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## SIZING UP THE NEW EDUCATION.



THE phrase of the new educational movement which took deep hold on the method of elementary instruction a few years ago was to acquaint the children with things. It was contented and believed by many people, educators as well as others not directly engaged in teaching, that the eyes of the children were all the time so intently fixed on their books, and that their minds were so thoroughly preoccupied with what they read in books, newspapers and magazines, that nothing else was learned during the entire schooling process. As a consequence arising from this widespread belief, it was decided that the minds of the children must be directed to all sorts of things—such as animals, birds, fish, plants, forces of nature, human nature, soils, agriculture, winds, atmospheric phenomena of all kinds, the various industries and occupations in which men of mature years engage; in short, that they must use their eyes, ears, noses, hands and feet to get acquainted in an understanding way with their total surroundings and to do a great deal of thinking on the entire dragnet of stuff thus collected. With this broad view of nature, which involved a turning away from real book study, and fitting from one thing to another butterfly-like, it is not a matter of great surprise that there is in many cities general dissatisfaction with the results thus obtained, and a strong belief that the children should at least be taught the essential branches of a common school education. From New York, Chicago and many other cities dissatisfaction is openly expressed, and the call is, "Back to books."

But, it may be asked, what were the causes for this reaction in the first place? Two or three only can be referred to in this connection. It was doubtless true that formerly in too many schools the children did not really understand clearly what they were trying to get from the books they studied. What they read was not connected organically with their own experience, and being unrelated, each item stood alone. This made instruction dull and uninteresting. Reaction against routine set in, but it proceeded upon a wrong basis. It started out to make the children work scientifically at all common things, a method of procedure that even the most advanced classes in high school can do but imperfectly.

Another position almost equally untenable was that the children, whether in town or country, as they went to school or walked about outside of their own homes, did not see things, the fact is that most children see about as much as grown people, and they are inclined to look at new and unfamiliar objects very much more closely than they do at their lessons in their books. This significant fact of child nature was entirely ignored, and it was and is a stronger factor in the composition of child mind than in the minds of grown people. The new process of endeavoring to overdo the natural inquisitiveness of childhood by stimulating it beyond all reasonable bounds, resulted in neglecting the study of the very things that children ought to know. This fallacy, however did not stop in the elementary schools, but it has crept onward and upward into all grades of schools, from the very lowest up through the universities, and there is a growing belief that graduates are, in too many instances, turned out of schools of high standing without any solid attainments of any kind, unless it be those of an athletic character.

Athletic exercises are good enough in their way, but the United States has turned out a large number of able-bodied men without taking them through a scientific course of "athletic sprouts."

## ADVOCATES THE "MORNING NAP."



THE Boston Transcript is trying to start a movement to make the regulation time of rising in the morning and breakfasting one hour later during the four months beginning November 1 than during the other eight months of the year. It thinks that much good and no harm would follow such a change, which would permit people to take a morning nap with a clear conscience.

There is more to be said in favor of the change advocated by the Transcript than against it. The time of rising in the morning has not, in fact, kept step with the progress of other events. The old custom of early rising and breakfasting by candle light during the season of short days still prevails, although the need has largely passed away. Forty years ago farm work began with the break of day and laboring people were expected to be in shops and factories at 5 o'clock in the morning the year round. The agitation for a shorter day first reduced the hours to ten and later to nine and eight. But it is doubtful if the hours given to sleep have increased as much as the hours of work have ceased. And in particular the time of rising is still where it was when ten and twelve hours of labor were demanded.

This is wrong. There is nothing more conducive to good health, good morals and good temper than a nap in the morning. It rounds out the night's sleep and imparts a satisfaction which is a considerable factor in the day's work. There is nothing like sleep to tone up the nerves. It is

better than the best tonic, and with the nerves in good condition the whole man or woman is prepared to meet the struggles and competition that modern life brings. Sociologists also contend that if people would sleep more there would be less crime. There are early closing movements. Why not a late rising movement? All methods of work and business have been changed during the last two generations and they are still changing. A man with the help of modern machinery accomplishes many times more in a shorter time than his grandfather did. Why, then, should he get up in the morning at the same time his grandfather did and find his energies used up before the noon hour? The morning nap will cure this and the effort to establish it can be helped along with a clear conscience.

## AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE.



THE promotion and transfer of several important members of the diplomatic corps has again directed attention to the need of a trained foreign service. By the last movement on the ministerial and ambassadorial board another politician enters the field to represent this country abroad, the appointment of David E. Thompson of Nebraska being more or less than a reward for faithful party service.

It has been suggested that the Government should establish a school of diplomats, but the project does not seem to have gained a very great foothold, except in the discussion of idealists. The training which would come from promotion would be a benefit, every one would acknowledge; yet a system of political reward discourages any hope in this direction. The principal of experience is recognized, however, when Mr. Thompson is compelled to take the post of smallest importance among those affected by the transfers.

There is one disadvantage connected with the so-called trained diplomatic service. Long-continued residence abroad, the lack of active participation in home affairs and the constant association with diplomats of other countries breed a point of view which would reflect little credit on the American representative. There would be a weakening of the patriotic impulse, a secondhand knowledge of the politics of this country and a willingness to do as others do.

It is granted that the men whom we send to foreign courts have a reputation all their own. There is a lack of acquaintance with minutiae, perhaps, which characterizes representatives of other countries but there is the positive realization of good common sense, which commands the respect of foreign Governments. The diplomacy of this country has been, for the greater part, open and above board, bearing its own conviction of right.

Yet there is great need for a better understanding of the commercial possibilities of a well trained consular service. It is said the reason of Germany's great success in South America is the fact that the Consuls of that country are familiar with the language and institutions of the countries to which they are the accredited representatives. The American corps is more or less deficient. Politicians will hardly raise the standard. The private initiative of large commercial concerns must supply a want which broken-down political hacks permit to exist.

Mr. M. T. H. Holding, editor of the London Tailor, discoursing on trousers, has uttered a long-range prophecy of considerable interest to masculine mankind. He says: "The trousers of today will not only be the trousers of the next fifty or sixty years, but of the next million." It is evidently Mr. Holding's belief that the finality has been reached in designing the dress of men. Sartorial evolution here pauses, breathless, triumphant. The steepest survives. The apex is reached in the grand scaling upward for "ease, grace and common sense." Rivers will run dry in a few thousand years. Niagara's cataract will retreat to Ontario waters or perhaps be lost to the world in a general revelling. The anthracite veins will run out and a permanent coal famine be established. In a million years there will be a new Star of the North and possibly a changed sun. But trousers will still stand fast as pillars of fashion. Such daring prophecy is only possible to a master mind in tailoring. It seems a pity to ask the sage to stoop from generalization to detail. Yet would one gladly know if the million years will bring a sure preventive of bagging at the knees. Also if there will come a remedy for that wearing away to which the philosopher referred in saying that "a man's moral fiber frays as well as the bottom of his trousers-legs."

The medical societies might as well out their resolutions condemning kissing, because kissing is an institution that is going to flourish right along, regardless alike of doctors and microbes. It will continue as long as there are red lips.

The United States will have an abiding friend in the departing Wu Ting-Fang—if that isn't too paradoxical. Wu was among us long enough to understand and like us.

According to an English professor, there are 10,000 different kinds of fleas. The only flea that really concerns us, however, is the one that isn't there when you put your finger on it.

## A TELEPHONE NEWSPAPER.



NOT the least of Edward Bellamy's dreamy predictions was that of a newspaper addressing its subscribers through the medium of sound. Dreamy or not, the prediction has been fulfilled. In Budapest, Hungary, there is a "telephonic" daily with a circulation of seven thousand wires. It was invented by Theodore Puskas, a Hungarian, who formerly collaborated with Edison.

In a very interesting contribution to November Pearson's Leopold Katcher describes this "paper." It is appropriately named the "News-Teller." By means of strong-voiced speakers, called "stentors"—a name itself suggesting Bellamy or our more recent H. B. Wells—the paper speaks, sings, lectures, preaches, answers correspondents, and what not.

It possesses all the features of a printed paper, except cartoons, and possibly railway time-tables. For a subscription price of but two cents a day—and the paper pays for putting the receiver in the house—one may pick up his receiver and listen to the stentors from eight o'clock in the morning until eleven at night.

The "copy" is carefully edited, and a time schedule is observed for each announcement, so that one may know when to listen for any particular news. Thus, at ten o'clock the local exchange quotations come, at eleven the general news, at two o'clock foreign telegrams, at four the sporting news. From half past four to half past six one may listen to the regimental bands, all for the original two-cent price. And at eight-fifteen, in smoking jacket and slippers, he may attend the opera without stirring from his easy-chair.

At present the "News-Teller" has 650 miles of wires, employs 180 people, and counts among its subscribers the Prime Minister, Cabinet members, city officials and many other persons of high position.

While I would not care to become involved in a discussion on the scientific phrases of such a question, I, nevertheless, venture to remark that it seems to me a woman ought to know better than any one else whether or not she has her vermiform appendix concealed about her person. Mrs. Fred Johnson of Minneapolis called in a Chicago surgeon not long ago for the purpose of performing some sort of operation which necessitated the cutting open of that part of her mortal frame in which the appendix lives and moves and has its being, and now she is suing the surgeon for having feloniously abstracted the article in question. Just why a surgeon should covet his neighbor's or patient's appendix, and just why any person should feel it a deprivation to be robbed of one, remembering that they are as full of ills as was Pandora's box, is something of a mystery, but, anyway, Mrs. Johnson is calling strenuously for hers. The surgeon confesses that he told his patient her appendix had been removed, thinking the news would do her good, but that in reality it is still in business at the old stand. Mrs. Johnson, however, denies the possession of the appendix. "I can feel the place where it used to be," she says, "and it isn't there now." If I were on the jury in this case, I should favor a verdict for Mrs. Johnson. It was her appendix, and her present condition of lonesomeness must surely mean that she has been separated from it.

Colonel Duncan B. Cannon, secretary and treasurer of the Coney Island & Brooklyn Railroad Company, is a splendid animal, every inch of his surface in scintillation by a mental battery that never requires recharging, says Victor Smith in the New York Press. It happened that his place of registration held a German-American interrogator whose knowledge of our language was less profound than his sense of self-importance. After the usual questions he asked: "How mudge you aicht?" The colonel, absently thinking his weight had been demanded, replied promptly: "Two-hundred and forty!" The German dropping his pen raised his eyes back into the top of his head and exclaimed: "Ach! Behute es Gott!" (God forbid!) Then turning to his assistant, he said in a whisper in German: "A citizen of this country begins to vote at 21; when does he quit—at what age?" "No time limit," said the assistant, explaining the situation. "The gentleman weighs 240 pounds; he is not 240 years old as you imagine. We don't grow them that age here, but if we did we'd vote them." Having acknowledged to 54 Colonel Cannon withdrew to let his friends into the laugh.

In honoring the victims of the witchcraft craze in the latter part of the seventeenth century, we seem to be borrowing a suggestion from the members of a Western mob, who, discovering that they had hanged the wrong man, called on the widow and acknowledged that the laugh was on them.

A contemporary observes that the Crown Prince of Siam looks like a man who is accustomed to taking life easy. Of course. We have all heard about the Siam case.

Perhaps Columbia has forgotten that congress authorized President Roosevelt to choose some other route if the terms were unsatisfactory.

## FOLLY OF LABOR.



TWO remarkable examples of labor run mad have been reported in the last few days. One is the strike of miners employed by the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railway Company in Alabama. The other is a strike of operative plasterers in New York. Both are remarkable as indicating the abuse of the power which is inherent in organized labor and which wins for it needless enemies.

The facts of the Alabama strike are that some of the miners wanted to contribute to the fund in aid of the Pennsylvania strikers. Others did not. When this became apparent, those who were conducting the fund asked the company to discharge those who would not contribute. When the company refused to be made a party to a difference of opinion among its men, so long as that difference was not a matter in which it had a right to interfere, a strike was ordered. The company had consented to be a collecting agency for the men, an action that in itself was somewhat remarkable, inasmuch as the funds were to be used for the injury of companies engaged in a like business. It would have been more remarkable, indeed, had it consented to use the money earned by any of its men in a way of which they did not approve. That was something it had absolutely no right to do. It would have amounted to robbery if it had done so.

The case of the New York plasterers is quite different, but equally indefensible. Those workmen have struck because their employers have denied them the right to hire their own foremen. This has been done on certain jobs, and on others the plasterers have claimed the right to discipline the foremen by fine or suspension whenever they think them to be acting in any way detrimental to the interests of the union, and that includes what the employees term "rushing the men," or, in other words, requiring them to keep steadily at work. They have undertaken to say how much shall constitute a day's work, which is quite within their power, as is the declaration that they will work only so many hours a day. They have also denied to owners or general construction contractors the right to let different classes of work to different contractors. All these are plainly outside of the legitimate control of employees, either organized or unorganized. They are direct infringements upon the rights of employers and consequently constitute unjust demands.

It is such an injustice as this that makes employers hostile to labor unions and anxious to find means to escape unbearable tyranny. No true friend of labor can approve of strikes which are ordered for the causes mentioned. Such action only widens the breach between capital and labor, while the effort which should be made is to bring these two great forces together.

For some years past there has been in some states quite an agitation over the question as to whether persons claiming to heal by faith should be permitted to practice on patients and have control of them. A few days ago this question was settled so far as Indiana authorities are concerned. The supreme court of that state has declared that no other method of treating disease, or affliction, except those prescribed by the recognized and established schools of medicine shall be legal. This decision has offended many people in Indiana, and some of them will appeal to the United States courts on the ground that their constitutional rights have been invaded. They claim that the court has trespassed upon their religious beliefs, to the full exercise of which they are entitled by a law which no state can interfere with. It is very questionable whether any such sweeping decree as that of the Indiana supreme court can stand. It is certain to be the subject of a legal contest that will extend to the highest court of the country, and there will be a rush of opinions and contentions on both sides of the issue.

It will be a surprise to most persons in the South to learn from the report of Commissioner Hermann of the general land office that more homestead lands were given to settlers in 1901-2 than in any previous year. Uncle Sam still "has land enough to give us all a farm." He gave away 19,488,530 acres last year—enough to make 120,000 average "quarter-section" farms and to support a million people, including families and farm laborers. In addition \$6,250,000 was obtained from land sales and fees. And 900,000,000 acres and more remain unclaimed—enough to last forty-five years even at the present rapid rate of entry and settlement. States as old as Michigan and Missouri still have "room for more." Minnesota has 25,000 unclaimed farms, Montana 400,000.

President G. Stanley Hall, of Clark university, has been studying the almost total absence of insanity among negroes. He believes it is because, being newer to civilization, the race has not run through so many different and crucial experiences as the white race.

Columbia should not harbor the notion that Uncle Samuel is easy because he is prosperous. A study of Uncle Russell Sage would convince her that wealth and liberality do not always go hand in hand in this booming country.