tendency towards race suicide. Pity of the one-legged conclusion. Planted on both its legs, the conclusion is the Marxian, long ago advanced against the folly of Malthusianism. While Malthusianism—the theory that population increases and can not help increasing but at a ratio larger than the ratio at which food can be produced: a theory invented to justify the slaughter of the innocents under capitalism—the Marxian tenet was the correct one that there will never be over-population under healthy social conditions. Under such conditions there will be, on the one hand, a superabundance of the necessaries of life, and, on the other hand, families of relatively small size, as a consequence of enlightenment's enlisting the mind's activity in other than animal directions only.

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