



The Lady Speaks Her Mind

"YOUR DAUGHTER butters her bread with her thumb, and I won't have it."

This was the snapper for a father who was annoyed because his daughter's table manners had been corrected. It came from Dr. Lucinda de Leftwich Templin, noted educator who has been principal of the Radford School for Girls at El Paso, Texas, for 38 years. It is typical of the plain speaking she does on all aspects of education. Some other examples:

"If I had it to do over again, I'd first start a school for parents."

"Individual integrity is more important than making superior grades."

"I am bitterly opposed to federal aid to education, to educational control passing to the government."

DR. TEMPLIN, a Missouri product, this month was inducted into the 1965 Hall of Honor of the El Paso County Historical Society. Last fall she was honored at a testimonial dinner given by alumnae, faculty, students and their families.

A strong Missouri flavor has gone into making the Radford School one of the finest fully accredited schools for girls in the Southwest. Dr. Templin is a native of Nevada, Mo. The late Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Radford, the school's benefactors, were from Webster Groves. Before going to El Paso, Dr. Templin had served as dean of Lindenwood College from 1916 to 1924.

At the University, Dr. Templin received A.B. and B.S. degrees in 1914, an A.M. in 1916, and the Ph.D. in 1926. She did graduate work at Harvard and Columbia universities, and was a research scholar in 1924-25.

The school, founded in 1910, was originally the El Paso School for Girls. When Dr. Templin took over as principal in 1927, she inherited a staff of 17 teachers and a mortgage of \$45,000. It was through her efforts that her friends, Mr. and Mrs.

Radford, took over the indebted school in the midst of the depression, paid off the mortgage and provided an endowment fund that assured the institution's stability. In 1931 the name of the school was changed to honor the Radfords. Since then it has grown into a nationally known preparatory school.

DURING DR. TEMPLIN'S administration, the 22-acre campus has had more than a million dollars in physical improvements. Today the school is debt-free, has a faculty of 28 members, and a limited enrollment of 250 students representing six foreign countries and fifteen states. The school offers a broad curriculum and grades 1-12. Dr. Templin has always operated the school on a cash basis and expects to continue to do so. She considers it important that her students be taught how to keep a check book and balance a bank account. She believes that laxity in dress and cleanliness leads to laxity in many other ways, and that colleges should enforce their rules on proper dress. Dr. Templin has strong views on education, and in the past she has traveled about the country letting her stand be known. Some years ago Time magazine devoted two columns to one of her talks at a Rotary meeting in St. Louis. At that time she said too many parents "pass the buck. Fathers alibi too much . . . take the path of least resistance, are too indulgent . . . lack integrity, brag at home about business deals, even though those deals have a tint of shadiness to them. . . . It shows up in the children, who view ethical wrong as getting caught, ethical goodness as getting by."

IN A RECENT article in the El Paso Times, Marjorie Graham (B.J. '55), an alumna of Radford, said education at the school includes much that is not in the curriculum. "Her philosophy is based on the belief that there is no easy road to education and that there is no substitute for character."

Dr. Templin stressed this in talking to the graduating class of a year ago:

"There is no short-cut to education. You have to earn what you get. Education is training in 'how to think, to work, to study.' Education can never be made a pleasant diversion. It is hard work. Education is supposed to stretch the mind—not cushion it."

On another occasion she said: "We prepare girls well for college, but our emphasis also is upon education of the heart and development of character. Too few realize that character is built, day by day, in our choice between right and wrong. We forget that what we say or do may be important to our future welfare and happiness.

"We want our students to know that life never was and never will be safe. It is an adventure—not

a safe retreat. We want our graduates to have the moral courage to take a stand for the right—even though it means standing alone."

MEMBER OF THE nation's leading educational organizations and honorary societies, Dr. Templin is named consistently to "Who's Who in America." At the outset of World War II she began a museum which today is highly valued for its educational and historical interest.

"Familiarity with this museum, which is a reflection of our past social and cultural history, is part of the educational experience at Radford which is not in the curriculum," she said. "Since the war, there has been much criticism of the educational curriculum, but too little consideration of what is not found in the curriculum."

In this connection, she recalled an experience when she was a graduate student at Harvard.

"I was browsing in the library and picked up a small book entitled 'Not in the Curriculum.' The introduction was by Henry Van Dyke. It was dedicated to Woodrow Wilson, president of Princeton University, in appreciation of the many things not in the curriculum but learned from him.

"This book was written by two young men who had learned that 'the finest of the arts is the art of living and the highest of sciences is the science of conduct.' They also realized that even one man, by persistent striving, can change the whole tone of a class or a college, that their school or college is just what they and their fellows make it."

In her writings, her talks, and in interviews, Dr. Templin touches upon her educational philosophy. At another point in her 1964 commencement address, she stated:

"STRONG CHARACTERS are built through discipline. Youth should be taught the discipline of good manners, proper dress, punctuality, as well as intellectual discipline. Parents who insist that their children must be happy all the time are preventing the development of character. Rousseau said that it is wrong to believe that all learning must be pleasant. Learning should be discipline, and no discipline is invariably pleasant."

At the testimonial dinner for Dr. Templin, one of the speakers quoted one of her own statements that sums up some of her beliefs:

"The great need today is for men and women of ability, of integrity and ideals. This imposes a direct obligation on our schools and colleges. We cannot calmly wait for our world to become a better one; we must make it so. Education is more than book learning. It should not only prepare the student for college, but should also provide a broad viewpoint and prepare youth for living."