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EDUCATIONAL

WHAT SCHOOL SHALL BE CHOSEN FOR THE BOY OR THE GIRL?

THIS special section of The Sunday Star, devoted as it is to education and educational institutions, is intended to serve a two-fold purpose—to increase the attendance at the institutions of learning whose advertisements are displayed herein and to assist those readers of The Star who contemplate giving their children the advantages of a preparatory, collegiate or university education in making a proper selection.

It is certainly not sufficient, as is quite apparent even to one who has given the subject but indifferent attention, merely to reach a decision that a son or a daughter shall be sent to some private school, somewhere, be it in the District of Columbia or in one of the states. The subject is one that should be, and, doubtless usually is, considered with the greatest care. Shall the institution to be selected be secular or non-secular? Shall it be technical or academic? Shall it be one at which physical development is considered of the greatest importance, where it is the idea to make the growth of the body keep pace with the development of the mind, or one where athletic sports, both indoors and out, are optional or considered merely an incident of the school life?

Schools in Washington Have Many Advantages.

It is these questions which are of moment to parents and which this special section is intended to answer, in a certain measure at least. Any one of the institutions described will be glad to send on application catalogue and literature which will enable the parents of embryo students to get a more comprehensive and clearer idea of the institution than is possible in the limited space of this section. Often, too, correspondence is necessary, or, perhaps, a visit, before a decision is reached as to the wisdom of an intended selection. All these things may grow logically from a careful perusal by those interested of the pages of this section.

It has become almost axiomatic that any institution of learning in the National Capital or surrounding territory has more advantages and is more desirable than an institution of the same grade in any one of the states. The reasons for this are quite apparent and have been reiterated to such an extent that their review in detail is hardly necessary. But the fact, being admitted, has more complete demonstration with each succeeding year by the increased attendance at the institutions in and around the District of Columbia of students from all over the United States. It is quite reasonable, therefore, to suggest the unreasonableness of parents who, living in Washington, turn with automatic thoughtlessness to colleges and universities in the states when the time to send their children "away to school" comes around.

Liberal Education in Mere Living in National Capital.

There is a liberal education in living in the National Capital, outside of the exceptional facilities of the schools and colleges, both public and private, which it houses. Indeed, Washington, in the very nature of things, is becoming more and more the very home of American education. Official home of the chief executive of this great nation and of the government departments by which the routine of government is administered, with Congress in session here during the greater part of the scholastic term, with the Congressional Library, magnificently housed, containing the learning of all ages, Washington offers advantages in every line which are surpassed by no city in the world. The public schools here rank with the best; the private academies and colleges are the equal of any; the great universities outnumber those of any city on the continent and take rank with the most superior, wherever they may be.

There is every possible facility here for intellectual development, from the very rudiments to the most superlative form of the modern higher education. Washington's educational institutions embrace the needs of humanity. Men and women, boys and girls, of all races and all creeds, all find here the requirements that go

to make them leaders in the competition of life. Each succeeding year finds Washington, as an educational center, farther advanced. No one can estimate what the future has in store along this line, although it would seem as if the intellectual forces of the nation were bent upon making this, the capital, the modern Athens of the world. Certainly no city of the world is more worthy of the honor.

Specialization Is the Rule in All Lines of Endeavor.

This is the day of specialization in all lines of human endeavor. The tendency is growing stronger and stronger with each generation, indeed with each passing year. It is a remarkable man nowadays, who, even granting that he has remarkable ambitions and unconquerable will, can attain his full measure of success when hampered by a lack of the advantages of complete general or specialized education. The great accomplishments of men of recent years have been those of men of education—and education has become the indispensable prerequisite to lift man to his proper level, be that level commercial, industrial, economic or social.

There is no question but that the importance of private schools has grown wonderfully of late years, and the extent to which this holds true so far as the National Capital is concerned may be determined, in a practical way, by reference to the advertisements in the leading newspapers and magazines. There are, statistics show, comparatively few private schools in the middle west and the west, and in consequence parents in those sections send their children to the east to complete their education. Washington, it may be said with assurance, gets proportionately a large share of these students. Considered from a commercial standpoint alone, the private schools of the National Capital are well worth encouraging, for it is a fact that these students from other points leave behind them each year more than a million dollars. Many of them, charmed with the city, return here to live and not a few of them make investments of their capital here.

Atmosphere of the District in Harmony With Culture.

It has often been said that the very atmosphere of the National Capital is in harmony with knowledge and culture. The federal government employs a great force of intelligent and capable men in all kinds of scientific work and equips their laboratories with every device essential to the most thorough and effective prosecution of their important labors. Connected with the Interior Department are experts who are conversant with the most recent inventions, who have studied geology in all its forms and to whom the complex problems of irrigation and forestry are matters of daily study. In the Smithsonian Institution are scientists of profound knowledge, whose entire lives are devoted to penetrating the mysteries of nature, while astronomers at the Naval Observatory reveal the secrets of the stars. And in Washington this knowledge is not kept for the use of the few, but is circulated for the benefit of the many. Every one of the departments pursuing investigations on hundreds of subjects issues bulletins containing the latest discoveries in the various branches. Then the State Department, with its valuable archives must not be forgotten, nor the National Museum, the Smithsonian Institution and the Congressional and Public libraries and the Capitol itself, which are all, in the best and highest sense, valuable educational adjuncts.

All in all, it may truthfully be said that the National Capital, with its beauties of art and nature, its healthful climate, its inspiring monuments and institutions, its schools, academies, colleges and universities, offering every possible advantage in the field of education; its moral tone; its freedom from idle revelry and distraction and its possibilities as a home for those of moderate means, as well as of those whose worldly possessions admit of the widest latitude, has really no competition, and is in a class by itself in offering facilities for the education of both sexes and all ages.