

THE OBSERVER

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PRACTICAL QUIZZES.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Observer will be found a list of questions submitted to the scholars of the senior high school. The questions were given the students without any warning and were intended as a test in mental gymnastics.

It is said with a great deal of truth that the nation's school system is at fault. The statement comes from eminent educators and may be taken as the truth of the matter. The thing to do is to correct the faults of the system. Now it should not be supposed that the average student of high school age is going to be conversant with all the facts which can be known.

In this connection it may be said that a few years of Latin or German

for the average pupil is a simple waste of time. How many of the pupils who say they have had two or three years of Latin can sit down and read Caesar or Schiller without being compelled to consult the dictionary for each word.

Getting down to plain matters that every pupil ought to know, how many in the schools right now could answer the question: When was the constitution of the United States adopted? How many could give the right answer to the question: What was the medium of exchange in the southern colonies and afterwards in the southern states, before the use of gold and silver?

Would it appear foolish to anyone to hear it said that these were practical questions?

In a recent test in one of the eastern colleges 80 per cent of the pupils knew more about men who have been dead a thousand years than they did about men whose names are in print every day of the year.

A general fund of information is necessary nowadays to keep in touch with the references made in the dailies to a thousand and one facts which the newspaper man cannot stop to explain. Home study is frowned upon nowadays. It is not in keeping with the modern methods of study, our educators tell us.

Such quizzes as Miss Hoch gave her class develop the practical value of schooling and will some day be the sole kind.

AN AGE OF YOUNG MEN.

Opportunity is knocking louder at the doors of the young men of America in this year of our Lord 1913 than it ever did at the doors of their fathers.

Young men of ability and integrity are in demand in every city and town in the land. The demand is greater than the supply. In business, politics and in other walks of life the door is standing wide open and a reception committee is waiting to extend the hand of good fellowship.

A man's ability is no longer reckoned by the number of mile stones he has passed or by the long line of brilliant ancestors. In the twentieth

century he must "make good". He must prove his metal and like the man from Missouri, he must be able to show his employer. Bon bons and choice wares from the florists make some impression on the mind of his best girl, but the modern business man is looking for the young fellow who invests his savings in government bonds or who can write his check on a local bank. We have seen but few men in this world who could hold Almighty Providence responsible for business failure. Good judgment, industry and honesty never go begging and these virtues are invariably rewarded.

SAYS "COPS" DON'T KNOW WHERE ALL THE GRAFT MONEY GOES

In the "Diary of a Cop," published in the February American Magazine, the author, a New York policeman says in part:

"There isn't any cop that knows just where all the graft money goes. We know that the captain gets his fifty per cent, and the inspector gets his, but who the inspector splits with nobody but the inspector can tell. He handles a lot of money. If any inspection district has six police precincts, he gets fifty per cent of the graft from each precinct, and that makes some money. The average saloon pays fifty a month for selling on Sunday and after closing time Saturday night. That is a low figure. A little figuring by any man who can count the saloons and the gambling houses will show that the inspector's job is worth \$8,000 a month in this district outside of his salary, which is only \$3,500 a year. But that makes all told, \$99,500 a year. One year of that job would be enough for a good many people. Of course he doesn't hold all the graft. It must be slipped

along to other people. Some of it gets to headquarters; and if it don't, then there is a strong arm squad put to work and the old system is knocked out for a time. A man who represents the politicians gets his regular share from every inspection district."

The Bald-head club of America has been started in Connecticut. It will not be a howling success until a Broadway branch is formed.

Englishmen claim they cannot see the points of Ade's jokes. The English did not get Artemus Ward, either until he had been dead a quarter of a century.

The case of the man who had his neck broken and still lived may not seem so remarkable when it is learned

that he worked for a rubber company.

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A scene from the humorous farce that is making a great hit along the line, "The Girl From Tokio," at the Steward Jan. 31.