

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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ARE COLLEGES MAKING GOOD?

"Is the college making good?" asks Edward Bok, editor of the Ladies' Home Journal, in a recent issue of the Outlook. The answer, somewhat but not decisively negative in character, is based on the replies to letters sent to the 1912 graduates of six leading women's colleges and to the 1913 graduates of men's universities. These letters show a widespread ignorance of common English, punctuation and spelling.

The letters were graded by an English teacher as though they had been submitted by students. Of the 100 letters received from girl graduates only three secured a mark of from 90 to 100, 17 a mark of from 80 to 90 and 45 a mark of from 70 to 80. Of the total 35 were below the mark of 70. The men graduates did rather better. Of 449 letters 45 were graded from 90 to 100, 146 were in the next lower group and 199 at from 70 to 80. Below the 70 grade were 59 letters.

If the colleges and universities do not equip their graduates to write clear, correct business letters they are open to the suspicion that they are failing in other particulars. Some of those who secured diplomas this year told the author of the Outlook article that in their opinion they had not been taught to do a single thing well. Others complained that the professors were "study teachers, not men." Others said that instead of getting practical advice as to studies to fit their individual cases they received vague recommendation to take some arbitrary "group" of courses that may mean an almost total loss of time.

Of the value of knowledge there never has been any doubt on the part of the great body of American citizens. Probably, though, there always will be wide differences of opinion as to whether a more or less rigid course in an institution is at all superior to private research in studies chosen by the individual. The fact that so poor a showing is made on so fundamental a subject as the English language is, however, not so much an indictment of

university education in general as of the methods which seem to prevail just now.

GOVERNMENT AND BLIGHT.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 28.—The department of agriculture has received notice by telegraph from citizens in the state of Washington that certain people are spreading the idea that the pear blight is not a bacterial disease, and that the department's recommendation that pear blight can be dealt with by cutting out the diseased portions of trees is not an effective measure.

In the fear that these unscientific opinions may stop orchardists from following the highly successful practical measures recommended by the federal specialists, and thus lose their own orchards and spread the disease among neighboring orchards, the department has issued the following special statement:

"That pear blight is a bacterial disease of the pear tree is not open to question. The scientists have clearly established the existence of these bacteria by means of microscopic examination, and have reproduced the disease by inoculating fruit and trees with them. The germ is the Bacillus amylovorus. It is an oval-shaped body, and is 1.18000 of an inch long and 1.25000 of an inch across, and can be clearly seen with a high power microscope. Moreover, the scientists have raised these bacteria in their laboratories and have used them a larger number of times in experiments to infect healthy trees and fruit. Wherever this bacillus has been introduced into a healthy tree or fruit the pear blight has followed. The scientists also have proved that the pear blight can be communicated from the blossoms of an affected tree to healthy trees by bees and other insects, and that the blight that is held over through the winter can be communicated to healthy portions of the same tree or to other trees by flies or other insects.

Pear blight differs radically from the peach yellows in the way it affects a tree. The peach yellows does not show itself outwardly in a tree until the entire tree is affected and cannot be saved. The pear blight, on the other hand, has a purely local effect and attacks certain blossoms, twigs, branches, or a section of the bark, and leaves the rest of the tree uninjured except where girdling has occurred.

In thousands of orchards, and in the case of hundreds of thousands of pear trees, especially in California and Oregon, particularly in the Medford district, it has been proven that by cutting out the portion of the tree affected by the pear blight and washing the cut with a solution of one part of corrosive sublimate (a highly poisonous substance) to 1,000 parts of water, orchardists can save most of the individual trees and prevent the spread of the disease throughout their orchards. It therefore strongly urges orchardists in districts affected by the pear blight to continue to cut out affected portions of the trees and wash the cuts with this mixture. In cutting they should wash their tools in this disinfectant, so that the tool itself cannot communicate the bacteria to healthy parts of the trees. Especially

orchardists are strongly advised to go over their orchards very carefully in the fall and cut out all cases of hold over blight in order to prevent the spread of infection in diseased trees or the communication of infection to other trees in the blossoming period.

In addition to the cutting out and disinfecting process, the department advises orchardists to take steps to keep their trees healthy and strong, but not overvigorous, so as to be highly resistant to pear blight. It warns orchardists to be careful in the use of manure and fertilizers around fruit trees, as anything which increases the rate of growth of the tree hastens the spread of the localized infection.

The department has thoroughly tested all known or suggested measures for coping with this blight. It has found the cutting out and washing with the solution the one reliable and practical measure, and recommends it as a fully tested and successful remedy.

This cutting out method will not save all trees, nor is it effective with certain varieties of pear trees which are particularly subject to the ravages of the pear blight. It has, however, saved the pear industry of California and portions of Oregon."

LINED FACES.

They Are Often Due to Thoughtless Childish Grimaces.

The wrinkles on many middle aged faces could be traced to establish grimaces. Every one bears much of smiling eyes. Probably they owe much of their popularity to the fact that they do not produce wrinkles. The smile which creases the face into dozens of fine lines does produce wrinkles. Grimaces are in the same class with this face lining smile. They should be discouraged.

Many children, too, perform little tricks with various parts of the body which result in awkward or ungraceful habits which are later hard to overcome. For instance, the double jointed child who can bend his thumbs and fingers in all directions often does so, to the admiring wonder of his playmates, until his knuckles are enlarged and misshapen.

The small boy that can swing from his arms is sometimes cheered, even by his elders, into dislocating a shoulder. The little girl whose parents smile at her when she walks pigeon toed sometimes does so until she has formed a habit of walking with her toes turned in.

Far be it from any one to discourage childish play. Gymnastics and all sorts of bodily exercise, if properly directed, lead to agility and strength. But children should be discouraged from indulging in grimaces and "tricks" which will in time distort their features and bodies.

Wrinkles just beginning to form are comparatively easily conquered, and this good reason should send every woman off to her cream jar as soon as they begin to appear. For one reason or another they are ignored; powder and liquids leaving a deposit on the skin will conceal them for a time, but they are there, nevertheless, and some day they cannot be hidden, no matter how you cream and powder, and then, tearfully, a woman takes her wrinkles seriously and admits her years of willful neglect.

A very simple cream for plumping the skin contains lanolin, two ounces; cocoa butter, two ounces; sweet almond oil, two ounces. To this may be added a few drops of any favorite perfume. An excellent emollient cream for flesh making used on the arms as well as the neck is prepared in the following manner: Fresh lard, one gram; alcohol (90 per cent), twenty grams; essence of rosemary, eleven drops; essence of bergamot, eleven drops.

Rub the hands and wrists with a liberal amount of olive oil to which has been added a few drops of benzoin. This not only acts as a food, but as a whitener as well. A pair of loose gloves from which the finger tips have been cut worn at night will aid.

Crescents on the Nails.

The little white crescents at the base of the finger nails can often be developed by daily soaking the fingers in warm, soapy water and gently pressing the soft cuticle with an orange wood stick. Trim off any rough particles of cuticle, but do not cut any oftener than is really necessary. By daily care as directed above the growth of the cuticle will be slow. A little grease rubbed on the nails at night will also help to keep the cuticle from splitting.

Use For Old Jabots.

Half worn plated jabots of lace or lace and net may be put to excellent use by ripping, cleaning and pressing if necessary and inverting for chemisettes on the low cut frock. They may also be used to manufacture numerous odd collars and cuffs, of which there cannot be too many in this year's wardrobes.

INSECT STINGS.

How to Treat Them in Order to Alleviate Their Pain.

Insect stings are among the mishaps which befall the seeker for summer pleasure. Even mosquito bites sometimes prove annoying. If they are treated with applications of ammonia before they are scratched much of the unpleasant sting and burning will leave them. If they have been scratched so that the skin is broken the ammonia will burn perhaps more severely than the bite does. Salt and water is another good remedy for mosquito bites.

Stings and bites of other insects are even more uncomfortable to bear than those of mosquitoes, but are seldom dangerous. Unless they are in the throat or mouth they do not need the attention of a physician.

If, however, a bee has concealed himself in a peach or other fruit and with a bite of the fruit reaches the throat, there to stop and apply his sting, it is well to call a physician. Such a sting sometimes produces painful and troublesome swelling. Gargle with water and salt or boracic acid until the physician comes.

The treatment of bee and wasp stings is similar. The bee leaves his sting in the skin; the wasp takes it with him. So the first thing to do to counteract a bee sting is to press out the sting with a watch key if this is possible. Salt, soda, ammonia or any other alkali should be sopped on the stung surface frequently until the stinging sensation has stopped.

The old method of applying wet earth to a bee sting brings relief to the sufferer, and if nothing else is at hand mud should be applied. But, considering the uses to which soda or borax can be put on a summer's day, a little of it might be carried on every tramping or touring trip. It is useful to dissolve in water and apply to sunburned skin, to use for stings, to use as an antiseptic wash for bruises and cuts, and, moreover, it helps soothe the skin irritated by poison ivy.

A clean sunny yellow is one of the best colors in a new kitchen.

Diarrhoea Quickly Cured.

"I was taken with diarrhoea and Mr. Yorks, the merchant here, persuaded me to try a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. After taking one dose of it I was cured. It also cured others

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that I gave it to," writes M. E. Gehart, Oriole Pa. That is not at all unusual. An ordinary attack of diarrhoea can almost invariably be cured by one or two doses of this remedy. For sale by all dealers.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED STREET IMPROVEMENT.

To whom it may concern: You are hereby notified that the commissioners appointed by the common council, of the city of La Grande, Oregon, to make an examination of the property upon which assessments are to be levied to pay the costs and expenses of the street improvement hereinafter described, as to the valuation and extent, if any of the benefits to be derived by said property by reason of said improvement, have made their report in writing to said council, which report has been received by said council, and is on file in the office of the recorder of said city, and is open for your inspection. That it is the intention of said council to levy a special assessment against all the property hereinafter described for the purpose of paying the costs and expenses of improving Spring avenue from the Southwest property line of Washington avenue to the west curb line of Alder street by laying thereon hard surface pavement and constructing concrete curbs and drainage according to the plans and specifications therefor heretofore adopted by said council and on file in the office of the recorder of said city.

That the real property included in and the boundaries of the district benefitted and affected by said proposed improvement are as follows:

Beginning at a point 120 feet west of the west property line of Alder street, said point being due west of the center of Block 11, Romig's addition to the city of La Grande, Oregon; and running thence east through the center of Blocks 11, 8, 5 and 2 to Romig's addition to the city of La Grande, Oregon and through the center of Blocks 13 and 10, Grandy's addition to the City of La Grande, Oregon and continuing on the same line

through the unsubdivided property lying between the west property line of Fourth street and the east property line of said Block 10, Grandy's addition to the city of La Grande, Oregon; thence south along the center line of Fourth street to a point 120 feet north from the north property line of Spring avenue; thence east through blocks 108, 102 and 101, Chaplain's addition to the city of La Grande, Oregon, to the center line of Washington avenue; thence south along the center line of Washington avenue to the center line of Seventh street, hence south along the center line of Seventh street to a point opposite the center of block 49, Chaplain's addition to the city of La Grande, Oregon; thence west through the centers of Blocks 99, 98 and 97, Chaplain's addition to the city of La Grande, Oregon and continuing west on the same line across the unsubdivided property lying between the west property line of Fourth street and the east property line of block 11, Grandy's addition to the city of La Grande, Oregon and continuing west on the same line through blocks 11 and 12, Grandy's addition to the city of La Grande, Oregon and through the centers of blocks 3, 4, 9, and 10 Romig's addition to the city of La Grande, Oregon to a point west 120 feet from the west property line of Alder street; thence north to the place of beginning, all in the city of La Grande, Oregon, and the estimated cost of said proposed improvement is \$31,000.00. You will further take notice that said city council will meet at the council chamber in the city building of said city on the 10th day of September, 1913, at eight o'clock p. m., of said day to consider making said proposed levy and will then and there grant a hearing to any and all persons feeling aggrieved against, or on account of, said proposed assessment.

Dated at La Grande, Oregon this 28th day of August, 1913.

CITY COUNCIL OF LA GRANDE, OREGON.

By Lee Warnick, Recorder of the City of La Grande, Oregon.

Adv. 8-29 10t.

The Test of Time

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 \$130,000.00, the work of time and the result of conservative management.

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La Grande National Bank
La Grande, Oregon

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

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