

THE OBSERVER

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PERFECT BODIES, FOR MEN AND AUTOS.

The automobile shows have started. Those who visit one or more of these shows will note the beautiful bodies that now enclose the motors. There is nothing unnecessary; every part is of some use and expresses that use in its appearance.

It has been less than a quarter of a century since the first automobile appeared. Each annual reincarnation of the machine has brought more perfect co-ordination of parts, more unity and simplicity and resultant beauty of lines.

Then consider the bodies of men and women. They are not perfect, even now, though the perfect model of the human body was not only in mind, but was manifested by the Greeks thousands of years ago.

Suppose that we who have directed the evolution of the automobile should turn to the improvement of human bodies. We should think and teach nothing but truth and faith, knowing that the material is but the expression of the mental.

the baby came we should assure him the continuation of such care. The child we would make strong and graceful with games and dances. When the youth and maiden were passing into manhood and womanhood, we should teach them the sacred mysteries of life that should keep themselves strong and pure to fit mothers and fathers in their turn.

Will we ever come to this? Or is this a dream too idealistic to be realized? Men dreamed of making the automobile perfect and their dreams were looked upon as idealistic. Yet they have produced the perfect automobile.

RURAL CHURCHES.

As a result of the first state wide scientific inquiry into country church conditions ever made in the United States, which is now being completed by an Ohio State association, working under the supervision of the Commission on Church and Country Life, some rather startling facts are brought to public attention.

Recently a conference was held at Columbus, Ohio, attended by a number of clergymen from all over, at which some of the facts gleaned in the Ohio inquiry were presented and it was determined that rural church surveys be started in all of the states, these surveys to be used as a basis for a future extension campaign for church and country life improvement.

The national committee in charge of the movement, a subsidiary body of the Federal Council of Churches, would extend the functions of the rural churches to include some of these interests; Federation of several churches in each community, good roads, public health, better farming with special stress on agricultural college extension work, co-operation among farmers for selling, buying and producing, consolidated schools, public recreation and establishment of social and recreational centers at churches.

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and needs of a community, without sacrificing purely religious work. There has been much interest of late in a movement to establish social centers in the rural schools.

The college aims to take the place of the much vaunted, but now less trusted, "school of experience." It wants to turn out men fitted, after a little knocking about, to become business leaders and captains of industry, just as it turns out in other departments students fitted to teach Latin or analyze ores or build a sky scraper or survey a railroad.

UPHEAVAL IN FAIR BOARD REGRETTED.

The recent upheaval in the state fair board, followed by the resignation of N. K. West of La Grande and J. H. Booth of Roseburg, is sincerely regretted by all Oregonians who take a pride in the annual exposition, and most every citizen takes such a pride.

It is easy to recall the delicate condition that the state fair was once in; when seemingly nothing was going to save it from the grave of perpetual slumber that practically every county fair falls into. N. K. West was appointed on the board and the work of resuscitating the state child was begun.

This revivification was not brought about by political methods. All who are personally acquainted with N. K. West know that he does not play politics. But he possesses a heart for good live stock, good farming and all that goes to make a state fair. He has given part of his time and his energy that the state might benefit and we repeat that it is a matter of regret to Eastern Oregon that the battle between the secretary of the fair and the governor reached such a point that it disrupted the organization and will cause the state fair to be placed in the hands of men who must necessarily undergo training in order to have the experience possessed by both Mr. West and Mr. Booth.

PRACTICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION.

It can't be charged much longer that the colleges are "academic and impractical." Their present tendency is in the other direction. Columbia university, the largest institution of higher learning in the world, has just decided to open a school for business. Not at all a "business college" or of the usual type, but a sort of graduate school for business training, open only to students who have completed two years of study in college.

The instruction will include such subjects as accounting, finance, manufacturing, real estate, insurance, foreign trade, the work of consular and diplomatic officers and many other matters requisite for private enterprise or public service. And in all these branches, it should be remembered, the student will not be merely learning to do things in a mechanical way, as a boy or girl learns to pound the typewriter, or take dictation or

add and spell correctly. The thing contemplated is the training of the student's mind to grasp the principles and do the work of business institutions on the big modern scale.

The trouble about the fancy shirts in the store windows, where the price is low, is that they never have your number. America spends \$225,000,000 a year on music lessons. That doesn't include the phonograph and player piano artists.

There is one thing in favor of our own troubles, however. They don't bore us like those that other people tell us. The man who swore off smoking the first is now wondering how he ever had the heart to throw away a butt over an inch long.

The probabilities are that the sickly, amaciated woman who never sees a well day will outlive any fat man in town. Man's most distinguishing characteristic probably is his desire to see how close he can skate to the hole in the ice.

The English cabinet seems to be doing more fighting than the navy. PECULIAR FACTS ABOUT WELL KNOWN PEOPLE.

Sacramento, Cal., Jan. 20.—An evening brim full of blood and thunder moving picture is Governor Hiram Johnson's favorite pastime; and the bloodier and thunderier they are, the better he likes them. Fats and Oils

(By Wilbur S. Forrest) London, Jan. 5. (By Mail)—Great Britain is expected soon to put fats and oils on the list of absolute contraband just as it did with cotton.

Scientists have been demanding that this be done for some time, saying it is the ignorance of government officials concerning the use of fats and oils in the manufacture of high explosives which has left this raw material supply open to Germany this long. Prof. E. B. Poulton of Oxford calls it "the national neglect of science" saying in part: "It is dangerous that a country which depends on science for its existence and prosperity should be ruled by politicians and civil servants who, with hardly an exception, are utterly ignorant of science. Lawyer politicians, fixing their attention more steadily on American friendship than German defeat have permitted the export from England of materials for propulsive ammunition—fats and oils." Cotton is already on the absolute contraband list, this action having been taken after a widespread campaign by

scientists who claimed that cotton exported to Germany was merely so much ammunition for the German army. Sir William Ramsay leader of the scientists campaign against fats and oils which he says are vital to German ammunition making. Sir William declared today: "One third of German ammunition for heavy guns consists of nitro-glycerine; and fats are the source of glycerine. I really can't understand the incredible folly of going on providing the Germans with means of killing our men. Untold thousands of lives and an ever-growing volume of human misery are a terrible punishment for the neglect of science. It is possible that military experts are mistaken in thinking the final decision in this war can be reached by fighting. It may have to be reached by economic and financial pressure." England's official ignorance of science as applied to war has lengthened the struggle, Sir William declared, continuing: "If the government had seriously considered this possibility at the outset, and made preparations accordingly, asking for and accepting advice on the subject, the war long ago would have been over." Many well known British scientists have joined Sir William in his newest campaign against the export of fats and oils. It is predicted that the government soon will turn over to the Navy the question of keeping Germany from getting these commodities.

is expected always to laugh. Sort of a horse laugh you know. The public officials have made some serious efforts to get the horse meat sales started declaring they believe it would be a good thing economically. Health Commissioner Emerson points out that horse meat is cheaper than beef and quite as nutritious though slightly different in taste and of somewhat coarser fiber, it is as digestible as beef; that the horse is less liable to suffer from tuberculosis than is the cow and that the horse is more discriminating in its eating and drinking than is the cow. Arguments, from various sources, against horse as food for human beings, are that the flesh is darker, tougher and less palatable than cow meat; that inspection to insure good meat would be difficult to establish; that young healthy horses whose meat might be good to eat, are worth twice as much as cattle that only crippled, ailing, aged or broken down horses are kept to put on the food market and that, finally the public won't overcome its prejudice against horse meat anyhow. There are some horse meat sales, but the market is exceedingly restricted and mighty few shops list the item. Dr. W. T. Hornaday of the Bronx Zoo said today that horsemeat is impure and should not be eaten by human beings. Dr. Harlow Brooks said horsemeat was a bully idea. He said he ate lots of it in France and liked it.

Katherine Boment Davis, secretary to the State Pardon board, said she strongly favors the horsemeat idea, had eaten it in Hungary and Bohemia and liked it, though it was "a little bit tough." President Frederick Nathan of the Consumer's league said he didn't like the idea. Several other prominent New Yorkers said they didn't like the idea either. "About the nearest New York will ever come to indulging in horse meat," said one man, is a flying at the racetrack meat at Sheephead Bay; and many a man will tell you he couldn't even get a square meal from them.

Does New York Like Horse Meat New York, Jan. 20.—New Yorkers are not taking kindly to the horse meat diet the Board of Health recently authorized the butchers to provide them. About the only effect the horse meat move has had on the public is the revival of the good old gag about "Neigh! Neigh!" As revised to date it goes like this: Butcher:—Can't I sell you some nice horse steak today? Customer:—Neigh! Neigh! At which the butcher's boy

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