

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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CHILD BETTERMENT.

It must be gratifying to all persons who were and are interested in the parent teachers movement, that the enthusiasms ran so high, and that the three organizations got off on the right foot. But the reforms which this movement contemplates will not come through one outburst of patriotic feeling. It should be remembered that it takes three generations to make a gentleman as the southerners say and La Grande people should not hope to make angels of boys and girls of their children in a week and then rest on their oars. That is not the object of this movement and parents and teachers should formulate some plan that will from the very start take in several years.

Nor is this movement for one or two persons who have the welfare of children at heart. Many times all of the committee work devolves upon two or four shoulders and the rest of the community reads of the account of their operations and contents itself with criticism. That should never come up to plague this movement in this city.

The Observer has taken a keen interest in this great betterment plan and will keep the great subject before the mind of the public in an endeavor to foster so worthy a cause. The child's welfare is easily the greatest movement to which men and women can devote their time and talents. And for this reason, people will in the course of the next ten or twenty years, if this movement continues to grow, begin to see its real value.

FIRST YEAR OF WILSON

(Continued from Page 1.)

questions, often hostile, regarding politics, and has answered ever more frankly than might have been expected; the only limitation being the ancient prohibition that the president must never be quoted directly.

That time honored institution, the New Year's reception, where Mike, Tom, and Jerry, their wives and their friends, flock to the White House and squeeze the president's hand while he stands like a mannikin in a death dealing draught and tries to look as though he enjoyed it all, also went by the boards. The reason given this year was that the president was sick and needed a rest. Next year there will be an equally good excuse. And dame rumor whispers that certain of the other fixed receptions along similar lines are perilously near the discard.

The first democratic president since Cleveland had the Mexican situation bequeathed him by his predecessor, Taft. He still has that problem on his hands, though he adopted unique measures to solve it, one of them being the unprecedented step of sending to Mexico City a special envoy, John Lind, to figure out ways and means.

The democratic administration bumped into the Japanese question early in the summer, and that, too, is still pending. Likewise the Panama tolls controversy with Great Britain and the demands of Colombia for settlement of claims arising out of the cession of Panama.

The McReynolds-Wilson-Caminetti incident popped up to embarrass the dem-

ocratic officials. President Wilson issued statements backing up his cabinet officers in their protestations that there had been no attempt to sidetrack the "white slave" trials because of Commissioner of Immigration Caminetti's influence here.

Twice during the past year the president sidestepped the woman suffrage question—declaring both times that as leader of the party, he could not initiate legislation unless the party platform specifically so declared.

During the year the thirteenth white house bride went into history. Miss Jessie Wilson married Francis Bowes Sayre late in November.

A Correction.

The official scribe of the C. O. P. E. in reporting the banquet and contest held in the federal building Feb. 23, made some errors which have caused much worry among the postoffice force, and desires to correct them. Phil Robbins should have been given credit for making the best record, instead of Ed. Payton and Mr. Bragg's percentage should have read 92 instead of 90. While the name of Will Landrum was erroneously omitted, he having won the consolation prize with a percentage of 91. It is hoped that these corrections will pacify the troubled minds of the above mentioned individuals.

Only a Misunderstanding.

Several years ago in a well known wholesale house in a big manufacturing town an old bachelor bookkeeper, who had been many years with the firm, suddenly announced that he was to be married.

The partners gave him a week's holiday, and his fellow clerks raised a little purse and presented it to pay the expenses of his wedding trip.

A couple of days after the wedding one of the members of the firm went down to a seaside resort, and there, lounging about the parade and apparently enjoying himself immensely, he saw his recently married old bookkeeper, but alone.

"Where's your wife?" asked the principal.

"She's at home," was the reply.

"But I thought you had money given you for a wedding trip?"

"So I had," was the reply, "but I didn't understand that it was intended to include her."—Pearson's Weekly.

Rose to the Occasion.

"Stuffy" Davis, who rose from dramatic critic to being a circus press agent and then descended to writing fiction, came into a Broadway hotel with four days' growth of whiskers on his cheeks.

"Why don't you shave?" a friend at the next table called out.

"I would if I had a razor," Stuffy retorted.

The friend produced a safety razor from his pocket and sent it over by a waiter.

"Bring me a charlotte russe," directed the unshaved Davis, and shaved right there.—New York World.

Pretty Feeble.

A dapper little drummer was compelled by circumstances to pass the night in a village hotel in that part of Illinois popularly called "Egypt." At breakfast he ordered soft boiled eggs. The waitress deposited two in the shell before him. Looking up, the drummer said, "Please break the eggs in a



"YOU'D BETTER GO TO A HOSPITAL."

glass." With a withering look of scorn the buxom waitress replied: "Well, good gracious! If you can't break two soft boiled eggs in a glass you'd better go to a hospital."—National Food Magazine.

Sorry He Interrupted.

During the last general elections in Canada Rev. J. J. McGaskill vigorously upheld the reciprocity pact in the province of New Brunswick. At a meeting in Queen's county he was discussing the effect of the agreement on the price of various commodities. "What about hay?" shouted an opponent. "I'm discussing human food now," retorted the speaker, "but I'll come to your specialty in a moment!"

RUDD FINDS TRIP PAID

MANY INTERESTING LESSONS LEARNED AT POCATELLO.

Local Secretary Studies Every Angle of Operation and Maintenance.

John H. Rudd, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A., has returned from a ten days trip of inspection and study of the Y. M. C. A. work and building in southern Idaho. In an interview this morning Mr. Rudd had the following to say in regard to this trip:

"First of all, let me tell you that while there are some good citizens in Southern Idaho, La Grande is good enough for me. I left here Monday evening, Feb. 16th, arriving in Pocatello about noon of the next day. I heard of the big work being done by the Pocatello Y. M. C. A. and was therefore looking for big things but what I saw passed my expectation. With a building about the same size as ours will be, they have a membership of 1500. The building is crowded with men all of the time. Plans are being considered to relieve this congested condition. While there, it was my privilege to spend some time in every department, thus getting practical pointers from experience, in both construction and operation. The time I spent with general secretary, associate secretary, social secretary, physical director, office secretary, dormitory man, night man and janitor, I am sure gave me instruction that will help us, both in building and in managing the building when completed.

"One of the most interesting sessions was the one with A. B. Richardson, general secretary. The result of this conference is embodied in a letter which is of greatest interest to our building committee. However, the general public, board of directors, building committee and architect, Milton S. Block, should be delighted at this paragraph taken from his letter: 'I do not recall that I have ever been permitted to see plans on first draft, that seem to answer the requirements so well for the promotion of our work as your plans do.' Besides being secretary of the railroad Y. M. C. A. having the fourth largest membership in the United States, Mr. Richardson is very closely affiliated with the international committee, so it seems that this opinion of our plans is of great value.

"It was my good fortune several years ago to be connected with the maintenance department of the Rock Island system, so I enjoyed immensely a meeting of the Safety First committee held in the association building. My eyes were opened to the fact that these employees of the O. S. L. are earnestly working for the protection of the lives of the traveling public and of their fellow workers.

"Sunday was a big day in the building. At 4 o'clock a large group of men gathered in the social room to listen to a splendid address by Judge Alfred Budge. At 5 o'clock a 15 cent lunch was served, followed by a very interesting discussion of Old Testament characters by Mr. Slider, city school superintendent. At 7:30 a large crowd of men went en masse to the Congregational church. Nine o'clock brought a large group back to the social room for an hour of singing. It was all great.

"At a later date I shall hand to you for publication a letter given to me by Mr. Stall, commercial club secretary, who could not say too much for the Y. M. C. A. Also at a later date I want to tell you of my few hours' stay at Payette. The association at Payette, which was destroyed by fire on January 26, is now being rebuilt.

"From every standpoint my trip was worth while and I should like to assure the people of La Grande that it is my conviction that our local Y. M. C. A. has a great future ahead."

Eggs for Hatching.

R. I. Reds, \$1.50 for 15 or \$8.00 per 100, my best stock.

Indian Runner ducks, \$1.50 per setting. Cockerels and laying hens.

Phone or call, Chas. E. Perry.

Read the advertisements too.

RECKLESS RAIL-ROADING.

They Kicked on the Speed and Baggage Smashing in 1846.

A correspondent, Professor Edward L. Morse of Salem, sends the following extract from a letter written by Louis Agassiz to his mother. The letter is dated Boston, December, 1846:

"Leaving Boston the 16th of October. I went by railroad to New Haven, passing through Springfield. The rapidity of the locomotion is frightful to those who are unused to it, but you adapt yourself to the speed and soon become, like all the rest of the world, impatient of the slightest delay. I well understand that an antipathy for this mode of travel is possible. There is something infernal in the irresistible power of steam, carrying such heavy masses along with the swiftness of lightning.

"The habits growing out of continued contact with railroads and the influence they exert on a portion of the community are far from agreeable until one is familiar with them. You would cry out in dismay did you see your baggage—dumplings, like logs of wood—trunks, chests, traveling bags, hat boxes—all in the same mill, and if here and there something goes to pieces no one is astonished. Never mind! We go first—we gain time. That is the essential thing."

And this was on the Boston and Albany! And there was baggage smashing in 1846!—Boston Herald.

TIME TO CURTAIL STUDY.

Check Brain Work When the Child is Growing Rapidly.

As soon as a child begins to grow rapidly all intellectual exertion should be checked. Such is the theory which Dr. C. Mercier, the famous English authority on children, expresses in an article in the London Lancet. Especially when there is any family tendency to nervous or mental disorder, rapidly growing children should be withdrawn from school altogether until the period of rapid growth is over.

Mercier does not think that intellectual work at high pressure is harmful to either boys or girls as long as food, sleep and bodily exercise are sufficient, but he is sure that pressure of intellectual work in those who are growing rapidly should never be permitted, and if growth be proceeding very rapidly all intellectual work should be put aside.

Dr. Mercier insists that it is scarcely possible to give growing children too much to eat, and it should always be borne in mind that the carbohydrates—starch, sugar and fat—are mainly fuel that is burned up in producing muscular movement and that the proteins are the main elements in the formation of tissue. Consequently it is a mistake to restrict the meat ration of children.

Nietzsche Hated the Germans.

"Nietzsche's personal charm of manner," said Dr. Brandes, the Danish critic in a recent lecture, "was in strong contrast to the violence with which he attacked established institutions in his writings. His pet aversion was the Germans, and in his later books the word Teutonic stood for him for all that was evil. To dine with Germans, he said, gave him indigestion!"

"This antipathy to his countrymen is closely paralleled in Byron's antipathy to Englishmen, Stendahl's to the French and Heine's to the Germans. It arose in Nietzsche's case from a disgust of humanity—a disgust which was best expressed by what the Greeks called misanthropy."—London Globe.

She Makes Violins.

Working quietly in a sunny apartment in Brooklyn, the only woman maker of violins in this country, if not in the world, piles her trade. She came by her talent naturally, for her father was a famous maker of violins in Austria in his day, and he imparted the secret of his art to his daughter. The young woman fashions the delicate instruments with the master's touch and then, when all is completed, applies the coat of varnish, that process which makes or mars the finest instruments. The formula of the varnish is a secret given to her by her father.—New York Tribune.

French Congo.

The territory formerly known as the French Congo and now designated as French Equatorial Africa comprises more than 900,000 square miles and contains approximately 7,000,000 inhabitants. The country is divided into three colonies: Gabon, capital at Libreville; Moyen (or middle) Congo, capital at Brazzaville; Ubangi-Chari, capital at Fort de Fossil, and the territory of Tchad.

Togoland.

Togoland, a German West African colony, lies between Dahomey on the east and the Gold Coast colony on the west, the Atlantic ocean being the southern boundary. It has an area of 33,059 square miles and a population of more than 1,500,000.

Read the advertisements too.



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