

The real tragedy of this protest lies in the undoubted fact that neither Mrs. Hopkins nor Mrs. Scott had the slightest idea that they were insulting anybody. It is even doubtful if they knew that Negroes could be insulted.

Imagine such a situation in a civilized land!

#### THE BAPTIST REUNION.

**W**E congratulate the black Baptists of America for their skill and sacrifice in putting an end to that which threatened to be a lamentable division. The white Baptists of the South, too, deserve great credit for their kindly co-operation and advice. The gist of the plan of reunion is, *First*, that the charter of the Morris convention be annulled. *Second*, that the pending law suit against the Boyd Publishing Board be dismissed, but that it be distinctly recognized that the publishing house and all other institutions and boards belong to the National Baptist Convention and are under its control. Arrangements are made for the two conventions to meet next year at the same place, adopt separately the peace treaty and then unite under officers to be appointed by the commission which drafted the agreement outlined above, and which consists of representatives of the two conventions and of the Southern white Baptists.

We venture to suggest that after this happy step it would be a graceful thing for both Doctor Morris and Doctor Boyd to withdraw to a well-deserved rest and leave the after conduct of Baptist affairs to younger and newer men.

#### THE UNIT PLAN.

**C**HERE has been started in Cincinnati a plan of social uplift, known as the "Unit Plan," which deserves the thoughtful attention of colored peo-

ple. Briefly, the idea is to take the small block or street in a city where there is a fairly homogeneous population and try to minister to its needs in every modern scientific way. A social visitor, at first appointed, but eventually chosen by the people, secures the information and consults the social experts. First, efforts are directed to the babies in the block. They receive periodical medical attention, proper food, etc. Prospective mothers are given advice. Births are registered, unemployment recorded and every effort made to obtain careful knowledge and skilled remedy. Multiple visits by outside agencies are cut down to the minimum and the people themselves are encouraged to organize and take charge of their own social welfare and have representation on the general board, which administers the social welfare work of the ward or city.

This social unit plan should be carefully studied by colored people and as quickly as possible be introduced among them. Its well expressed purpose is:

"To hasten the coming of a democracy both genuine and efficient by building up on a basis of geographical units an organization through which the people can get a clear idea of their common needs and can utilize the technical knowledge of skilled groups in formulating and carrying out programs to meet those needs."

#### A PROTEST.

The Editor of *The Outlook*:

**I**HAVE never expected from *The Outlook* any real friendship for the Negro. On the contrary, I have been prepared for what seems to me deliberate misrepresentation of the motives of those who are fighting for the Negro's manhood rights and a nauseous emphasis upon the absolute probity of the "better" South.

I did not, however, think that *The*

*Outlook* would sink to publishing so scurrilous an article as that on the Negro soldier. It is a libel that begins with a lie and is built on the sneer that Negroes are dogs and not men.

I think it is not only outrageous, but shamefully unpatriotic for a great journal like yours to deride and seek to degrade one hundred thousand men who are offering their lives for their country. I hope to God there is nothing lower in your toadying to the South to which you are planning to sink.

W. E. B. DUBOIS.

#### COOPERATION.

To the Editor of *THE CRISIS*:

**I**HEARTILY welcome the discussion in your columns of the principles of cooperation in production and distribution. Much of the injustice which the N. A. A. C. P. is fighting would disappear if the colored people were less economically dependent and through cooperation in industry a long stride in removing this disability might be taken besides training them for united action to improve their condition in other directions. Cannot a leader be found who will do for the Negro farmer what Sir Horace Plunkett has done for the Irish agriculturist, or a group among them arise with faith to attempt what the Rochdale pioneers attempted? I hope the discussion may go further, for I cannot imagine a greater service which the N. A. A. C. P. can render than the promotion of this form of self-help.

A. K. MAYNARD.

#### NOTES.

**T**HE white Methodists have almost agreed to disfranchise their Negro members until they grow to 600,000, when they will automatically become an independent church in everything but name.

President Wilson says that "the old party slogans have lost their significance and will mean nothing to the voter of the future, for the war is certain to change the mind of Europe as well as the mind of America." Let Negroes note this when they read the suffrage plank of the new National Party platform, as drafted by the editor of *THE CRISIS*:

"We demand enforcement of the laws which give the right to vote to American citizens of Negro descent, and in order that they and others may cast an intelligent ballot we ask for national aid to common school education, to be distributed among the several states in accordance with their illiteracy."

Negro Health Week and the Child Saving Movement bring to us the need of careful, persistent effort to stamp out disease. It is unfortunate that many calamity howlers follow the example of Dr. Shirley Wyne of the New York Department of Health and seek to prove, in the face of all reliable statistics, that the Negro is "deteriorating." This is flatly false. He is rapidly improving in health, but his efforts must be redoubled before he reaches the full modern standard. Eat strengthening food, sleep with the windows open, and get out of the alleys and swamps—that is the program.

The concrete proposal of Dr. James H. Dillard for national aid to Negro education is the one piece of constructive statesmanship for the uplift of the Negro which has come out of the South for fifty years. It would be a shame for Congress not to follow the advice of superintendents in the National Education Association and either adopt this proposal or the one by the Child Labor Association.