

## Spanish Schools Lack Facilities Of United States

### Miss Thompson Tells of Educational System Of Sunny Land

### Poorer Class Maintains Government Schools

Educational facilities and opportunities in Spain are inferior to those in the United States, Anna M. Thompson, assistant professor of Romance languages at the University, reports as a result of ten years spent in Spain, serving as a teacher a large part of the time at the International Institute for Girls in Madrid.

Public schools are not the efficient, systematized institutions that are found in the United States. They lack trained teachers and are not sufficiently equipped, Miss Thompson said. "They are maintained by the poorer class of people, and consequently cannot afford the things which a school should have." When Miss Thompson was at the International Institute, which obtains all of its school supplies from the United States, she said that people were surprised at the things used in the school.

"Many had never heard of chairs with the wide arms on which to write, erasers were novelties, and desks were just as surprising to them," she said. "In Spain a cloth is used to clean the blackboard, and chalk is used so short that one is likely to scratch his fingernails on the blackboard while using it."

"The slight regard for public schools is explained, in part, when one learns that all people who can afford to send their children to convents or have private tutors for them do so." Girls never go to public schools. If they come from a well-to-do family, they are taught by their governess, but if they are from a family of less financial means they are sent to a convent.

**Religious Exam Required**

"Girls are taught music, language, embroidery, sewing, and fancy lace-work. In addition to this everyone is required to take an examination in religion both in public and private schools."

"Perhaps another reason for the conditions of the public schools is the handling of the money for public education," Miss Thompson continued. "The official who handles the money usually tries to make it

worth-while to himself. The Spanish do not consider it unfair to take a share of the money if it comes into their hands. I wouldn't have you say for a minute, though, that the Spanish aren't honorable, but in a public office they consider things just that they would not hold honest in private life."

Public education in Spain is improving, said Miss Thompson. There are a group of people trying to bring education up to a higher plane.

They have accomplished much, but they are working under a handicap. At one time, Spain was one of the nations that helped start public education. She was then above the other countries in this respect but the interest in this declined and faded out. The people seemed converted to the private methods of education.

#### Atmosphere Different

In speaking of the college life in Spain, she said that it was surrounded by an altogether different atmosphere from college life in the United States. "There is not the same spirit that we find in our colleges. There are no forms of athletics in Spanish colleges, there is not the continuous round of social events that there is here. Often the buildings are in different cities; the pharmacy department may be in one city and the law school in another. Thus the contact which is had in American colleges is lacking there, and as a result the so-called 'school spirit.'

"But there is a certain spirit prevalent among the college students that I like to see," she declared. "When questions between two different interests arise the students usually take sides, and they seem always to align themselves on the side of the right," she said. She spoke of the influence of the rich man there. When he desires something the poor are afraid to object, but often the students are not. She told of a certain rich man in a college town who objected to a sidewalk being built in front of his property. He even built a wall

around it to prevent the authorities from doing so. Because he was rich the authorities gave up the idea of trying to induce him to submit to their demands. But the students grouped together and destroyed the wall, and the sidewalk was built. Thus they accomplished what the law could not. "I never knew the students to band together for anything other than good."

#### Theory Considered Important

Teachings of Spanish colleges dwell more on theory than do the teachings of American colleges, Miss Thompson stated. Colleges here have more practical education.

Spanish colleges have a more decided leaning toward culture than do our colleges. Spaniards are astonished at educated Americans not appreciating beautiful things. The Spanish people have access to culture. Public places containing things of art and beauty are very common and are open to everyone. From childhood they are taught their significance.

"Strange to say, a degree from a private college is worth nothing, officially, in Spain," Miss Thompson said. If the college is not a government institution the degree is not recognized as a degree. This is in sharp contrast with the private colleges in the United States where the Johns Hopkins and Leland Stanford colleges, as well as others, are institutions from which it is an honor to obtain a degree, and from which a degree is considered of more value than from most state institutions.

#### Interesting Center Cited

"An interesting and very worthwhile organization in Spain is the Center of Historic Research. This is an institution supported by the government, which accepts only

college graduates, and gives them more advanced learning in their different professions or branches." Fellowships are granted the most

promising students here. Excellent students are found here since it is only the truly ambitious that are admitted to the organization, Miss Thompson said. From this group there is another selection, to be sent abroad to finish their education.

Miss Thompson was employed at the Center of Historic Research part of the time she was in Spain. It was her business to examine students in English who were trying to obtain the trip to America or England. Many of them with whom she came into contact have become famous men by this time, she said.

## Tests

(Continued from page one) of discovering what college subjects the entrants are best fitted to take, is his belief.

"The high school record is quite a good indication of the college record. We can make rather a good prediction as to what sort of work the student will do here," Mr. Taylor said.

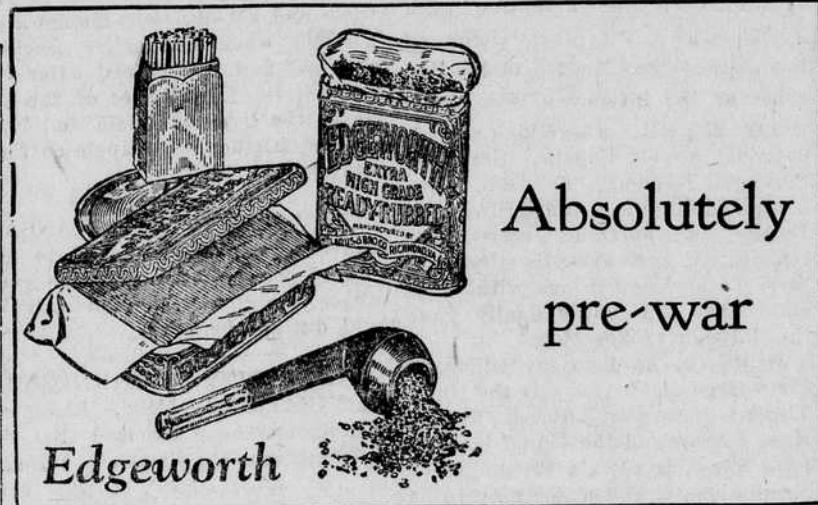
Next year the department will have a research assistant to aid in further investigations. The position was granted by the administration because of the close connection of psychology research with administration problems.

This is the second year of the intensive research program in the department, the systematic test work having been started in 1925.

"We expect to accomplish even more next year than we have the past two," Professor Taylor declared.

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## Three Sisters' Region Should Form National Park, Says Dr. Hodge

"The Three Sisters region should be a national park," said Dr. E. T. Hodge, of the geology department, in an interview recently, "because it contains all the necessary outstanding features. The glaciers are not so large as they may be in one park, nor the volcanoes of another, nor the lava fields of a third, but there is a whole grouping of these things together. A visitor from the East can see more things here than in any other area."

It is one of exceptional scenic beauty, and would adapt itself well to both a winter and summer playground. In addition, it is an educational area, and in it lies the history of the state.

"The roads keep the region back,"



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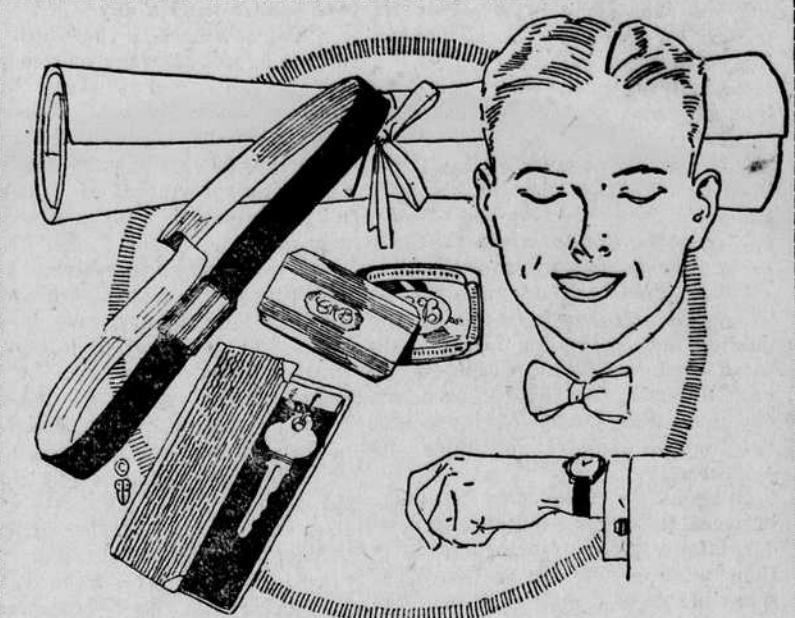
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he said, "although it is very accessible. The McKenzie highway makes the way in. I think it is the most attractive area in the state," he said, "and there is now an organization developing to make the area a national park."

The sheep which customarily are kept in this region would not be allowed there if it was a national park, said Dr. Hodge. However, from a purely business standpoint,

the owners of the land could make more money through the tourists.

The standpoint is generally good of making the area a national park. The state of Oregon would receive much more money from fishing licenses from tourists than it does now, he said. Those opposing the idea are mainly sportsmen who want Oregon wilderness for themselves alone and want to exclude everyone else.



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