Lathrup Women Hear Mrs. Shain's World Affairs Talk

By LILLIAN DIEDERICH

Ruth Shain was guest speaker at Lathrup Township Women's Club, last Monday afternoon. Mrs. Shain has conducted classes on International Relations in Birmingham the past two decades.

In her discourse, Mrs. Shain referred to the past in order to present a picture of the future and what it holds for us. "No event seems important to us unless it shakes the world in which we are living; we must realize," she said, "that things that have happened elsewhere in the world do directly involve us. We are not greatly moved because China is dying off with famine, disease and starvation; these facts trouble us but little; but a plane crash near at hand shocks and horrifies us. In the news of last week had it all happened on Mars, would have meant nothing to us."

Radio Brings Things Nearer

Mrs. Shain continued, "The radios in our homes bringing commentators with startling news; and journalists writing of the horrors of war, have brought the plight of Finland and Poland bodies hurled in the snow, chaos to us. The dog fights over the channel—Warsaw burned—London wharves bursting in flame, all these things have come as near to us as the distance to our nearest radio."

She stated that we might not have had a third term President but for outside influence; and a truth we have come to realize that what may seem event happening in the wide world will eventually effect us. "I have heard," she said, "and no doubt you, too, have heard, the rumors that Europe is adrift in another jam; this time they can get along without us. When Poland fell, we blamed France for not sticking to the treaty; when France went, we went and blamed the democracies for not stopping Russia; when Norway was invaded we put the blame on England for not stopping the Germans down, we said, because labor had undermined the industrial structure. But when lightning struck the base of the cold called England, we realized that even Chamberlain's umbrella could not protect the priceless treasures of Tudor England from being demolished. We appealed to high heaven, 'Why allow this horror?' and we have refused to look at the past in which we have had a great stake and not realized it."

Mrs. Shain said that many American groups hope for a negotiated peace, as much as to say that we want the country doing the fighting and who presumably know what they are doing, to quit it all at our terms.

Negotiated Peace

She continued, "There will be no negotiated peace terms except what terms best suit Mr. Hitler. Any deviation from war would have to be interpreted through him, to his people, as a surrender of the Allies. At Versailles, military ideas of Foch and George were harsh and realistic, but those old warriors knew the price of peace was a definite commitment to eat; when that peace was violated, they realized peace had to be organized on a basis of force exercised in common and not by just one nation. If present offers to negotiate amount to anything we must take our responsibility as the most powerful nation in the world and be sure that the thing we project on them has our backing.

"Since 1914, a great body of disillusioned people has been saying, 'We financed the last war, never again. We threw in our boys to be slaughtered that the country's riches might not be jeopardized; we have learned from bitter experience. We will never again help a warring nation.' It must be remembered neutrality is no assurance of peace. We rise to a person to denounce Germany. When Hitler sings his hymn of hate we seethe and boil. Our thoughts are un-neutral! We are not neutral and never will be," Mrs. Shain said with emphasis.

She continued, "South America expects to open national markets open to Europe because of their proximity to Europe and because the industrials and agricultural products are complimentary each other. A healthy trade with South America would be desirable to us, but they would require a dollar of value out of each dollar of merchandise, or if it would not be a profitable trade, from a long range point of view. Small likelihood of our throwing products of several states out the door in order to bring in Argentine wheat, oil, and beef!"

Russia in Back Winner

Mrs. Shain is of the opinion that the Russian-German situation will be tripped and dependent the way the wind blows. Russia will line up with the winner. They do not like the British but they are not afraid of them. They do not like Germans but they are deathly afraid of them. Stalin will just bide his time and move in the direction the best wind blows. It is a known fact Germany is building factories on the edge of Russia, so as to be immune from attack. Russia not only fears Hitler but realizes it would not be to their advantage should Hitler win. Russia is thinking of itself first, and so Stalin will watch, and wait."

Mrs. Shain continued, "Neither Russia nor Germany has the kind of life we would accept. If Germany owns and controls raw materials of Europe and impresses the workers, she can outbid any price levels we could offer in any markets. Racial discriminations and religious persecutions will follow any area she might control. English traditions would be broken down; freedom of speech would be lost. Hitler is quivering to set up concentration camps and operating new systems of slavery. Power by violence stimulates so that more power is wanted. There will be no freedom anywhere should Hitler win."

Aid for China

She agrees with certain groups whose ideas are familiar to most of us, namely, that we can be safe in improving our own democracy inside, and that each individual should put forth all effort into the ideal. She stressed the fact that any help we give China in her war with Japan will help Britain win her war.

She touched briefly on the Three Power Pact: Italy, Germany, Japan, by saying, "Each one's loss is the other's loss; all will unite against any intrusion. Japan's competence in her war with China has been 80% possible because of our exports and our willingness to take her exports.

"We are not indifferent to Europe's fate, and isolation is no guarantee of security. The Nazis have not shrunk from the sacrifices they are making; the British are making daily sacrifices for war and if we are called upon to sacrifice, we will do so in the right spirit. If British friendships go down around the face of the globe we realize we will stand alone in a hostile world. Even if we could manage to be happy in a pestilence-ridden world, could we long be safe?"

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Its pages fair;
And a message fond and true
As the summer skies are blue
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So dishonair.

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And a little silver dart
Almost tearing it apart,
And verses bold,
A cupid up above
And a cooing turtle dove
With some pretty words of love
In frame of gold!

—BEATRICE McDONALD.

"Tea for Two"

Birmingham Woman Physician Tells Why She Gave Up Her Practice

Visits with Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Women . . .

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE

THERE is a definite need for women in the medical profession, Mrs. Robert H. Whitlatch, 707 Lakeview avenue, told me this week. A former practicing physician and an orthopedic specialist, Mrs. Whitlatch was speaking from experience.

There are many instances, when a woman doctor meets and solves the profession, once the stronghold of men, is becoming increasingly popular for women.

Her uncle was a doctor, Mrs. Whitlatch told me. He was a bachelor and she being his favorite niece she spent a great deal of her time accompanying him on his calls.

She was laughing about it this week when she told me that this uncle was one of the now quickly-vanishing brand of family physicians. Vividly she remembers scrambling up in the sleigh, being tucked comfortably and securely under a warm lap robe and riding off over the countryside with him as he made his daily rounds.

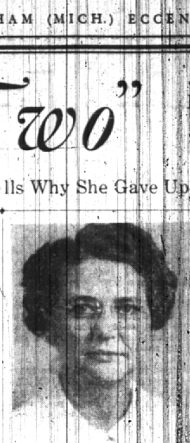
Impressed by Horse

She was highly impressed, she tells me, by being allowed to ride behind a horse. She was so impressed that she's not at all sure that the dream of someday being able to drive her own horse didn't influence her in choosing medicine as her own profession.

But most of all she loved her uncle's library, its high walls lined with impressive medical books and technical journals. She remembers that as a little girl it was the height of her ambition to be able some day to read and understand those books.

And so always with this in mind, until not ever discouraged by her parents, she was graduated from Western Reserve University and from there went to the University of Michigan where she received her medical degree in 1925.

It was in Worcester, Mass., that she did her general internship at Memorial Hospital and because interested in orthopedic work. And then she came face to face with the problem that somehow confronts every professional woman: to continue in her chosen field or to marry.



Mrs. Robert H. Whitlatch

Mrs. Whitlatch chose marriage and came on from the East to Detroit to live. For a time she had a general practice in Detroit and later went into orthopedic work as a specialist. In addition to her own practice she worked for the Detroit Board of Health and also made orthopedic examinations in the schools. All of this in addition to lecturing at the old Detroit Pediatrics' College.

Then Came Depression

About this time the entire country was floundering under what we now call the depression. Everywhere there was little money and a great deal of unemployment. In the daily school examinations she encountered malnutrition and undernourishment among children who didn't even have shoes and seasonable clothing.

It was an utterly hopeless situation. It was useless to prescribe a quart of milk to build up children, she said, when one knew full well there is a large percentage of those who since children didn't even have enough to eat.

And it was then that she decided from sheer pressure to take care of one child of her own rather than thousands belonging to other people. Bridge is 5 years old now, a very little boy with large, brown eyes.

Since returning from professional life, Mrs. Whitlatch told me she feels little time to tender her own children, she has signed and she has become active in the community life of Birmingham and home for the last 10 years. Today as president of the American Association of University Women she is throwing all of her support toward the numerous and nearly all-inclusive objects which this organization backs.

In talking about the work and its being done in Birmingham by the local unit of the American Association of University Women Mrs. Whitlatch spoke of the tremendous task which confronts the United States at this time, namely every one active, as she pointed out, that this country must have time to find its way of life against the wave of totalitarianism that has engulfed the nations of Europe.

Everyone Can Help

"Details are unlimited," she continues, "but the main point must only be left to the experts. But there is another aspect of preparedness so less important than armaments: The strengthening of our democracy so that we may meet the future as a stable, united nation. This cannot be achieved by government order alone," she continued. "It calls for the devoted efforts of intelligent citizens in every community.

"And that, in a paragraph, is what Birmingham's A. A. U. W. is attempting to carry out, Mrs. Whitlatch tells me. "It is the end of cultivating intelligent public opinion the local unit, as its study groups that are open to the public as well as its own members, it has set international relations class that is now in its 19th year, a class that since its beginning has been led by Mrs. Charles L. Shain. It has a child study group, a travel club and last fall a taxation study class.

"It has a group that studies home economics, employment, wages and hours and what is expected of domestic help; it has a class that studies the American family, there is a consumers' study group, a class that is ever watchful for changes in price and quality of consumer goods.

"The American Association of University Women has always urged, Mrs. Whitlatch said, that public schools assume a special responsibility. It has always been watchful that education not neglected because of the emphasis with other problems. They are forever guarding against unwise economies under guise of the "emergency."

When became known that a ten-mill increase in school tax was to be sought in Birmingham the A. A. U. W. immediately joined with the Parent-Teacher association, the League of Women Voters and other influential organizations here to conduct what Mrs. Whitlatch called a "program of voter education" in the hope that the tax increase would be passed at the coming June election.

And then there is, Mrs. Whitlatch continued, the idea that well-adjusted youth is the foundation of a nation's strength, a creed of the national organization of the A. A. U. W. Here in Birmingham there is the A. A. U. W.-sponsored Saturday Club which Mrs. Whitlatch described as a constructive program to make young people socially useful.

Along the same line of helping our American youth, Mrs. Whitlatch elaborated, the University Women together with other organizations are concerned with the state-operated school for the Deaf in Flint where insanitary and unhealthy living conditions were disclosed recently. Since the conditions were investigated the Birmingham A. A. U. W. has urged men and women to deluge State Rep. George N. Higgins and State Senator George F. McGillivray, with letters demanding the situation be remedied.

Then too there is the College Women's Volunteer Service which the American Association of University Women strongly supports. These volunteers, Mrs. Whitlatch told me, do hundreds of jobs that budgets cannot include. They register patients, take doctors' notes and act as hostesses in out-patient departments of hospitals. They develop recreation programs with municipal recreation and lead girls and boys' clubs and mothers' clubs and are Girl Scout leaders and Camp Fire guardians. There is, she pointed out, practically no limit to the type of work which volunteers really do.

These are the things for which Mrs. Whitlatch is working. This is why she has as yet found no time to miss the work she gave up six years ago. This is why she feels that there is enough within her own community to keep her occupied for some time to come.

Will she ever, I asked her, return to practicing medicine? She didn't know. Possibly, yes, perhaps no. "Circumstances," she philosophized, "have a way of taking care of themselves. That's why I'm not even thinking about it now."

Like Scarlet O'Hara she will think about it tomorrow.

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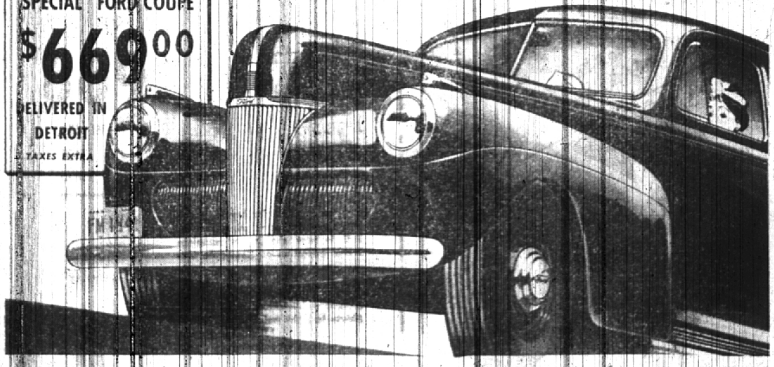

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