

"Education and Crime" Topic of Address

Principal Wilkerson Delves Deeply into Various Phases of Question; Result of Probing Given by Him to the Public.

(Education week was observed throughout the city with great success. The following address was given at the Men's Forum of the Methodist church last Sunday by H. A. Wilkerson, principal of Greenwood school.—Editor's note.)

Last summer I examined some very fine fields of sugar beets. I noticed that the crop was very good, as a rule. But occasionally I would find a beet that was a failure as a sugar producing plant. It had gone to seed prematurely and was wholly unprofitable.

Education Necessary. Now there was one other very noticeable thing about these beet fields and that was the great number of good beets and the small number of worthless ones. But what caused those beets to be worthless? Now if they had been young people just finishing their schooling many people would have had no trouble in locating the cause of their failure.

Now the pupils in our schools resemble those sugar beets in that a great majority of them become fine people and a very few go wrong. If we believe the stories told by many superficial observers, we would have to believe that the majority go wrong and a very few become worthy citizens. Now after having made a rather extensive investigation of the subject, I think I can say without fear of successful contradiction that the great majority of our boys and girls are all right men in a public address says that 99 per cent of all the crimes committed in the U. S. were committed by less than 2 per cent of the total population.

Hereditarily Incurable. Biologists would say that the same cause that made the few sugar beets go wrong caused these criminals to go wrong. That is heredity. They do not claim that all people who commit crimes are natural born criminals but most of the regular offenders are natural criminals and cannot be cured and should be segregated from the rest of the population so that they cannot reproduce their kind.

Easy to Tune the HEACOCK Radiophone. It is the easiest radio to tune on the market today. A slight turn of the dial and the result is startling. Perhaps the second sketch in this advertisement might seem overdrawn but operators of one of our radio sets have heard stations as far away as Havana, Cuba.

lowed through succeeding generations, the number of defectives, of those incapable of taking a useful part in society, will become smaller and smaller. One who does not believe that these people hand on their traits to the descendants may profitably consider the famous history of the so-called Juke family, whose history was published as far back as 1877 and lately restudied by A. H. Estabrook.

From one lazy vagabond, nicknamed Juke, born in 1729, whose two sons married five degenerate sisters, six generations numbering about 1200 persons of every grade of illness, slothfulness, lowliness, pauperism, disease, idiocy, insanity, and criminality were traced. Of the total seven generations, 299 died in infancy; 310 were professional paupers, kept in almshouses a total of 2300 years; 440 were physically wrecked by their own diseased wickedness; more than half the women fell into prostitution; 120 were convicted criminals; 7 were murderers; only 20 learned a trade, 19 of these in state prisons, and all at a state cost of over \$1,250,000.

Growth Shown. The clan has now reached its ninth generation and its present status has been exhaustively studied by A. H. Estabrook. He enumerated 2329 individuals of whom half are still living. In the early 80's they left their original home and are now scattered all over the country. The change in environment has enabled some of them to rise to a higher level, but on the whole, says C. E. Davenport, in a preface to Estabrook's book, they still show the same feeble-mindedness, indolence, licentiousness, and dishonesty, even when not handicapped by the association of their bad family name and despite the fact of being surrounded by better social conditions. Estabrook says the clan might have been exterminated by preventing the reproduction of its members, and that the nation would thereby have saved about \$2,500,000. It is interesting to note that out of approximately 600 living and feeble-minded and epileptic Jukes, there are only three now in custodial care.

Proof is Given. "How heredity works both ways is shown by the history of the Kallikak family, published by H. H. Goddard a few years ago. At the beginning of the Revolutionary war a young man known as the history as Martin Kallikak, had a nameless feeble-minded girl from whom there have descended in the direct line four hundred and eighty individuals. One hundred and forty-three of these are known to have been feeble-minded, and only forty-six are known to have been normal. The thirty-six may have been illegitimate, 23 sexually immoral, mostly prostitutes, 24 alcoholic, 3 epileptic, 82 died in infancy, 2 were criminals, and 8 kept houses of ill-fame. After the war, Martin Kallikak married a woman of good stock. From this union have come in direct line 496, among only two were alcoholic, and one known to be sexually immoral. The legitimate children of Martin Kallikak have been doctors, lawyers, judges, educators, traders, landholders, in short respectable citizens, men and women prominent in every phase of social life. These two families have lived on the same soil, in the same atmosphere, and in short under the same general environment, yet the bar sinister has marked every generation of one,

and has been unknown in the other. If it were possible to improve or eradicate these defective strains by giving them better surroundings, the nation might easily get rid of this burden. "Cretinism" David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford university cites the interesting case of Cretinism which occurs in the valley of Aosta in northern Italy, to prove the wisdom of the sexual segregation of defectives. Cretinism is an hereditary defect connected with an abnormal development of the thyroid gland which results in a peculiar form of idiocy usually associated with goitre. "In the city of Aosta the goitrous Cretin has for centuries been an object of charity. The idiot as well as the poor farmer or laborer with brains and no goitre has had the severest of struggles. In the competition of life a premium has thus been placed on imbecility and disease. The Cretin has mated with Cretin, the goitre with goitre, and charity and religion have presided over the union. The result is that idiocy is multiplied and intensified, the Cretin of Aosta has been developed as a new species of man. In fair weather the roads about the city are lined with these awful paupers — human beings with less intelligence than a goose, with less decency than the pig."

Marrriages Legalized. Whymper, writing in 1880, further observes: "It is strange that self-interest does not lead the natives of Aosta to place their Cretins under such restrictions as would prevent their ill-fated intercourse; and it is still more surprising to find the Catholic church actually legalizing their marriages. There is something horribly grotesque in the idea of solemnizing the union of a brace of idiots, and since it is well known that the disease is hereditary and develops in successive generations the fact that such marriages are sanctioned is scandalous and infamous." Since 1890 the Cretins have been sexually segregated, and in 1910 Jordan reported that "they were nearly gone."

I have here clipping from the Pathfinder, a current account of a high school graduate, published in Washington City: "A high school education is worth \$22,000 and a college education is worth \$72,000 to its possessor, says one of those typical Boston professors. We wonder if he didn't forget to take into account those two Chicago boys whose education, instead of helping them and helping the world, merely increased their power to do wrong. As they are now in the penitentiary it is no consolation to them that a Boston professor, by considering one side of the case only, can figure their higher education as worth \$105,000, more or less."

Classed as Unfair. It seems to me that this is very unfair. I heard Dr. John L. Tilden, United States commissioner of education, say last summer, that wherever he went he met people who said "look at those two Chicago boys," what do you think of higher education now?" and seemed to think that they had asked a very bad question. Most of the newspapers published all the details of the horrible crime and intimated that it was the education of these boys that enabled them to commit the crime. I wonder just how much education one must have in order that he might knock another person in the head with a club and get caught and be sent to the penitentiary for life.

The fact is, these boys had been gambling heavily and so had contracted large gambling debts and tried this scheme to raise the money to pay them. If it required a great education to enable these two men to do as they did and get caught, then the person or persons who caught them should be sent to the penitentiary in their own house and escaped must have been a wonder or those who killed a bar tender in this town and escaped and also a soft drink vendor in Island City was killed by unknown parties. These crimes for the purpose of robbery and I have never heard it intimated that they were committed by highly educated people.

at the age of fifty or even earlier, and soon reaches a level below self-support.

The figures show that more than sixty of every 100 untrained workers are dependent on others for support at the age of sixty. Between fourteen and eighteen, the four years which might have been spent in high school, the untrained man usually earns not more than \$2000."

Dr. Walter, associate professor of biology in Brown university, says "that the accumulation of a lifetime are horrible was generally believed throughout the cretaceous ages." About a hundred years ago Lamarck made this idea the cornerstone of his theory of evolution. This is called the inheritance of acquired characteristics. That is, if a man and woman who are both well educated should marry and raise a family, it was supposed that their children would gain some mental advantage because their parents were educated.

This is not now believed by modern scientists for one armed man's son has two arms just like other boys and the son of a wooden legged man has two legs of flesh and blood. "Wooden legs are not inherited but wooden heads are."

We often see articles in newspapers which seem to indicate that their authors believe in the transmission of acquired characteristics for they prophesy the coming of a superman which will be as far ahead of us mentally as we are ahead of the monkey. They say "man is growing weaker and wiser."

Scientists Disagree. This is not now thought to be true by reputable modern scientists. It is believed by modern scientists that man has reached as high a degree of perfection, both mentally and physically, as he ever will reach. Many claim that unless our defectives are segregated or otherwise prevented from reproducing their kind, the race will deteriorate.

Dr. Edward Carey Hayes, professor of sociology in the University of Illinois says on this subject: "It was once thought that evolution proceeded by the accumulation of infinitesimal variations. But in order for natural selection to operate, there must be a difference between the fitter and the less fit great enough to be a decided advantage in the struggle for survival. The change in order to be a contribution to evolution, must be not only a difference in the developed body but must be a significant change in the determiners or genes in the germ cells which give rise to mutations. Mutations breed true but slight variations and sports do not. But mutations are rare in nature and when they do arise in a highly developed species they are far more likely to diminish the chances for survival than to increase them."

"It has been suggested that in man, the sensitiveness and complexity of the nervous system, which is the biological specialty of the genus Homo, has been carried to a point beyond which it cannot go without excessive liability to break down."

The notion that species are continually accumulating infinitesimal improvements has allowed some to dream that the born saints and when men will be perfected and will be no scientific basis for the idea that the rich complexity of human endowment will ever be materially improved. Neither is there any reason for supposing that the Chinese of today are better born than the Greeks of yesterday or the Jew of today better born than were Moses and Abraham, or the Germans and Americans of today better born than Germanic and Aegleola of the general population of half naked savages who went up to Perry and killed Tom Moore in his own house and escaped must have been a wonder or those who killed a bar tender in this town and escaped and also a soft drink vendor in Island City was killed by unknown parties. These crimes for the purpose of robbery and I have never heard it intimated that they were committed by highly educated people.

Now as to the value of a high school education, the fact that these boys are in prison does not change that. Their education will probably be of little value to them if they stay in prison but neither a billion dollar gold mine nor have much value to a person if he had to remain in prison all his life and could not use it. The gold would still be valuable. The fact that some supposedly educated people are in prison, does not prevent an education from being valuable to you or me. I have here a clipping from the Literary Digest which explains just what the cash value of an education and whose estimation has been so bitterly attacked by the Pathfinder.

"It is \$72,000, according to Dean Lord of the Boston University College of Business Administration, and the cash value of a high school education is \$25,000. The Boston institution has been carrying out a careful study of the earning capacity of college graduates, and the report just issued contains a number of interesting facts. According to a New York Herald-Tribune summary, the average minimum income of the untrained man is \$1200 a year; that of a high school graduate \$4,000. The total earnings of the three types up to the age of sixty are set at \$45,000, \$75,000 and \$145,000. It is also estimated that while the untrained man at the age of fifty begins to drop toward dependence, the college man reaches his maximum capacity at sixty." As the report is quoted further:

The Untrained Man. "The untrained man goes to work as a boy of fourteen and reaches the maximum income at the age of thirty. This maximum is, on the average, less than \$1200 a year. In view of the fact that this income is earned through manual labor dependent on physical strength, it begins to fall off



Christmas Dinner and Electricity

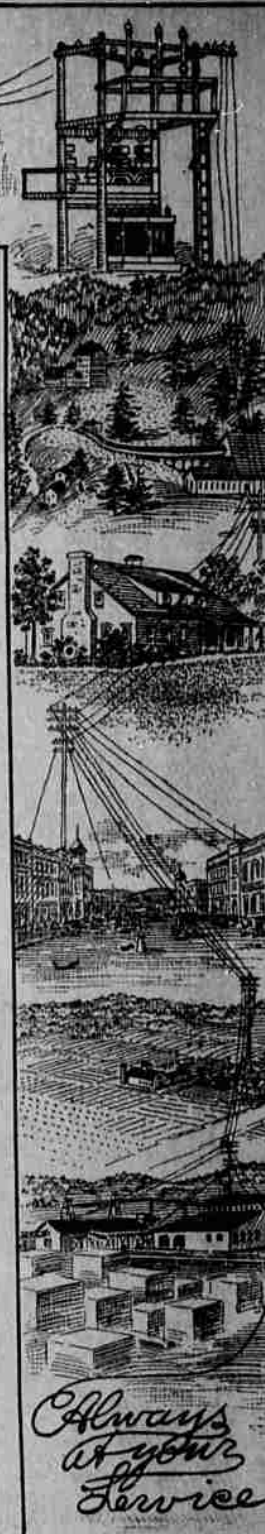
On Christmas Day, in all cities in the country, between the hours of about ten to twelve o'clock, the Electric Service companies are called upon to deliver more electric heat for cooking purposes than in any other two hours of the year. This is so, notwithstanding that it is a holiday.

On this day more than on any Sunday, most of the cooking in the homes is done in these two hours. The meals are more elaborate and the national roast of turkey or other fowl is the rule.

And yet when the oven switches of the many electric ranges, on our system go on, there is no shortage of electric heat, for instantly the turbines pick up the added load and deliver quick, clean and perfectly controlled heat to hundreds of homes.

An electrically prepared dinner excels in flavor.

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Those abnormal individuals, who do not care for the approval of society, should be segregated from the rest of the people, for their conduct tends to set up a standard of morals that is detrimental to the best interest of the country. If murder is more prevalent today than ever before in this country, it is probably because murderers have not been properly punished. It is becoming fashionable among certain classes.

Dr. Edward Carey Hayes says on this subject: "Conscience codes are exceedingly various. Comparative study of the life of different societies reveals the fact that man is not born with a table of commandments 'etched on the soul'."

On the contrary, the mores or custom can make anything seem right. Cannibalism, to one whose group approves it, may be as proper as a dinner of herbs. It may even be a religious rite, or a mark of honor to a parent whose flesh is consumed. Murder of choice youths may be committed as a devout sacrifice to the gods, and slaying the aged as an office of affection. Though 'love your neighbor' may be the nobler injunction, yet the solemn duty of vengeance has been commanded

by the consciences of most men. No people live without a code for the regulation of relation between the sexes, yet while punishing with utmost severity acts which they disapprove, they approve polygamy, concubinage, and ceremonial license.

Our own ethics of property rights which allow dives to roll in wealth with an unruined conscience, knowing that three blocks away, Lazarus and his offspring exist in squalor and blight, are in the eyes of most savages as incomprehensible a violation of morality, as the practices of savages are to us."

ROBIN REED IS DEFEATED REEDSPORT, Ore.—Jimmy Anderson of the Portland gymnasium won two out of three falls from Robin Reed in a match at the Casino hall here. Anderson took the first fall with a hammerlock in 25 minutes. After the contest for the third fall had gone 35 minutes, Anderson tripped Reed into turning his head, grabbed him, spun him

over his head and dashed him onto the mat with such violence that he was out.

In the preliminaries Dave Blair knocked out Young Whitley in the fourth round, Stanley Hoda wrestled Kid Wilson to a draw.

Arrangements were made this afternoon to put on the same contest here a week from Saturday.

Experience isn't a great teacher of you spend all your time studying the same lesson.

Vanishes Rheumatism. Here is a kidney and rheumatic tablet that is guaranteed to give you satisfactory results. If it does not your druggist will refund your money.

Whitewind Kidney and Rheumatic Tablets are sold by every drug store in La Grande.—Adv.

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It will make a fine home or a good investment. Come in and let us tell you all about it.

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