

NEGRO WOMEN WILL FIGHT WITH MOTHERHOOD, SAYS PALESTINE WELLS

Destiny of Race Depends Most of Prolific Mother- hood and Perfection of Race

BY PALESTINE WELLS

In her recently published volume of poems, "Bronze," Georgia Douglass Johnson states that "Prejudice against Negroes, the barrier of the color line make the modern Negro mother hesitate to bring children into the world." While I would not for a minute underestimate the effect that prejudice has on the modern Negro mother, I do not believe that it tends to reduce motherhood, but on the contrary it should increase the determination of the Negro mother to give to the race the men and women to carry on the struggle. Despite the prejudice and injustice there is no mistaking the fact that we are making progress. There is certainly no reason why Negro motherhood should bring about the extinguishing of the race as Mrs. Johnson's suggestion would do.

The law of racial progress has always been that where two racial groups fight for existence side by side, the one big factor is motherhood. The final destiny of all races depend on the relation between the birth and death rate. As long as a group of people is increasing numerically it is progressing. This is the never failing measure of racial efficiency.

To say that there is even a thought on the part of the great body of Negro mothers to give up the struggle is an injustice to the wonderful fighting spirit that she not only maintains but transmits to her offspring.

They say that the lion became an ordinary cat when it ceased to have to fight the powerful animals of the jungle. The eagle and the domestic hen branch from the same family tree, but the eagle is strong and has great power of vision because its existence depends upon its struggle to live on the high mountain peaks.

The Negro woman is developing the greatest human female type in the world today because of the strength she must develop to meet the obstacles that confront her. She will not give up the struggle.

Certainly the thought of what the Negro child must face is a hostile civilization should give us concern, but that concern should stim-

must give to the race the men and women to fight its battles. We must not cringe. For some day with the other colored races throughout the world the American Negro's day of fate will strike. When that day comes we must have the men and spirit to demand our place in the sun.