AS WE SEE IT

By DAN PATRICK

Much has been written of late on the effects of the war on almost every conceivable subject except the one that counts the most in the life of any nation — the family.

Recently the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry published a report on "The War and Family Life" which deserves some pretty careful attention because if the negative conclusions are personal, you might as well include a comprehensive family rehabilitation program in your post-war plans.

The findings in the survey now analyzed by Dr. David M. Levy and, peculiarly enough, he discovers the same factors working for and against family life.

Take wages for instance. In some cases they have acted as a cohesive force, rallying families of the sense of danger and privation and drawing them closer together. Then again, Dr. Levy found that big wages, after years of doing without, widened differences between parents and went to the heads of adolescent wage earners.

The heart of Dr. Levy's report, however, is centered on the reaction of the average mother, especially one with small children, to conditions predicated by war.

Work on salvage drives, Red Cross and other war activities proved beneficial to some mothers. But — and it's a pretty big but — other mothers used these activities "as a means of ridding themselves of maternal responsibilities."

Then Dr. Levy launches into a discussion of children's behavior and comes up with this conclusion: "The most frequent source of family disintegration, as seen by these records, is the absent or neglectful mother."

The neglect of mothers toward their children covers a wide ranging, running from improper feeding to complete abandonment, the report states.

And Dr. Levy covers mothers absent from their homes for various reasons whether it be war work to increase the family income or volunteer activities. "The evasion of maternal responsibility, takes every form including patriotic zeal," he adds.

The study is not a statistical sampling, Dr. Levy points out. It represents a round-up of experience from many States, as well as that of sixteen major agencies. The author presents his conclusions as inferences, yet finds them to be consistent with the findings of other investigations, which he mentions, as a "sad necessity." The need for protecting children from neglectful mothers by some form of legal restraint.

Pointing out that some mothers actually become better mothers when they get out from under the humdrum household round, Dr. Levy says:

"The problem is chiefly that of the full-time job and a poor work shift preventing the important contacts in the morning hours from waking to school time, and the evening hours from supper to bedtime. Mothers of infants up to age 3 should be barred from factory work. Mothers of the preschool child should be allowed employment only during the period in which a nursery school, properly inspected, takes over."

While Dr. Levy agrees that "therefore rules are very likely unfair when applied 'to all equally' he is of the opinion that something must be done to protect children.

"A factory that employs mothers in a community which has no resources in the form of schools, nursery schools and the like," he says, "is in a sense as dependent on the mothers who could work jobs in spite of the handicaps as the mother herself."

It is too early to post judgment on the findings of the Crimea conference. And the reports are all in.

The conclusions of this conference are of tremendous importance to the future of the world. They are of personal importance to each and every one of us.

Many questions which have for an answer remain questions, publicly at least. During the week to come we shall attempt a careful analysis of the published report. For we publish others are looking and waiting to join in this discussion.

Accounts Should Reconcile

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Feast Days

[illegible]

FATHER DUFFY A PASTOR

Sixteen years as Superintendent of Parochial Schools in the Diocese of Rochester have taken Father Duffy into all the parishes, all the schools and high schools; have enabled him to meet pastors and teachers and pupils. Now at the call of his Bishop, he undertakes the direction of St. Augustine's Parish, to serve a people that have grown into a large congregation under forty years of pioneer work of its first Pastor, Father John O'Brien.

May God bless him in this new work! Surely the coming of this Man of God will mean new blessings for St. Augustine's and its people. The public press have noted editorially the esteem in which Father Duffy is held by all, and the *Courier* takes this opportunity to felicitate him on his promotion to a post for which he is eminently fitted.

The Literary Cavalcade

Catholic Press Month

By John O'Connor

I submit that the Catholic press in this country will not have reached its maturity until a sincere writer intent upon the honest expression of ideas and with high standards of art can look forward to a modestly comfortable return for full-time work. I further submit that this press will not have the weight of a real press until it actually goes after news rather than waiting for news to happen; providing immediate coverage on news events instead of continually running reprints of secular columnists whose ideas on one day may agree with yours, and that this will come about only when we begin to adopt the modern methods of communication, of printing, of editorial work which are now well established in the secular world.

You simply must speak the language of the marketplace. No one has more emphatically and starkly expressed this than Michael de la Bedoyere in his recent work "Christianity in the Market Place." We cannot remain [illegible] in by an esoteric-[illegible] which in some quarters be[illegible] heretical rigorism [illegible] ignored in our day. [illegible] Bedoyere states:

"[illegible] people get the [illegible] that the best of [illegible] are more concerned to [illegible] themselves in their proud hard hard, letting [illegible] numbers lose repute to the [illegible] world, calling down [illegible] shall have had to climb the [illegible] of salvation, praying [illegible] those who attempt the climb [illegible] not talk with of those [illegible] take the risk of going down [illegible] their truth with that God's [illegible] may be prepared in the [illegible] hereafter?" ....

Therefore, it [illegible] to this corner that — [illegible] mastering the tongues of the marketplace with a product which will meet the desperate need of a perplexed world, we get into that marketplace and stay there. Nor should we ever doubt the sincerity of the world, anyway than we should forget our Lord's humble ability to deal with public sinners. He did not destroy our sinners. He won by example and by action.

Then we must talk with the world and present the eternal principles of Christ in a pattern which the world should do in Christ-hungry [illegible] people are hungry for the principles. The Church, speaking to people in a — way in the language, "[illegible] Christ" [illegible] the [illegible] of the world [illegible] the [illegible] of the world [illegible] a [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]