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THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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ONLY ONE LEMON.

The chautauqua management this year drew but one lemon in all the talent used during the session. That lemon was a man by the name of Walter Holcomb, who lectured; no, not lectured—just talked at random on "the Horse Race." Never have we before witnessed a man who presumed to go in chautauqua company have the nerve of this man; never have we heard a talk that was as poorly connected, that lacked foundation, that reflected the inability of the speaker more than this effort of Holcomb's.

How he ever got into the chautauqua booking is a mystery; how he stays is more of a mystery.

Holcomb's "horse race" talk could be well described in horseman's language as follows: "Apparently non-registered for not being standard by production, the speaker led off with a 'single foot', hitting his boot before he reached the turn where he threw a shoe and struck a square trot

on the stretch, only to become frightened into a run, finally coming down the stretch with his gaits mixed so miserably that half the grandstand turned away in disgust.

THE SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE.

"The New Basis of Education," an article in the Journal of Education gives a suggestive outline of the adjustments which school training must make to the changing needs of the time. Emphasis is placed on the change in our industrial system and the change in our educational standards which this makes necessary.

Dimly we realize that something is wrong. Children who are destined for the mill and the foundry are treated as though they were going to college. Boys who will be mechanics and girls who will be housewives are tossed into the hopper with those destined to be lawyers or doctors. Manual training is an attempted answer to the problem of the day—the problem of training children for the life they are to lead. It, however, is but half an answer.

The whole answer will be given only when we rear and support great industrial and technical schools as Germany has for the continuing education of those who have had to leave the school of the shop. We will not be gripping the problem at its base until we provide free education along special lines for the countless men and women who cannot provide a decent living for themselves for the simple reason that they are not trained to do any particular thing superlatively well.

Just now there is much talk of providing a minimum wage. There is no doubt of the intrinsic merit of the principle. But what of those who cannot earn even the minimum? No law can compel employers to hire the inefficient.

When minimum wage laws become general and thousands as a result are out of work society will wake up to the fact that inefficiency is everybody's business. For the greater part of the inefficiency which condemns so many

to poverty society is directly to blame. It has not learned the vital importance to itself of bringing out and developing the last ounce of efficiency in every man, woman and child.

Never will we have equality of reward for the various kinds of labor. Work that requires wide information, deep knowledge, expeditious handling, clear judgment and a high degree of personal initiative always will be paid more than work which is routine in its nature. What we can have, however, is equality of opportunity for all kinds of work. We can by free, easily accessible educational facilities open the door of hope to the masses of brainy men and women confined in the dungeon of what seems to be their fate. We can give likely boys and girls the kind of training that will fit them best for the particular work they choose to do. We can make mistakes in the choice of a vocation; less disastrous to earning capacity by providing schools where adults who have made such blunders can educate themselves out of work for which they are not fitted.

Most successful men lift themselves by their bootstraps from the abyss of adverse circumstance. In the struggle to excel many potentially capable of a bigger place than our hodge-podge system awards them fail. President Jefferson once proposed a method for the discovery of geniuses in Virginia. What we need is an educational method for the encouragement and development of geniuses everywhere.

It is no accident that most of our great writers, our great artists, our great musicians come from the ranks of the common people. Through the common people run those deep currents of thought and feeling which makes great writers, great artists and great musicians. From the lowly, the humble and the obscure must come the leaders of tomorrow. That is why a system of education which neglects these classes at the expense of the so-called upper stratum is fundamentally wrong, fundamentally unjust and fundamentally foolish from an economic point of view.

In this world there is enough for everybody. The trouble is that we do not equip everybody for the job of getting their share. Some day when we do give everybody just as much equipment as they can handle we will take the fractional minority that remains—the hopelessly inefficient—and keep them in confinement as today we keep lunatics. Before any such penalty will be meted out, however, we will give all those suspected of inefficiency the benefit of a sentence to the nearest school.

TEACHING SEX HYGIENE.

It would be well for every city in the country to follow the lead of the Chicago board of education, which plans to have sex hygiene taught in the high schools beginning with the next term. Some will argue that home is the proper place for children to learn the mysteries of nature and perhaps it is the best place but offsetting this argument is the fact that it is not being taught in the home. Much of the vice prevalent in the world is the result of inexcusable ignorance. Certain knowledge comes to all young people and when it comes from improper sources it is usually tainted with salacious and vicious suggestion. When there is no restraint upon the

acquisition of such knowledge, vice naturally follows.

The number of young lives that have been ruined through a false and strange modesty that has been set up both in the home and in our educational system as a standard is incalculable. Young people should be taught in the usual classroom way since the home has failed to perform its mission, of the origin of men, so that no mystery may attach to it. The youth should be taught to reverence, preserve and conserve their bodies and their health. If it is not taught to them in the schools by proper teachers it will be learned from the alleys and the dark places instead of the bright, light of science and wholesome teaching.

To spread the information properly before the students of the high school is none too early. To have sex hygiene thoroughly understood and properly appreciated by the student means the spreading of a shield about the youth that must necessarily work a moral benefit.

ANCIENT SKYSCRAPERS.

Roman Houses Were Tall and Flimsy, the Streets Narrow Lanes.

The tenement house is no new thing. So great was the number of such houses and so badly were they put up in ancient Rome that in 69 A. D. the Emperor Otho, who was then marching against Vitellius, found his way barred for twenty miles by the ruins of buildings that had been undermined by an inundation. The spontaneous collapse of tenement houses was so common an occurrence that little attention was paid to it.

The tenants of these houses have been described by a writer of the time as fearing to be buried or burned alive. Companies existed for the purpose of propping and sustaining houses.

In comparison with the tenements of most modern cities, those of Rome were excessively high. Martial alludes to a poor man, a neighbor, who had to mount 200 steps to reach his garret. That garret must have been perched nearly 100 feet above the level of the street.

It is possible that Martial exaggerated, but it is certain that Augustus, to make less frequent the occurrence of disasters, limited the height of new houses that opened upon the streets to about sixty-eight feet. As this was a remedial regulation and referred only to new houses fronting on the street, it follows that some houses must have exceeded that height.

This, moreover, was irrespective of the breadth of the street. In Berlin the medium width of the streets is twenty-two meters, and in Paris the narrowest streets are nearly eight meters wide, while the streets of Rome extended only five or six meters, and on these narrow streets the tall houses were built. Light and air must have had some difficulty in penetrating those narrow, walled-in passages.

The Surprise.

A man told his daughter that if she learned to cook he would give her a surprise. She learned the art, and he surprised her by discharging the servant girl.

Load For Load.

"Brown says he drinks because it drives away his troubles."
 "He exchanges one load for another, so to speak."—Boston Transcript.

Genius.

"Is he clever?"
 "Well, he can hang his own wallpaper and paint his own kitchen door."
 —Detroit Free Press.

Lupus Worst Form of Skin Diseases

Here is a Home Treatment that Overcomes even Worst Cases.



Blood Disorders are Banished by S. S. S.

A tiny pimple spreads to the side of the face and often covers the cheeks and bridge of the nose. It is very destructive to the glands of the skin. No external treatments will overcome it, as the cause of lupus is from impurities in the blood supply. The only known method of cure is to get the blood supply under the control of S. S. S., the famous blood specific. Its action is quite remarkable and has direct influence upon the network of small blood vessels and glands in the skin.

From the fact that S. S. S. is purely a botanical preparation, it is accepted by the weakest stomach and has great tonic influence in all the digestive organs. It is certainly a wonderful blood medicine, and is prepared direct from native materials gathered by the experts of the famous Swift Laboratory. Not one drop of minerals or drugs is used in its preparation. Ask for S. S. S. and insist upon having it. And if you desire skillful advice and counsel upon any matter concerning the blood and skin, write to the Medical Department, The Swift Specific Co., 183 Swift Laboratory, Atlanta, Ga. Do not allow some zealous clerk to larrup the atmosphere in eloquence over something "Just as Good" as S. S. S. Beware of all substitutes. S. S. S. is what you need.

For Cuts, Burns and Bruises. In every home should be a box of Bucklin's Arnica Salve, ready to apply in every case of burns, cuts, wounds or scalds. J. H. Polanco, Delvalle, Tex., R. No. 2, writes: "Bucklin's Arnica Salve saved my little girl's cut foot. No one believed it could be cured." The world's best salve. Only 25c. Recommended by all druggists.

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Time determines whether the policies under which a bank is operated are safe.

This bank has been in business twenty-six years.

It has grown steadily until it has become one of the strongest and most prosperous financial institutions in the West.

The soundness of its policies is attested by the long list of conservative business men who transact their business here; also by an earned surplus of \$1,000,000, the work of time and the result of conservative management.

This bank has facilities for taking care of more high grade business and offers its services to those who appreciate the best in banking.

La Grande National Bank

La Grande, Oregon

Capital, \$100,000.00 Surplus, \$130,000.00 Resources, 1,100,000.00

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