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AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

A Negro woman led a small boy up to the front door of the Y. M. C. A. building at 1834 Paseo a few weeks ago and literally pushed him inside. "Maybe these folks can do something with you," she said severely to the small boy, who was looking stubborn and keeping still. "If they can't I'm through with you."

She left a little money for the small boy's uplift and departed, voluble with doubts. The young Negro men at the Y. M. C. A. are a hopeful crowd. He was a sturdy small boy and he would look you squarely in the eye, and abundant energy is a good fault, even though it does take Satanic outlets at times. If there were just some way of getting him.

And presently it developed that the small boy was extremely fond of swimming. A grin of pure rapture over- spread his countenance when he saw the big pool of clear green water in the basement—and thereafter the small boy's interest was assured. He is boasting a Bible class now and swimming in races with fellows twice his size, and following the big straight military Hardy, "gym" instructor, who used to play on a real college football team with surprising precision.

He raps out his orders in good style, this man Hardy, and he's training them not to shuffle their feet, and to hold up their heads and their shoulders, and yet he has time to give a pat on the back to the fat boy who has such a hard time getting over the "horse" and who reduces the entire room, including the "ragging" piano player, to gleeful laughter.

It is very new, this Negro Y. M. C. A.—it's only been open two months—and comparatively few people know about it. Also, there is a good deal of fantastic misinformation current on Vine street. A lodging house keeper will tell you that the rooms are kennels and the beds bunks hollowed out of the wall. As a matter of fact, the rooms, with their oak furniture, electric lights, steam heat and clean beds, and a big window in each room, are hard to beat anywhere in town. They rent for \$1.50 to \$2.50 a week, and there is no accommodation for Negroes in town to compare with them. It is interesting, too, to see the pride the men take in keeping the rooms clean.—Kansas City Star.

The growing literacy of the Negroes is an occasion for general approval. In every city and state the percentage of illiteracy among Negroes is lower in younger generations than in the older. In Georgia, for example, among Negroes from ten to fourteen years old the percentage of those who can't write was 22.1. Among those between twenty-five and thirty-four years the percentage of illiteracy was 32.7. Among those from fifty-five to sixty-four years and over the percentage was 70.2. The Negro is taking advantage of the educational opportunities at hand.

In Boston the number of Negro children who go to school is in a greater proportion than the number of native white children in ten other census cities. But even so, less than half of the Negro children from six to twenty years old are attending school, taking the country as a whole. These bare figures, however, recount a record of progress made possible only by tremendous efforts. Within sixty years of freedom the Negro has achievements to his credit of which any race might be proud.

That education is the solution of the Negro problem in the United States is the practical and proved theory being advanced today by the enlightened men and women both of the white and colored races. When one considers that it was only a little more than half a century ago that the Negro was freed from bondage in this country, the advancement made by these people in almost every walk and profession of life is almost remarkable.

Earning a living through civil service furnishes interesting proof of the Negro's faithfulness and ability. When the Negro was first admitted to civil service examination it was pointed out by Negrophobists that with the merit system the Negro would be eliminated from civil service, but just the reverse has happened.

It has been found that wireless telegraph waves are propagated along the surface of the earth with a velocity slightly inferior to that of light.

More than 24,000,000,000 tons of coal remain to be taken from the fields in Wales, according to geologists.

A Sheffield firm has received from Holland a contract for the manufacture of 60,000 army pocket knives, to be made to the pattern of those hitherto imported from Germany.

The Jiriksha is the man-propelled vehicle of the far East. It is being superseded by a vehicle known as the cycloricksha.

Salubite, a new explosive, is 50 times more powerful than dynamite, and is much safer, for it will explode only by means of the percussion cap.

In the American Magazine appears an account of Mrs. Dismukes, Negro laundress in Fisk university at Nashville, Tenn., who, out of her small means has given \$1,000 toward a music building for Fisk university. Forty-nine other thousands are necessary if the building is to be realized, but Mrs. Dismukes has infinite faith that they will be forthcoming. Following is an extract from the account of what this woman has done. The article was written by the late Dr. George A. Gates, the late president of Fisk university.

"Her story is almost too sacred to put into print. She felt and feels that all of life that is worth while she owes to Fisk university and what it has revealed to her of the spirit of high-minded and generous men and women. She has felt that all she could do was too little in return for what she has received. So this hard-working, faithful and efficient Negro woman has kept her home, her husband maintaining it with a man's self-respect. She meantime has done her full work and borne her full responsibility in her place in the institution. For the last four years she has turned back her monthly salary check into the institution, until just now she has completed her long cherished plan to give \$1,000 as the beginning of a fund for a music building on our campus.

"On the day that the last \$25 was turned into the school treasury, completing the thousand, Mrs. Dismukes declared she wouldn't exchange places with anyone, that she was the happiest woman in the world.

"The music building has not yet materialized, but her faith is undaunted, and she frequently remarks to some teacher in the music department: 'Of course that music building is coming! I know it. I feel it. Why, it's bound to come! But I wish it might while I'm alive to see it.'"

While Negroes increased numerically in the United States between 1900 and 1910 to the extent of 11.2 per cent, they did not keep pace with the whites. That was due to immigration. On this account there has been a continuous decrease in the proportion of Negroes to the rest of the inhabitants. In 1790 Negroes made up nearly one-fifth of the population; in 1910 they composed slightly over one-tenth.

Further, the number of mulattoes appears to have increased continuously during the last forty years. Of the 9,827,762 Negroes in the country at the time of the last counting, more than one-fifth were of mixed white and Negro blood. That indicates how prevalent is the process of miscegenation, a process through which in the course of a thousand years or so the Negro will have lost his color, according to at least one anthropologist of great reputation.

In 1900 20 per cent of Negro homes were owned. In 1910 the percentage had grown to 22.4. In Virginia 41.3 per cent of all Negro homes were owned, an extremely high figure.

Virginia, however, had fewer Negroes in 1910 than it had a decade previous. From Virginia 206,764 Negroes migrated to other states during the ten-year period. Though popular opinion in the South holds that Negroes "go North" when they move, Arkansas, a southern state, showed the greatest gain from this migration.

One of the evils of war is the lowering of the national physique. In the generation after the Franco-German war there was an appreciable decrease in the stature of Frenchmen through the large number of young men of good physique who were killed.

Grape seeds, for which hitherto no use has been known, have been found to contain oil which is especially valuable in the manufacture of soap, and a South American refinery is making preparations to produce it on a large scale.

At Japanese auctions each bidder writes his name and bid on a slip of paper, which he puts in a box provided for the purpose. When the bidding is over the box is opened and the goods declared the property of the highest bidder.

In these days of political germination, some fellows forget their friends and let their enemies forget them.

Even when thawed and cooked frozen beets have been found to contain a poison deadly to live stock.

The mountains of Puerto Rico are so magnetic that they attract surveyors' plumb line. It has been found that some old surveyors are incorrect by half a mile or more.

"He is the sort of fellow," said Eph Wiley, recently, in speaking of his son-in-law, "who builds a theater in a small town."

Marriage is the ceremony which binds a woman to work for her board and clothes for the remainder of her natural life.

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