

gro race, and there is no getting away from it. It is tragic in some of its effects as all limitation are, but it is mistaken kindness and illogical policy that defends the Negro when he demands perfect equality with the white, and the wise and thoughtful representatives of Negro blood will recognize the reality of the limitation that exists and accept it, not only bravely, but cheerfully and philosophically."

The Boston *American* answers:

"The question is whether or not public authorities have a right to discriminate against a citizen on account of her color in public occupations. It is no answer to say that the other employees of the State were not willing to associate with Miss Bosfield. They did not have to keep their jobs if they objected to that impartial administration of the law which gives all citizens, of whatever color, equal privileges.

"The students of Harvard and of other colleges find it quite possible to sit beside and to work with colored fellow-students. They find it quite possible to play football and baseball with them, and they find it quite tolerable to be bested by them in athletics and debating and to be represented by them, as they often have, in the great intellectual debating contests with other colleges.

"Therefore, if any supersensitive person in the public employ finds that a fellow-citizen, respectable, educated and well bred, is not agreeable on account of her color, the letter and the spirit of the law should not be violated in order to pander to such supersensitivity and superciliousness."

Miss Bosfield herself tells her story as follows in the *Boston Evening Record*:

"I am a graduate of the Cambridge Latin and High School. I studied bookkeeping and stenography at evening school, after I had graduated. In 1912 I passed the civil service examination for the first time, and later tried for a position. I have been certified for almost every position in the clerical departments of Boston. From 1912 until 1915 I tried for positions, tried desperately hard, and always I was refused. For three years I was forced to work in a factory for half the money I could get at the work for which I had been trained. And then, during all these years, I was forever chasing the will-o'-wisp of the possible job. Again and again I would be certified.

Again and again, so soon as I had had a personal interview, I would be refused.

"Will you tell me—the reason?" I would ask. The employer would shake his head. 'The civil service law does not require us to tell,' he would answer, in almost every case. But once in a while an exceptionally honest man would state his reason. It would always be because of my race; in every other particular, I would have passed the requirements.

"Then, last April, I heard Gov. Walsh speak in Symphony Hall. He said that he wished a fair chance for all Massachusetts citizens—well, it was a good speech. I wrote to the Governor. He answered.

"When you have been certified again," said he, "let me know immediately."

"The 12th of last October I was certified again, I wrote. In two days I received a letter from Dr. French, asking me to call. I called. He gave me the same position which he had refused me, after a personal interview, six months before.

"When I began my work there Dr. French told me that I would have to live off the grounds, as the rooms there were all full. The woman at whose house he found me a place later was not able to supply meals, though she was glad to let me have the room. I spoke to Dr. French about it. He found me a place on the grounds—'But you will have your meals served to you in your office on a tray,' said he, 'it is not convenient for us to have you eat them in the dining room.'

"I stood this for several months. It was most embarrassing for me. While I would be eating, errand boys and others would be passing through continually. The girls would rush in to look at my tray and see what they would be served, a little later, in the dining room. It was very hard to stand, particularly as there were the most pleasant relations between me and all the others who ate in the regular place. One of these young ladies was a member of the 'Girls' Friendly Society' with myself. We met in church; we were equal there. At the hospital we were separated.

"At last I talked it over with my mother and father one week end at home. We consulted my lawyer, Mr. Williams. He advised me to insist upon dining in the regular place. I spoke to Dr. French. 'I have been advised to go into the dining room,'

I told him. 'Is it convenient for me to go now?'

"'It is not convenient,' said he, 'and you have been given very poor advice.' He turned to his desk. He would say no more.

"The next day, at dinner, I walked in. Everybody was very pleasant. Nothing was said. At two o'clock I was called in to Dr. French. He forbade my going in there again. That night several doctors and nurses were gathered in the hall outside the dining room, when it was time for supper. I did not go in; I went without my supper. The next day I ate three meals in the dining room; everybody was pleasant except the head nurse. She left the table. The next day Dr. French gave me my notice. I was to leave in two weeks. The two weeks passed and I left. There was absolutely nothing that I could do about it, because it is one of the rules that during the six months' probation period an employee can be discharged without any reason given. No reason was given in my case.

"This leaves me where I began, out of pocket, out of courage, without, at present, any defense in the law. My case came up last Tuesday. I lost. But we are going to carry it as far as we can. All this turmoil will probably do me no good, but it will make the way easier for other girls of my race. For the way things stand at present, it is useless to have the requirements. Color, the reason nobody will give, the reason nobody is required to give, will always be in the way. Which, in other words, is the State standing back of a class of its citizens and saying: 'No, you cannot enter here. You may study; you may pass the requirements; but that is as far as you may go.'

#### SEGREGATION

THE attempt in St. Louis to establish a colored ghetto has brought a flood of comment within and without the city. The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* says:

"The *Post-Dispatch* has clearly stated its opposition to the proposed segregation ordinance on principle. We hold it to be a violation of American principles. We believe it to be a violation of fundamental rights of American citizenship and of constitutional law.

"In order to enforce the segregation ordi-

nance it will be necessary to deprive a citizen of the right to occupy his own property as a home, or to demonstrate that he and his family are nuisances to be abated or are menaces to the health and morals of their white neighbors.

"The passage of the segregation ordinance would result in the branding of Negro citizens, regardless of character or capacity, as unfit to live near white citizens. It will result in an attempt to herd them in certain blocks where they will be at the mercy of property owners and house agents.

"The treatment of Negro citizens is regression, not progress. It emphasizes and contributes to race prejudice and the racial demarcation of citizens. It makes a mockery of democracy and equality under law."

It continues in a later editorial:

"A minority with right on its side is better than a majority supporting wrong. It will be justified in the long run.

"The forces backing the segregation movement were so powerful that they were able to control newspapers and induce them to abandon their principles. That they should mislead for a time a large number of voters is not a matter of wonderment.

"Of course, the ordinances adopted under the initiative will have to stand the test of the courts. We do not believe they will survive. If they do we do not look for a solution of the problems they were planned to meet. We believe they are mistaken and that they will be recognized as mistakes and set aside in favor of the principles they violate. We hope, however, the experiment of segregation will not lead to serious consequences.

"The racial problems with which they are planned to deal must be solved on a sounder basis of justice and liberty and with a broader spirit of humanity than are embodied in these measures."

The advocates of segregation have been put curiously on the defensive. An officer of the chief association which advocated the measure writes to the public press:

"The writer has been personally appealed to by a number of our Jewish supporters to issue a statement especially assuring the Jewish people of St. Louis that the success of our laws providing separate blocks for colored and white people will not mean the segregation of the Jews. . . .