

Responsibility of Public Schools to Children

By THOMAS P. HARRINGTON, M. D.

THE unprecedented activity to-day in philanthropic, charitable and social policies finds its expression in the home-school alliance in medical inspection, in school nurses, in feeding-school children, and in the care of the abnormal child. Each of these functions belongs to the home. Is the school then an usurper when it attempts to fulfill any or all of these duties?

As physicians, we know that mental and physical defects among school children exist to a surprising extent, that many of these defects are remediable with a great gain to the child, that underfeeding is more prevalent than is supposed, that many of these poorly fed children could overcome the handicap of a bad start if boldly nutrition was kept somewhere near actual requirements.

No remedy can be most effective until the cause of the evil is known. These causes exist in both the school life and the home life of the child.

At home we find the materialistic influences of modern social life, the indifference or neglect of guardians, the disregard for rightful authority, the results of genuine poverty, and finally the impossibility for the home to keep in touch with the school.

Causes inherent in the school are the multiplication of the branches taught the absence of individualization, the lack of data whereby the relative physical and mental development of each child is known, the grading system, and lastly the absence of any connecting link between the home and the school.

Any measures to correct or minimize the evils in school curricula are obviously within the rights of the school—in fact it is a duty. When, however, the school points out the defects of individual pupils, groups of pupils, or in the home life of such, it has gone as far as moral or legal right allows. To attempt to carry out by force the measures of relief suggested, no matter how good in themselves, would be usurpation.

It is possible, nevertheless, to carry instruction and persuasion into homes where force and coercion would not be tolerated, and where example and precept can accomplish incalculable good for the home, the school, the individual and the state. Nurses under school supervision only can do this without the usurpation of the home, or the manufacture of paupers. To develop and strengthen home authority should be the end sought.

Thomas P. Harrington

Grilling of the Imaginative Writer

By ANNIS RUSSEL, Actress.

exploits of science.

So accustomed have the reading public become to the exploits of the press agent that when a legitimate bit of news is printed it is regarded with suspicion.

Why I must needs be exploited, as a hunter of great game, a jiu-jitsu expert, or a trapeze genius before I can achieve Shakespearian success is beyond me.

The press agent would have me lose jewels that he might, with the romance of Dumas, describe their value, and then, with the ingenuity of Poe, discover them on my mantelpiece, where perchance I had placed them while walking in my sleep. If I really had lost diamonds and possessions rare I would hasten to the police, maintaining strictest silence.

I maintain that such chronicling is not relevant to my profession. It is sufficient for me that I be known for the results I accomplish in my work, and not as a sideshow wonder who also appears in the performance.

I further maintain that my private life is of no interest to the world at large. I speak not of myself alone, but of actors as a professional class. A lawyer is known as a lawyer and refers you to the results that he has achieved before the bar. Who cares whether he eats cream or Worcestershire upon his strawberries? A doctor achieves his reputation through the cures he effects, not because his idle hours are consumed in collecting pictorial post-cards. But the actor! Alas! he is pursued with a demonic persistency.

I know in making these objections that I cannot seriously affect the future of those to whom I object, for, even if I were able to dispose of the exaggerating profession, the versatile and energetic ones who fill it would bob up in some equally lucrative capacity before the day was ended.

Why Married Women Should Not Teach

By DR. WILLIAM J. GALLIVAN, Ex-President of Boston School Committee.

There are strong reasons why married women should not be employed as teachers in the public schools. One might cite President Roosevelt's admonitions concerning "race suicide" as perhaps the chief reason.

The woman who marries becomes at once bound to an obligation greater than any other. Her paramount, her all-important duty is to her home. It is the first duty which she must consider, and it takes precedence of all other considerations. Marriage as a kind of agreeable comradeship, involving few or no domestic responsibilities other than those which hired service might render is no marriage at all.

It is absurd for any woman who marries and contemplates the rearing of a family to hope to engage in employment so exacting as that of a teacher in the public schools without sacrificing the interests of the home. Indeed, it may be said that a married woman cannot possibly be a good wife and mother and a good teacher in the public schools at the same time. She will be deficient in one regard or the other. Motherhood imposes upon her obligation of teaching her own little flock of pupils, and she will not be able to do that she has all that she should, undertake to perform this duty properly.

To the statement that some women marry with no expectation of discontinuing employment or of assuming the duties and responsibilities which have been mentioned, I think the answer may be made that such women ought not to be entrusted with the education of children.

William J. Gallivan

FOLLY OF THE WILD GOOSE

Born Foolish, It Gets Worse Yearly, Says a Maine Hunter.

"Mebbe," said old Jed Darling, "mebbe, a wise Creator may have made some kind of bird or animal that is a bigger fool than a wild goose, but if so He never made enough to cause people to worry any."

"Not only is a wild goose a blunderer from birth, but it grows fooler and fooler as it gets older. It is the only critter that refuses to learn sense from age and experience."

"It is seared half to death by a bleating calf tied out to a crowbar in an open field, but a whole flock of geese will sit out in the middle of Coldstream lake and let an otter swim up under water and drag the members down one after another, and not a goose in the bunch will have sense enough to get scared and fly away."

"I have seen a flock of geese get scared and fly clear out of the state because a playful fox terrier ran along the edge of the lake, but when a flock of geese is feeding on the roots of new clover a fox or a raccoon can roll over and over and pitch somersaults right into the middle of the group and pick out the fattest one and not a goose will show signs of fright until the one which has been captured lets out a squawk when it is bitten to death."

"The way the boys have been killing wild geese along the shores of Coldstream lake this fall is something scandalous. The old hunters and fishermen hereabouts have a saying that when the blizzards go into the mud for the winter they never dig deeper than the length of a goose from the tip of its bill to its breast bone, which is just 21½ inches for every goose that lives."

"No matter what kind of soil it is, and no matter how hard or how easy the digging is, every frog in New England makes it a rule to burrow 21½ inches and then turn around head to the outside and settle down for its winter nap. No matter how hungry a goose may be or how soft the mud is, no goose was ever known to dig an inch with its shovel bill for the sake of getting a frog to eat, though all geese will peck their way into half frozen ground when they want a mess of raw turnips for breakfast."

"Because they know to the fraction of an inch how deep the frogs burrow in winter, and because they know the length of a goose's neck, the boys have made a contrivance for catching wild geese that works every time."

"First off the boys spear a number of fat bullfrogs from their winter apartments, taking pains to drag the bodies of the frogs across the surface of the meadows where the geese feed. Later they make round holes in the mud that are about two feet in depth, after which they bait a strong hook with a live frog and attach it to a stake, the top of which must be driven until it is 21½ inches below the surface of the ground."

"The rest is easy. The geese smell the frog odor about the field and follow it up until they come to one of the holes, when they reach down the regulation distance, find the frog with a hook in it, swallow the whole outfit and are anchored until the boys come along and kill them and set the trap again."

"The strangest thing about it is that no goose will ever negotiate frog bait that is set less than the regulation depth under ground. If a baited hook were left on top of the ground, or ten inches below the surface or even 20 inches down, it might stay there all winter and not a goose would look at it."

"In fact, the length of a goose's neck when stretched out straight has become a standard of measurement in several of the up river towns. When a fisherman goes to a blacksmith to order a new eel spear or frog spear he specifies that the total length of the iron from tip of spear to the beginning of the wooden handle shall be 21½ inches, no more and no less. Again, when the length of a boy's leg reaches goose-neck altitude, measuring 21½ inches from hip to heel, he has passed from the period of boyhood and puts on trousers."

No Chance for Argument.

"George," said Mrs. McQuillan to her liege lord, who was toasting his shins before the fire, "I suppose you get the credit for sweeping the snow off our front walk."

"I reckon I do, Cynthy," responded George.

"And you know you don't do a lick of it. You know I do it myself."

"You do, Cynthy. There can't be any doubt about that."

"Well, what sort of a man do you think you are?"

"I'm a blamed small specimen of a man, Cynthy," said George, still serenely toasting his shins. "I have no doubt I am meaner and more contemptible than you think. Lord, love you, Cynthy, you can't get into any argument with me on that proposition. I'm the laziest, good for nothingest onerliest man in the neighborhood. If it wasn't that I've got such a good wife, I'd go and blow my worthless brains out. Supper ready yet, dear?"

Rest Content.

No restlessness or discontent can change your lot. Others may have other circumstances surrounding them, but here are yours. You had better make up your mind to accept what you cannot alter. You can live a beautiful life in the midst of your present circumstances.—J. D. Miller, D. D.

TOO MUCH FOR THE BOY.

Youngster Wanted the Pony, but There Was a Limit.

The Episcopalian bishop of a New England diocese was about to make his annual visitation to the parish of a country rector. In the latter's family was an obstreperous boy, whom the father thought to bribe into good behavior while the bishop was the guest at the rectory.

So the anxious parent told the small boy if he would behave well while the bishop was there, the fol-



Surprised the Bishop.

lowing spring the father would buy the boy a pony and cart. The boy promised.

The bishop arrived, dinner time came, and the first course was oysters. The bishop said his doctor had told him never to eat oysters for fear of getting typhoid fever.

The second course was soup, but the bishop made answer: "This is most unfortunate, but my doctor has told me never to eat liquid food."

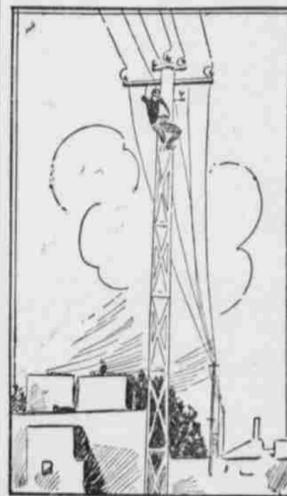
The third course was salmon. The bishop again refused, as his doctor had forbidden him to eat fish on account of ptomaine poisoning.

The boy could stand it no longer, and cried as he looked at the bishop: "Give the old guy an egg; you can keep your old pony and cart!"

AUTOMATIC JUSTICE IN ITALY.

Robber Meets Death While Trying to Steal Copper Wire.

A few days ago a robber tried to steal copper by cutting down the wires from an iron pole outside of Naples. The wires were carrying a high tension current of 5,000 volts,



and killed him instantly. It was with difficulty that the body was brought down, as one arm was firmly gripped around the column. The current passing through the arm had partly melted the iron of the column.

RARE SKELETON IS FOUND.

Bones of the Loxolophodon Secured from Southern Wyoming.

There arrived in New York last week for the Museum of Natural History the skeleton of a loxolophodon. It was unearthed in southern Wyoming, where the great beast roamed in large numbers many centuries ago, by an expedition sent out from the museum by Prof. H. F. Osborn and headed by Prof. Walter Granger. Speaking of the success attending the search, Prof. Granger said:

"We found the skeleton of the largest mammal living at the time and for which we made careful search. This huge mammal was known as the loxolophodon, a mixture of elephant and rhinoceros. It had six horns—two enormous ones in the back of the skull, two smaller ones over the eyes and two rudimentary horns on the tip of the nose."

"We obtained an interesting lot of the skeletons of the titanotheres, a smaller animal than the last; numerous specimens of the carvora, including the largest of the time, the mesonyx; many rodents, or squirrel-like mammals; some of the earliest camel-like, even toed, hoofed mammals; an achenodon, one of the very large, even toed animals, with piglike teeth and feet and an early primate like the lemurs, notharctus. In all we obtained 100 species in the Washakie basin, 100 in the Bridger basin and 40 in the Wahsatch basin."

GIVING THE HOGS COMFORTABLE SHELTER

By W. L. ELLIOTT, Montana Experiment Station.

Perhaps many of the farmers may be situated as we are at the present time, in not having sufficient winter quarters for the hogs. At the present time we are not able to build commodious quarters, so the idea occurred to us to provide individual portable hog houses for the young boars and sows, and also for the sows that are not due to farrow for some time. We have therefore built several small portable houses, to hold from two to six hogs, depending upon the size. These houses have been in use for more than two months, and the idea is such a practical one, and the outlay so small, that we give our exact plan for building.

It might be stated right here that the material for the roof, ends and floor of the hog house was ordinary 1x5 tongued and grooved flooring, which cost us at the rate of \$23 per thousand. The other material used was the ordinary 2x4 scantling, which cost \$15 per thousand. First make a platform 6x6 feet with four 2x4 pieces

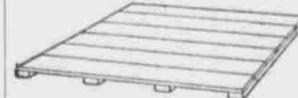


Fig. 1.—Platform for Hog House.

supporting it and running the entire length as skids. The platform will appear as in Fig. 1.

Next a 2x4 is supported 4½ feet above the center of the platform, with its long way running the same direction as the 2x4 skids supporting the floor. Now begin to nail the boards that are to make the slanting roof, to the edge of the platform and also to the 2x4 supported above the floor. It will not be long before the slanting roof boards will support the 2x4 at the top and the false supports may be knocked out. The hog house partly built may be seen in Fig. 2.

After the roof is nailed on completely, then comes the ends of the house. We first fit in pieces of 2x4 under the roof and resting on the floor. One of these may be seen in Fig. 2. The bottoms of these are toenailed to the floor and the tops nailed securely down through the roof. To these 2x4s the end boards are nailed. The ends of the house should be so inserted that the roof projects an inch or so beyond, to prevent the rain leaking through in wet weather.

In one of the ends the door is made. The opening for a door may either be

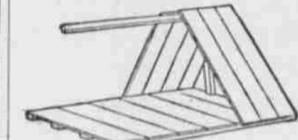


Fig. 2.—Frame for the Roof.

left while nailing up the end, or the end of the house may be nailed up completely and then the opening sawed out afterward. This door opening must of course be of sufficient size to admit a fully matured hog. The door left in our pens was 20 inches wide and 24 inches deep. Of course, these may be made larger or smaller, as the case demands.

A swinging door, as in Fig. 3, is then fitted to the opening; and the hinges, which are at the top, are simply loops of wire. This wire runs through holes bored above the door and also through two holes through the top of the door, the idea being to have the door swing either in or out, according to the will of the hog. Some people seem to think that swinging doors are awkward for the hogs, but this is not so. The very first night that our individual pens were used, it happened to be quite cool, and the hogs in nosing around the door soon found that it would swing inward and that there was shelter within.

Of course, in warm winter weather or in the summer, these doors may be tied upward, as in such weather they are not necessary. The entrance door

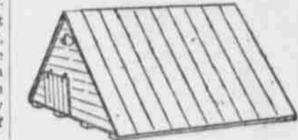


Fig. 3.—Hog House Finished.

is placed preferably to one side of the center of the end, so that the pigs may, in a measure, get inside and to one side of any draft that may come from the door.

To provide additional ventilation to that which would be obtained from a loosely fitting swinging door, two round openings are placed, one in either end of the house, near the peak of the roof. These ventilating holes are about six inches across, and are controlled by swinging blocks, fastened sufficiently stiff, so as to stay wherever turned. The hog house complete, showing swinging door and ventilator hole, will appear as in Fig. 3. Now if an armful of straw be placed inside of one of the houses, we have a snug, comfortable and warm winter house.

These houses can be built inside of \$4.50, and when one considers the convenience of a portable hog house

and also the efficiency of the same, any such small cost is really a matter of very little consequence.

How frequently we find about the doors of permanent hog houses that the continual tramping of the pigs in going in and out, cuts the soil so that a hole is formed; then if the weather is at all wet, this becomes simply a filthy mud hole. With these individual houses, it is a very easy matter, with the use of a horse, to draw the house to an entirely new, clean and dry location.

The incalculable value of these houses, where it is the wish to *trust* the hogs out on some green pasture, will demonstrate itself in the convenience and quickness with which they may be moved from place to place. Such a house, built according to the foregoing plans, would require the following material:

Thirty-one boards 1x5, 12 feet long.
Seven pieces 2x4, 12 feet long.
Two pounds nails.

With such simple winter quarters so easily provided, we trust that no farmer will let his hogs go needing shelter. It is expensive economy to compel the hogs to use all the feed that they receive to keep up bodily heat. Keep them warm, and a good share of each day's food goes to produce gain.

BOTTOM BOARDS FOR BEES

Aparist Who Uses Dirt Floor for Hives.

Preparing for another season means getting new supplies as well as having the bees in good shape. Bottom-boards of different styles have been given a fair trial in my yards; and in preparing for the establishment of several new out-yards this winter the bottom-board question is uppermost in my mind. Just now, writes a successful southern aparist, I want to fix up one of the yards with dirt floors. These are used by S. T. Gilbert, near Uvalde, Texas, and please me. A rim is made of common rough three-inch stuff, just the outside dimensions of the hives in use. The end of these rims intended for the front of the hive is enough lower at the top to allow an entrance; that is, the back end and side pieces are nailed together with their top and bottom edges flush, while the front end pieces are lower about one-half inch, so it extends beyond the lower edge of the rest of the rim. In this way the same three-inch lumber can be used throughout, saving the dressing-down for entrances, as the rims are slightly sunk into the ground when in use. When in place where the hives are to stand the rims are leveled off and then filled nearly to the top with loose, dry soil. This is packed down firmly by means of a wide board fitting inside the rim, and tamped upon with a heavy tamper until the surface of the soil is even with the front edge of the rim forming the entrance



"Cheap as Dirt" Bottom-Boards.

to the hive. Some more loose dirt can now be thrown in front of this stand, and tamped down to make a sloping "alighting-board" to the entrance.

The illustration shows one of Mr. Gilbert's yards with dirt floors. One of the rims can be seen in the foreground. Some of these floors had been covered over by the bees with propolis, so that none of the soil was exposed to view, making them absolutely water-tight from below. Where the yards are well drained, the soil inside the rims, when the hives are in place on them, never becomes moist, especially as this soil is several inches above the surrounding earth outside. For a permanent bottom-board or floor this should be a cheap one.

The Barn Cellar.—The Maine Farmer quotes H. E. Cook, a dairyman in situ lecturer, as saying that "the barn cellar must be eliminated." That advice will apply to many sections outside of Maine. The dank, dark, unventilated stables under the barn have been a frequent source of tuberculosis in the dairy herd.

The Kind to Kill.—Lame chickens, deformed chickens, stunted chickens, roosters and all old hens should go to the block. The losses in the business are often a result of our neglecting to do the proper thing, than from a deliberate choice of the wrong.

The Hen That's Sold.—The shiftless poulterer often sells the "hen that lays the golden egg." The trap-ner man is not caught in that way.