

# The Observer

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### CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

The London continuation schools for boys and girls between  
 the ages of 14 and 16 are now fully equipped and started in their  
 work. Only those who are already attending regular classes  
 in other schools are exempt from attendance at these special  
 schools. Employers are required to allow their youthful em-  
 ployees eight hours a week from duty to spend in the classroom.  
 It is said that the children themselves have gone into the con-  
 tinuation schools with great enthusiasm. They go back to their  
 work in shop or factory, mill or store, fresher and with a quicker  
 grasp of their duties. Whatever inconvenience employers may  
 imagine they suffer at present through the continuation classes  
 will be more than compensated for in the increased efficiency and  
 intelligence of their boy and girl employees. Even girls engaged  
 in domestic service attend the schools and are profiting by in-  
 struction which enables them to perform their household tasks  
 with skill and satisfaction, rather than half-heartedly as irrec-  
 capable drudgery.

Perhaps it is too soon as yet to give a full estimate of results.  
 Early reports, however, indicate that this little additional oppor-  
 tunity for education is going to make a great deal of difference  
 to those boys and girls. It will lift them from the class of un-  
 skilled child laborers. Their scanty education will be carried  
 a little further along. Hand and brain will have received fur-  
 ther training, and all the children will be better able to advance  
 in their work or to find new lines of endeavor in which they will  
 be happier and more successful.

Continuation schools in this country are not so numerous or  
 so well established as those of England. Yet they are rapidly  
 demonstrating their value to the community as a whole, and  
 no doubt will become more widely adopted as time goes on.

### THE BENEFICENT SPAR- ROW.

A representative of the Animal  
 Protective League rises up to defend  
 the English Sparrow. She finds fault  
 with the Department of Agriculture  
 for urging its destruction on the  
 ground that it drives away other  
 birds.

"It isn't true," she says. "Spar-  
 rows live on amicable terms with  
 other birds. About the only things  
 driving away the birds are small boys  
 with rifles and air guns. It would be  
 a good thing for both the birds and  
 the boys if the boys were disarmed."  
 "Sparrows eat the seed of weeds  
 and are a great asset to the farmer.  
 They were once driven out of Hun-  
 gary. Five years later that country  
 was overrun with destructive insects,  
 and the farmers were glad to get the  
 sparrows back again."

There is at least a chance for an  
 honest difference of opinion about this  
 uncouth and unpopular representative  
 of the sparrow family. There is  
 much evidence of good deeds on his  
 part, and it is quite possible that the  
 good at least balances the evil, as it  
 is said to do also in the case of crows  
 and hawks. When man undertakes to  
 interfere with Nature's balancing of  
 wild life, he always runs the risk of  
 making a serious mistake.

Regarding the boys, at least, there  
 need be no question at all. The evils  
 is everlastingly right. They have no  
 business with guns, either on their  
 own account or on the birds' account.  
 They are always shooting themselves  
 or each other, and if it be granted  
 that the English sparrow deserves to  
 be shot, it must be admitted that the  
 boys shoot a dozen song sparrows  
 and other desirable species for every  
 English sparrow they hit.

### THE SODA-WATER TAX.

The petitioners who have been  
 pleading with Congress to abolish  
 the tax on soda-water and the vari-  
 ous drinks and edibles associated  
 with it seem to be misdirecting their  
 energy. As long as there have to be  
 abnormal war taxes, this tax on "soft  
 drinks" may fairly be considered a  
 natural and legitimate substitute for  
 the former tax on alcoholic beverages,  
 paid by the consumer, though less  
 directly.

It is not an oppressive tax, either  
 in principle or size. The really op-  
 pressive thing about soda-water, ice-  
 cream and their ilk is the war prices  
 which are still charged for them in  
 most communities, and for which  
 they never was any full justification.  
 The one, two and three cents that go  
 to the government in connection with  
 each drink is multiplied by the major-  
 ity of dispensers for their own benefit.  
 The petitioners had better be sent to  
 the association of those who make  
 and sell these palatable commodities.

Some people are inclined to be very  
 critical of our public officials, but it  
 doesn't always produce the best re-  
 sults. Men are men the world over,  
 and they are inclined to exhibit a  
 stubborn streak when some other fel-  
 low takes it into his head to adminis-  
 ter a kick. A quiet talk face to face

### THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIUS—

### AN UNSOPHISTICATED BOOB.

Dear friends, you've opened up my  
 eyes.  
 At first in wonder and surprise,  
 But now I see I have been wrong.  
 I've worn my dresses much too long.  
 I wondered, when you smiled at me,  
 Just what the funny joke could be,  
 But now I see what brought the smile,  
 My clothing was all out of style.  
 But now, my friends, how could I  
 know?

My Mother never told me so.  
 I thought your low necks were a fault,  
 And wore mine high to please my  
 Dad.

And when I saw your clothes so thin  
 The wintery wind could blow right in,  
 I thought, perhaps,—this is no joke—  
 I thought your Mas and Dads were  
 broke.

And couldn't buy you comfy clothes,  
 To keep you cozy when it snows,  
 When I saw you with scarlet cheeks,  
 And saw you shivering on the street,  
 street,  
 I thought—I s'pose you won't believe

I thought you had the chills and  
 fever

Had I not been a little duffer,  
 I would have seen the truth at once,  
 But now, I'm going to mend my ways,  
 And wear some clothes to suit these  
 days.

I'll take a tuck in every gown

And cut the neck of them way down,  
 I'll lay aside my comfy clothes,  
 And see if I shan't have some beaux.  
 And I shall paint my cheeks up, too,  
 And then I'll look like others do.  
 An early morning walk, I think,  
 Would make my roses just as pink.  
 But then, that wouldn't be in style.  
 And I'm afraid the boys would smile.  
 So I am going to do my best  
 To try to look just like the rest.  
 My Mother says, but she don't know,  
 My Ma says she wouldn't tell me so,  
 she says, "Why do you try to please  
 The silly boys who love to tease?  
 For there's not many in their crew  
 Would even quit their 'tigs' for you."  
 And Dad, he says some day there'll  
 be  
 A manly Man come look for me,  
 And if I am in janzes dressed,  
 He will not know me from the rest.  
 My Dad's behind the times, you see,  
 Or he'd not say such things to me.

### WATCH-YOUR STEP.

A maiden fair in Dolman Cape—  
 A nifty hat, of bonnet shape—  
 A long, tight skirt this maid did wear,  
 She tried to cross the thoroughfare;  
 But, Oh, alas! The maid did fall,  
 And shows she had no socks at all!

### SUPPLY & DEMAND.

County Judge—"Ten dollars."  
 Motorist—"Can you change a \$20  
 bill?"  
 C. Judge—"No, but I can change  
 the fine, \$20."

A. T. Hill says the "horrors of life  
 in capitalistic down-trodden Amer-  
 ica," are not so bad when viewed from  
 Europe.

Be civil to all,  
 Serviceable to many,  
 Familiar to few,  
 Friend to one—  
 Enemy to none!

He who knocks  
 An Auto Club,  
 Is like a wheel  
 Without a hub.

Judging by the expenses now be-  
 ing paid, we must, by this time, al-  
 most be prepared for the last war.

## WE WILL MEASURE UP

It was said of George Washington that the office of  
 President of the United States was "cut to his measure"  
 —it fitted him better than any other man of his time.

The life of each of us is cut to our measure—it is up  
 to us to recognize and live up to its full capabilities.

This institution is doing its best to fulfill the purpose  
 for which it came into being—to assist the people of this  
 community, through the wise management of finances, to  
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—On Washington's Birthday this insti-  
 tution is closed, to honor the memory of  
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Pictorial Review



Pictorial Patterns

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