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ARE THE OLD FAMILIES PERISHING?

E. G. CONKLIN, of Princeton, has recently addressed the American Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, which assembled in Philadelphia.

Prof. Conklin took occasion to remark that the old Pilgrim and Quaker stocks are disappearing, and attributed the reason to sheer willfulness.

His view is not shared by Mrs. John Blair, treasurer of the Equal Franchise Society, of New York. Mrs. Blair, commenting on Prof. Conklin's statements said, "I do not think race suicide is so general among the old families as we are told. The population is so great all over the country that old families merely seem fewer by comparison."

Which of these views is correct? Prof. Conklin's view is entitled to great weight, because of the authority he gives to it, and because there is a common belief, prevalent in many old families, and generally, that the old Quaker and Pilgrim stocks have not perpetuated themselves.

Mrs. Blair's view is weak in that it is not the usual view, and because it is unsupported by evidence. She speaks, apparently, by woman's intuition.

As nothing is entirely beyond conjecture, "not even the color of Cleopatra's eyes, or Marc Anthony's hair," and as the day of Pilgrims and Quakers is not very remote, it ought to be possible to arrive at a conclusion based on proof.

Is the common view that the old stocks do not perpetuate themselves, based upon proof, or is it a conclusion hastily drawn from limited facts?

What evidence may be sought, to warrant a national verdict? Certain strong proof that the old stock is perpetuated might be deduced from the general laws governing the birth rate. There is no room here for such proof, and it will be overlooked.

Another method would consist in taking typical Pilgrim and Quaker names, for the purpose of ascertaining, by a scrutiny of directories and telephone books, the number of persons of those names living in the United States. Pointed evidence might result. But the method could not be conclusive.

There is a method, however, which ought to amount to direct proof, for one view or the other.

Many old American families, in fact most of them, have preserved the family pedigree, and, in many instances, these pedigrees have been consolidated into a book.

Any such book would of course show the number of descendants of a given progenitor, in the male line, to the date of the publication, less omissions. Several such family genealogies may be found in the Bridgeport Library.

There, for instance, is the history of the Burr family, in two branches, the descendants of Jehu Burr, who died in Fairfield, in 1870, and the descendants of Benjamin Burr, who settled in Hartford in 1639.

At the beginning of 1900 the line of Henry Burr was continued to the eleventh generation lineally.

The descendants of Jehu Burr so recorded were 1,375, 770 of whom were born after 1875. One of these descendants was Aaron Burr.

The line of Benjamin Burr numbered 2,107 of whom 1,267 were born after 1865.

There is a strong presumption that the line of Jehu and the line of Benjamin are several hundred times more numerous today, without taking into account the collateral descent, than they were in the late sixteenth century.

This example is typical. It is offered, however, merely as a suggestion of the method perhaps most suitable for the attainment of proof.

Partial evidence seems to show that the old families have been as prolific during two centuries of life in America, as the average of mankind.

SHEVLIN'S VICTORY

THE YALE victory, drawn from the bosom of a season of defeats, was not a product of the team, which was so much raw material, with little natural talent, and that undeveloped. The defeat of Princeton was a product of Tom Shevlin's mind, of his bulldog courage, of his knowledge of the game and of his remarkable ability to put his own spirit into the breasts of others.

Yale had no tricks, but it had one master kicker. The genius of Shevlin caused the game to revolve about Guernsey, a man with a master toe, and the result was a surprise for the world of sport, which would have bet its last nickel upon the defeat of Yale.

But chiefly Yale was enabled to win because Shevlin, within two weeks, taught the Yale team the fundamentals of football, to follow the ball, to tackle with fierceness, to get down the field like a young whirlwind.

Football is a product of the inventive power of generations of players. No team can learn the game all alone. Every victorious team must have for a team somebody who holds the knowledge of yesterday's game, and who has the power to impart that knowledge to others.

This knowledge of yesterday, whether about football, or about any other worldly activity, is known as "the efficiency of civilization." It is a great platform, built in antiquity, and raised inch by inch until it stands high and solid. The Yale victory was the gift of bygone players, through Shevlin, to the young men who played on the team.

THE WAR IN SERBIA

ACCEPTING the news from Berlin at its face value, the Serbian army, with 90,000 of its soldiers prisoners, and five-sevenths of its guns captured, is substantially destroyed as a military power.

The scattered remnants of its forces may be made a part of the armies of the Allies, just as the remnant of the Belgian army has been, and may continue to fight for fatherland.

Serbia need take no humiliation from her defeat. She has fought a fight at which the ages will marvel.

Some people seem to think that a company of rural militia and a few old cannon used in the Civil war would be sufficient as a defence against a modern army.

It seems to be difficult for the farmers to fit up their cow barns with new sanitary equipment, as it is taking all their money this year to build garages.

Hauptmann, 53 Today, Has Three Sons In German Army

Gerhart Hauptmann, who is considered by many authorities to be the foremost figure in twentieth century German literature, has three sons who are fighting in the German army, and two of them, Lieutenants Eckart and Klaus Hauptmann, have been recipients of the iron cross for valiant service in a volunteer and is serving in the ranks Hauptmann has been one of the staunchest of the literary defenders of Germany, and has signally maintained that the Kaiser is the defender of civilization against barbarism. He has declared that German culture is superior to that of any other country, and that the extension of war as a means for the extension of Teutonic "kultur." In one of his books, published several years before the outbreak of the conflict, he heralded the necessity and the virtues of war, prophetically asserting that it would "come from God," and that such a period of trial and carnage alone could save the European world.

Hauptmann's father was a Silesian peasant, and the future bard spent his early years in poverty. As a student at the University of Bonn, he was remarkable—some biographers have said that he was stupid. It was not until he was past his majority, and after the death of his father, that the wings of the poet began to unfold. His first poetical work, "Promethiden," written at the age of twenty-three, was filled with the same subjective mysticism. His years, Tolstol, the Russian, and Zola, the Frenchman, were his favorites among the authors, and it was Zola who inspired his first play, a realistic drama which was successfully produced in Berlin in 1889. Later works, especially "The Sunken Bell," confirmed and established the promise of his earlier efforts. Hauptmann on the fiftieth anniversary of his birth, Hauptmann was given the Nobel prize for literature. Hauptmann is a rugged, earnest, and dignified man, with a clean-shaven, mobile face and partially bald. Until the war Hauptmann was very fond of Italy and Italian, and spent much of his time in that country. His principal home, however, is in a Silesian village, not far from the farm-house where he was born.

Allies Celebrate Fete Day in Honor of King Albert

This is the fete day of King Albert of Belgium, and it is likely that the great outpouring of sympathy with that monarch and his subjects which characterized the fifteenth of November last year will be repeated today. There will be special services to commemorate the day in Paris, London and Rome, and the black, yellow and red colors of Belgium will be much in evidence in all these cities. The fete day has been one of the most popular and generally observed of Belgian festivals since he acceded to the throne, and the Belgian people in France and England by holding it will be the objects of special attention today.

Last year the fete was observed in Paris by the people of that city with faith. The Catholics attended the services in the Belgian church and Notre Dame cathedral, while thousands of non-Catholics went to the Church of St. Elysee and saluted a bust of the Belgian ruler. Thousands of touching tributes were sent to King Albert by post and telegraph. A special feast was prepared for the Belgian refugees quartered at the Cirque de Paris, where the exiles gathered to celebrate the fete day of their exiled king. In London there were religious services in Westminster Cathedral, attended by the three children of the Belgian royal family. The Catholics of Rome will join in the observance today, and King Albert will be acclaimed by thousands in the Eternal City.

GRAND DUCHESS OLGA

The Grand Duchess Olga, the eldest of the four daughters of Emperor Nicholas of Russia, will celebrate her twentieth birthday today. Ever since the war began the Grand Duchess and her mother have been among the most devoted of nurses, and they have labored assiduously among the sick and wounded soldiers in the great military hospitals in Petrograd. While engaged in these ministrations the Grand Duchess wears the regulation garb of an army nurse, and it is said that she has carefully concealed her identity as far as possible. Neither the Czarina nor her daughter have evaded the more difficult and distasteful tasks connected with the care of the wounded men, but have insisted upon assuming their share of the burdens. Duchess Tatiana, the second daughter of the Czar, who is now 18, has also taken part in the work of mercy, but the two younger girls of the Russian imperial family have had to confine their ministrations to occasional visits to the hospitals. The Grand Duchess Olga was born Nov. 15, 1895. The stork would bring a son and heir, but Emperor Nicholas expressed himself as glad that his first born was a girl. "Had it been a boy," he was quoted as saying, "he would have belonged to the people; being a girl, she belongs to us." The Czar was not quite so philosophical when Duchess Tatiana was born, and by the time two more little maidens had been added to the imperial family he was visibly discouraged. It was not until 1904 that a son was born to the royal couple, and, if there is any truth in the many sensational rumors which have come out of Russia in the last few years, it is unlikely that Alexis will ever occupy the imperial throne.

MATCHES

The first friction matches were the invention of M. Desorme, a Frenchman, and next year will mark the centenary of the introduction of the phosphorus-tipped sticks. They were little used outside of France until 1827, when John Walker, an English druggist, manufactured the first really practical friction matches, which were known as "Congreves." Within a few years their use spread over Europe and America, supplanting the flint and steel with their box and sulphur-tipped splints of wood, called splunks, which were the common means of obtaining fire until Walker's invention was popularized. The next great advance in matches was made in 1845, when Prof. von Schrotter of Vienna discovered red or amorphous phosphorus, which greatly reduced the terrible jaw disease called "phosphy jaw" which prevailed among workers in matches at that time. Safety matches were invented by Lundstrum, a Swedish scientist, in 1855. The next great step in the perfection of match-making was made by two Frenchmen, Henri Sevens and Emile D. Cahen, who secured an American patent for "an improvement in match compositions" 17 years ago today, Nov. 15, 1893. By this new process the dangers of necrosis of the teeth and jawbone among toilers in match factories was ended, and this process is now in general use in all match factories.

EXECUTIONS OF WOMEN

The widespread indignation aroused by the execution of Edith Cavell affords proof—strange as such an assertion may seem—that the world is growing better. It was not so very long ago that such an act would have been accepted as a matter of course, for in the "good old days" the fair sex enjoyed no immunity from the execution of the extreme punishment for crime. Of the many executions of women which took place in old England that of Mrs. Anne Turner was one of the most remarkable. It was just three centuries ago today, on Nov. 15, 1615, that the famous beauty died the penalty of her crime of participation in the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, who was poisoned in the Tower through her agency.

Mrs. Turner was the companion of the fascinating Countess of Essex, the daughter of the Earl of Suffolk. The Countess had been married when only thirteen to the Earl of Essex, but she had little love for her husband, but betwined her affections upon Viscount Rochester, a young Scottish adventurer who had won a favor of the king. Mrs. Turner aided the Countess in her amour with Rochester. The latter owed his rise in life largely to the friendship and advice of Rochester. His illicit love affair was likely to ruin Rochester, Sir Thomas urged him to give up the woman, and passed some severe reflections upon her character. The Countess determined to revenge herself, and she and her lover induced King James to throw Sir Thomas into the Tower. He was poisoned soon afterward, and Rochester that same day became the Countess's lover. She had married her husband and married her lover, and she was charged with the crime. Mrs. Turner and several others were accused of being accomplices. While the Viscount and his wife escaped with some years of imprisonment, Mrs. Turner was hanged. She had been a leader in the fashionable world, and by order of the judge she was decked in all her finery before being led to the scaffold.

POSTMASTER GREENE IMPROVES MAIL SERVICE

Additional postal service in the business districts and for local factories has been instituted here under the direction of Postmaster Charles F. Greene. Two deliveries, morning and afternoon, will begin today.

While heretofore the additional volume of mail delivery has been carried by intermediate carriers with long and tedious routes the new system of four deliveries a day is expected to lighten the postoffice burden as well as facilitate deliveries in the business districts and factories in both east and west ends. As mapped out by Superintendent of Mails Fred J. Breckbill and Foremen of Carriers Edward Fagan, each business house and factory will have one letter carrier serving it four times daily. Twelve carriers will be utilized in the district bounded by the Pequonnock river and Park avenue, between George and Gilbert streets on Mill street. One special factory route is planned for the West End and in East Bridgeport there will be three routes.

Beginning today there will also be an innovation in the collection of mail by wagon, continuing as late as 10 o'clock at night, thus greatly extending the hours of collection in outlying districts.

NEARLY 400 PERSONS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT GET JOBS IN OCTOBER

The Connecticut Free Employment Bureau in Bridgeport, reports a greater number of persons given employment here in October than before. Out of 577 applications for work it was possible to place 369. There were 427 applications filed by employers who desired labor. The reports from other state cities show the applications during the month were:

At Hartford 845; New Haven 433; Bridgeport 577; Waterbury 317, and Norwich 181. Situations obtained were: At Hartford 550; New Haven 172, and Norwich 130. Applications for help were: At Hartford 724; New Haven 365; Bridgeport 427; Waterbury 233; Norwich 144.

RAIL WELL ATTENDED. A benefit ball, attended by many prominent persons throughout the state was held in the Casino last night by the Ladies' Mochizka Talmud Torah society.

THE COURTLAND SCHOOL. MISS MARY WEBER, Principal Twenty-fifth year begins Thursday, Sept. 30. Booklets at the stationery shops. Office hours: 10 a. m. to 12 m. Mondays and Saturdays, excepted. Others hours by appointment. L 24 12

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WOMAN CHARGED WITH MURDER IN PORTSMOUTH COURT

Alleged to Have Given Husband Poison Because of Jealousy.

Portsmouth, N. H., Nov. 15.—The first trial of a woman for murder in Rockingham county in many years was set for today when Mrs. Mary A. Burns, of Nottingham, was called upon to face the charge of having killed her husband. Burns died at his home on December 12, 1914. The medical referee pronounced death due to poisoning and at first the authorities held to the theory that he had committed suicide. After an investigation Mrs. Burns was arrested.

At her preliminary hearing, evidence was introduced to the effect that she had purchased some poison in Manchester three days before her husband's death. After her indictment last April she was taken to the state hospital for the insane for observation. Upon the report of the superintendent that she was sane she was brought back to the county jail in August. Jealousy is advanced by the authorities as the motive for the alleged crime.

CHIPPENDALE MADE JUNIOR LIUTENANT OF NAVAL MILITIA

Alfred C. Chippendale, connected with the engineering department of the Crane Co., living at 872 Park avenue, and popular member of the Third division naval militia, stationed at Bridgeport, has been elevated in rank from ensign to junior grade lieutenant. Following the announcement of the competitive examinations showing that he had passed he has received the congratulations of his many friends in this city. Others also passed are: Edward C. Johnson and Edward L. Best of New Haven, for paymaster and lieutenant, respectively; Arthur C. Hoyt of Norwalk, for lieutenant; Harry Stacey of Benton, for lieutenant, junior grade; Donald B. Wells of Hartford, first lieutenant in medical corps; Captain Robert F. Gadd, assistant inspector of small arms practice at Hartford, and Russell Y. Moore, first lieutenant in Co. N, First infantry.

LUXURY BRINGS DECAY SAYS JUDSON MKIM

That luxury and ease bring decay, was the theme of a lecture last night given by Judson J. McKim, general secretary of the New Haven Y. M. C. A., at the People's Presbyterian church. People today, he said, were better housed, better clothed and better fed than in any previous age. Christianity today, he said, must learn how wealth and luxury may be Christianized and idealized. A large audience heard him.

BURNES TO SPEAK BEFORE MEN'S CLUB

Charles D. Burnes, secretary of state, will be the principal speaker at the monthly dinner of the Men's club of the People's Presbyterian church tomorrow evening. Senator Charles W. Evans of Milford and City Clerk J. Alexander Robinson will attend. Secretary Burnes will speak on the "State Department." The club will serve a hot roast beef dinner and a most cordial invitation is extended to members of the club and their friends.

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Practical styles for every day shopping, black seal morocco, saffian, and fancy leathers, in all shapes for handy use.

Prices moderate. Automobile Pillows covered in brown, gray and black suede, lined with flowered silk made with a convenient pocket. These are quite new. From \$2.00 to \$5.00

Brown Leather Work Boxes lined in tan and containing all the necessary sewing articles. \$5.00

Straw Work Baskets lined with pale yellow and containing different colored silks, needles, scissors, thimble and crochet silks. \$10.00

Cane Basket lined in pink, \$5.00

Portfolios and Writing Cases, \$1.00 to \$12.00

Handkerchief Cases from 50c to \$5.00

Ladies' Traveling Cases of black grain seal leather with toilet articles of white ivory with a black band. \$10.00

Men's Traveling Cases, white ivory with black trimmings. \$15.00

Traveling Slippers in leather cases. \$1.00

Sweaters and Scarves

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Angora Sets for children. Knitted Worsted Sweaters.

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