

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner.

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COLLEGE AND BRAIN GROWTH.

When the American Psychological society meets in Chicago at the end of this month, Dr. Karl T. Waugh will place before it some interesting information on colleges. Dr. Waugh, who is at the head of the Beloit college department of psychology, has been collecting statistics over a period of years, and these go to show that:

The student who thinks the quickest is highest in general class standing. The student who is least "nervous" is lowest in class standing.

The student who has a great amount of ingenuity (in solving puzzles,) etc ranks high in learning.

The student who has the best memory ranks among the highest in general class standing.

And more than that, Dr. Waugh claims that college training for three years will make these changes:

Increase amount of information 44.7 per cent.

Increase general mental standing of the classes 19 per cent.

Increase speed in learning 11 per cent.

Increase ability to learn 4.2 per cent.

Increase ability to associate ideas 2 per cent.

This is the best and strongest argument advanced for the college in many days, and it will be interesting to watch what the American Psychological society does with the facts and figures when Dr. Waugh presents them.

RE-MAKING OUR MERCHANT MARINE.

While plans for the revival of the American merchant marine are widely discussed, reports collected from the country's shipbuilding plants show that the revival is already under way.

These reports reveal that at the present time there are under construction in American ship yards more than one hundred and fifty ocean going merchant vessels, with a total tonnage exceeding one-fourth of the entire American built ocean tonnage which existed at the beginning of the war in Europe.

Every yard ship is jammed with construction work and it is estimated that it will take eighteen months to fill the orders already on hand. It was stated by the heads of two of the largest ship building concerns that all their work was for Americans, and that none of the merchant ships was being built for foreign countries for use after the war. The only marine work being done in America for foreign powers is the construction of motor boat patrols for England and Russia and submarines. At the present time the tonnage of American built ocean going ships is about 1,750,000. There are under construction now more than 500,000 tons in ships which is more than was ever before in process of being built at any time in the history of the country and the ships are better and larger than have ever been ordered in the past.

The successful advertiser ignores his rival. For the suffragists to continuously introduce "man" into every argument may be funny but it may also be fatal. If they would dwell more on their claims of their fitness for the vote and their need of it as human beings, and less on the masculine vote, they might travel considerably faster.

The very modest candidate for office tells the public that the people require his services, not that he is after the salary.

The telegraph companies will have Henry Ford to thank if they declare an extra dividend.

Most of us get what we deserve, but few of us are able to recognize it.

A woman is always perfectly sure she is in the right until it comes to backing her opinion with real money.

The only gun that Col. Bryan knows how to use is located below his nose. It is not hammerless, either.

Germany reports a serious decline in the birth rate. Among the other sins this war has to answer for is taking the pop out of population.

The rabbit's foot may keep off rheumatism, but it has never been known to bring prosperity unless accompanied by the balance of the animal.

Italy admits that she went into the war for what there was in it for her. She is finding out and may pay dearly for all she gets when it is over.

A train wreck in Europe these days gets about three lines back among the medicine ads.

More trouble in sight. Speaker Champ Clark says congress will soon sit all the time.

By way of paradox, the liveliest laws are the ones that are executed of tenest.

STRIFE IN THE CABINET.

Washington Had Troubles of His Own in His Official Family.

To represent the factions fairly, Washington chose for his cabinet four men who could not have differed more in character had he summoned them from the ends of the earth.

For secretary of state he chose Jefferson, the ardent theorist who had done his country the service of formulating the Declaration of Independence and was perhaps better known abroad than any American save the aged Franklin. For secretary of the treasury he called to him the phenomenal Hamilton, with the frame of a lad and the intellect of a giant, to whom it was given to perform miracles with an empty exchequer. The secretary of war was General Knox, large and showy, but, despite his pompous speech and grandly flourishing cane, a man of experience not only in battle, but in administering this same office under the Continental congress. The attorney general was Edmund Randolph, who proved of weaker moral fiber than the others.

Jefferson was the strong opposing personality of the administration. He had little patience with General Knox, whom he called "a man of parade," and he and Hamilton quarreled almost daily upon every conceivable topic, for Hamilton, Federalist to the core by instinct and conviction, became an inevitably spokesman for the party in power.

Even Washington could not preserve harmony in such a cabinet, and before the end of his first term both Hamilton and Jefferson resigned. Afterward the president had still greater difficulty with his council. His critics taunted him with being able to get only second rate men to fill their places, and Vice President Adams asserted that it was this, not high devotion to principle, that caused him to refuse a third term. But Adams was neither generous nor always just in his estimate of others.—Helen Nicolay in Century Magazine.

BLACK BIRCH TREES.

The Source From Which We Get That Wintergreen Flavor.

Chewing gum and candy makers would miss this tree if it ever happened to disappear. It furnishes "that wintergreen flavor." Besides a flavoring for candy, it is used by chemists to hide certain nasty tastes in medicines they give to children.

From the sap of the tree is brewed the drink called birch beer; so, you see, this tree is a confection shop in itself and deserves a place in that fairyland forest with the sugar plum tree and the others. Its name is black birch.

It has another name, cherry birch, named thus because the smooth bark looks like the bark of the cherry tree: it is dark brown in color and comes off in layers. Beneath this layer is the inner bark, which contains the flavor.

An old black birch tree has a rough bark covering its trunk, but the smooth bark always covers the limbs. If you want to be sure of its identity break off a twig and chew it. You'll never mistake the flavor.

Even the leaves, which are ovate and have prominent veins, bear a spicy flavor. Early in the spring, before the leaves appear, the tree is covered with yellowish catkins. About June the fruit appears in the shape of cones. When these cones are ripe they separate into tiny nuts with narrow wings and scatter to the four winds.

Birch distilleries are still more or less common in mountain regions where the tree is plentiful. The wintergreen oil obtained from the bark is valuable. The wood is hard and is sometimes used for furniture.—Philadelphia North American.

Pirot Famous For Carpets.

Pirot is the center of an important Serbian industry. Pirot carpets, blue and red, are to be found in every Serbian home and have gained fame beyond the Balkans. They nearly all are made in private houses, entirely by hand, often without even a shuttle, the workers using no patterns, but artistic instinct producing harmonious results. The art has been acquired no doubt from the Turks, who learned it from the Persians, but Pirot carpets have qualities of their own. Colors and materials are so strong that it is almost impossible to wear them out.—London Chronicle.

Ultra Practical.

"I notice," said a husband who was reading a lengthy letter which his wife had written and had handed to him for perusal, "that you have made a stupid mistake. You have written 'mirage' instead of 'marriage'." "Either will do," replied the lady. "They both signify an illusion."

Expressive.

Little Elsie entered the parlor one morning, and her quick eye discovered that the slip coverings had been removed from the furniture. "Look, mamma!" she exclaimed. "Some one has taken the nighties off the chairs."—New York Globe.

Incomparable Our Boy's Suits We Offer at \$3.75



Sold before at regular \$5.00. Only the best make of boys' clothing at West's. "Best Ever" brand, and every suit reduced. Boys' \$5.00 Suits, now . . . \$3.75 Boys' \$7.50 Suits, now . . . \$5.70 Boys' \$8.00 Suits, now . . . \$6.00 Boys' \$9.00 Suits, now . . . \$6.75

"Buy the Lad a Fine, New, Warm Overcoat at a Very Small Price"

Entire New Stock Selling at 1/2 Price Boys' \$4.00 Overcoats, now . . . \$2.00 Boys' \$6.00 Overcoats, now . . . \$3.00 Boys' \$5.00 Overcoats, now . . . \$2.50 Boys' \$6.50 Overcoats, now . . . \$3.25

Boy's Furnishings at a Big Saving

Boys' 50c Caps with fur ear flaps 40c Boys' two-piece fleece underwear per garment 19c Boys' 25c Blouses 20c Small boys' Buster Brown Suits, values to \$5.00, choice . . . \$1.49 Boys' 50c Blouse (the new kind) at 40c Boys' \$1.25 Felt Hats, choice. . . 69c Boys' \$1.25 Wool Sweaters at. . . 95c

Every Article in the Store Reduced WEST'S 18th ANNUAL January Clearance Sale



The Sculptor's Art.

Bowls—Yes, I know I'm ugly, but there is one great consolation. Biggs—What is that? Bowls—if ever I should become great and the people should resolve to erect a statue to my memory they won't be able to make me out any uglier than I am.—London Telegraph.

Preparedness on the Farm.

To my way of thinking, that's the best thing about farm work—you've got to be prepared for all manner of emergencies that you can't possibly prepare for. Maybe that sounds like an absurdity, but it isn't.—William R. Lighton in "Happy Hollow Farm."

Girls in Korea.

Girls in Korea have no names or what would be considered names in the western world. There are no Marys or Mabels or Ruths. The little ones are given pet names at their birth, and these they bear until they are ten years old, after which they are no longer used. After her tenth birthday the young woman is known as "Mr. Kim's daughter" or "Mr. Kim's girl baby." The latter title is considered the more honorable.

If there are several daughters in the family they are distinguished by such words as "big" (for the eldest), "second," "third," "fourth," etc. After marriage they are known by their husband's name and title, with the word "house" affixed. They may also be distinguished by the name of the place from which they came when marrying, as "Mrs. of the House of Kim the young lady who came from Kou, Jo."

LA GRANDE NOT SO WILD.

Chivalric Act at Sleigh-Ride Party Interests Eastern Lady.

La Grande, Jan. 7.—(To the Editor)—I am a stranger in your city, having stopped off for the day on our trip to Portland, thence to California. I have always lived in Boston and with most Easterners, thought of the west as being a wild country with timber and prairie and large herds of cattle; then, too, with Indians and cowboys.

After dinner my companion and I left our hotel on a sight-seeing trip. When a few squares from our hotel we heard the jingles of bells. It was a large sleigh drawn by four horses and there were perhaps 20 or more ladies in the sleigh. They stopped for two ladies to join the party. One of these, after several attempts, failed to get in the box as the sides were too high. There were several others standing on the walk besides my companion and myself. A gentleman went to the lady's assistance, and with one knee on the snow bade the lady step on the other knee, thus making a step by which to get over the sleigh box.

I am now convinced that there are other than Indians and cowboys in the great west.

MISS M. C. L.

PECULIARITIES OF WAR.

By Alice Rohe

Rome, Dec. 26.—(By Mail)—Italy's boys in the trenches had a royal Christmas. Best of all their Christmas gifts was Christmas dinner in steam-heated trenches. With their modern trench improvements they had the best of it, even some of the girls

they left behind them. For Sunny Italy has the coldest interiors and the poorest heating facilities in all the world. In the trenches however, up where the snow is heavy and the rains are freezing in the mountains, the steam heated trenches are driving away the terrors of a winter campaign.

The sending of gifts to soldiers at the front was one of the most touching of all Christmas activities. Everyone wanted to send something. A poorly clad woman entered one of the stations where special boxes of sweets, ready for sending to soldiers, were on sale. She had only sixteen soldi. The boxes were one franc fifty.

"I'll buy something," she said. "I've no one at the front now. My boy's fallen at Col di Lana but I want to send some little comfort to some other mother's boy." She bought a small package of sweets for sixteen cents and some mother's boy must have felt a different quality in that dearly purchased remembrance.

The order that chocolate and sweets could not be sent privately to soldiers

at the front caused such a wall that parliament decided to change the order. The order had been given because of the fear that poisoned sweets from suspicious and concealed quarters might reach the soldiers. Enough evidence had come to the ears of the authorities to warrant this action. "It was this same fear that resulted in the public cigar and cigarette collection stations being abandoned. The opportunity for enemies sending poisoned cigars or cigarettes offered too strong a temptation to evil minds.

The discovery of poisoned tobacco brought the decisive order. Thousands of cigars were destroyed and the order was that thenceforth only money would be accepted to buy cigars from government supply stores.

At Christmas time the bars were drawn for chocolate and sweets. In the face of Christmas sentiment, voiced by mothers and sweethearts, wives and children, law and precaution stepped aside. And the rush of bundles of candy and chocolate, of tobacco and all sorts of presents, has appalled the postal clerks.

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Model Drug Store Model Service CALL MAIN 40—OUR DRUG STORE AT YOUR FRONT DOOR IN TWO MINUTES. Ours is a distinctive and attractive looking store, and the service is just as distinctive. It is a store designed to do best all that drug stores do, and do it at no greater cost than the cheapest store will ask. You ought to know this drug store. You will like it and be more than pleased with the service it provides. La Grande Pharmacy A. NEWLIN, Manager West-Jacobson Building—Opposite Bohnenkamps Hardware. Main 40 Quick Delivery