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TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION LABEL RICHMOND No 30

BOYS AT A DISADVANTAGE.

This is the commencement season and the high school boy and high school girl are in the public eye. Unlike the time that was, the graduate has little to do with the commencement except to look well and wise. This is easy to do after four years training.

The custom now is to have a distinguished teacher or lecturer to address the class and the public on commencement day. This makes it much easier on the teachers and seniors because it is no little task for the teacher to outline the subject in the first place, then criticise the pupil's effort and finally write it himself so that the pupil may appear well.

The preparation of essays and orations by the seniors is still in vogue in many places and the boys seem to be at a disadvantage. The proud father of the boy often wonders why such is the case and seeks an explanation, from which explanation he forms a conclusion that is sometimes very erroneous. We reprint from one of our exchanges the following that may shed some light on this subject:

Of five members of the East Orange, N. J., high school who have been selected to participate at the commencement exercises in June not one is a boy. It is the custom at East Orange to accord the honor of participating in the commencement exercises to the five pupils writing the best essays. The winners this year took for their subjects "Mental Alchemy," "What I Found Behind the Histories," "The HeartGoddess," "Three Flowers and Three People" and "Why Do Men Laugh?"

The highest boy in the list stood seventeenth, and he probably got up to that proud position because he is not like other boys. Perhaps owing to physical disabilities he is unaable to be a regular member of either the East Orange high school baseball or football team. It is rather startling to find that an essay on "Why Do Men Laugh?" was written by a girl, and it is almost impossible to believe, in the absence of proof, that honor could have been accorded to the author of a paper on such a commonplace subject. But it may be that in this case the title, likeo the titles of so many of the novels of the day, doesn't mean anything and has no connection with the subject matter. It is always t be expected that essays on such things as "Mental Alchemy" and "The Heart Goddess" will be prize winners, ond it is generally safe to conclude, without going further than the titles, that they are produced by girls.

One of the great troubles with competitions of this kind is that the boys are always put at a disadvantage. If baseball, football, cigarettes, rough house and kindred matters were admitted as proper subjects for essays, and if accuracy in spelling, correctness of grammar and neatness of penmanship were not too strictly demanded, it is probable that the boys, not only of East Orange, but of every other school in our splendid land, would come in for a generous share of honors. Is it not about time for a general uprising against this unfair treatment of our sons?

AMUSEMENTS

One of the smartest military bands of Europe, now on its way to the St. Louis Exposition, will be heard at the Gennett for two performances June 1st. This organization, the First Imperial Marine Band of Germany, is composed of musicians picked from the crack army and navy bands of Germany. This band, dressed in the regulation uniform of the German navy was organized at the instigation of the emperor to tour the Empire for the purpose of inspiring a patriotic interest in the navy, which the Kaiser was doing his utmost to have increased. A band equipped under such royal patronage, and for such a purpose, must be a superb one, as can be readily imagined. In the American cities in which it has already appeared, the Marine Band has achieved a wonderful success, demonstrative scenes of wild enthusiasm rarely seen in our theatres, have been accorded them by immense audiences. Their repertoire embraces every class of musical compositon, from a swinging American march to the most intricate of classical works, played with the precision and skill of star soloists, under perfect control of a baton in the hands of a master musician.

Excursion to Greensfork via Pennsylvania Lines, on Account of County Sunday-School Convention.

For this occasion the Pennsylvania Line has made an excursion rate of thirty-five cents, for the round trip, for special train to Greensfork and return, leaving Richmond at 6:30 p. m. and leaving Greensfork returning at 9:30 p. m. on Thursday May 26th.

NANCY HANKS

Brought $4,000—Sold to Mayor Johnson of Calias, Me.

Readville, Mass., May 24.—Unusual interest centered in the bidding for Nancy Hanks, the famous mare that at one time held the world's record. This splendid old racer was knocked down to J. M. Johnson, the mayor of Calais, Me., for $4,000.

BOOKLOVERS MAGAZINE FOR JUNE.

The Russo-Japanese articles in the June number of The Booklovers Magazine are a refreshing group of papers which leave the clash of arms for the more interesting and instructive study of certain underlying principles that are gradually coming to the front in the discussion of the war question. Harold Bolce's article—the fourth in his series on "The Two Pacifies" is a discussion of the hitherto underestimated ambition of Japan to be the propagator of a new Gospel of Civilization for the world. —N. T. Bacon compares the resources of the two warring nations and concludes that Japan has the better staying power of the two.—The brief note by Professor William Lyon Phelps on "What Russian Children are Reading" is a suggestive side-light on the literary tastes of young Russia.—The "War Pictures from the Forbidden Zone" are a group of most interesting photographs, taken specially and exclusively for The Booklovers Magazine, and depict the Japanese army on the march to their victory at the Yalu River.