

**Cottage Grove Sentinel**  
A Weekly Newspaper With Plenty of Backbone

Bede & Smith.....Publishers  
Elbert Bede.....Editor

A first-class publication entered at Cottage Grove as second-class matter

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1923

**WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH OUR NOODLES?**

A discussion of the subject as headlined was suggested by reading a statement from a regular army officer and from reading a story, "The Boys and Girls Who Can Not Go to College," by Gene Stratton-Porter.

A part of the army officer's statement was as follows:

"We have enlisted about 1000 men at these headquarters in the last two or three months and we have taken no man who was not a graduate of the eighth grade or who had not the equivalent education. Each man was given a brief examination to test his education and mentality and 75 per cent of these men did not know: How our country started; how it got its independence; never heard of the Revolutionary war, the war of 1812, the Mexican war or the Spanish-American war. This was not confined to school graduates only but to some men who had had two years in high

school and who were no better informed."

That the army officer's statement was not exaggerated may be established by asking similar questions of the eighth grade and high school graduates. The number who can not answer questions which to older persons who have kept themselves informed seem ridiculously simple will be found surprising.

Perhaps we of mature years expect too much of the younger generation, but we have heard so much about its initiative—its independence—its superiority over the generation that likes to believe that girls and boys should be subject to some of the restrictions that prevailed for young people of 20 years ago, that we may expect too much.

We know that education is made easier—that the growing generation has advantages that the immediately preceding generation did not have—and yet we of the generation that is grown can't help but feel that in actual working knowledge we had more in our teens than has the generation now in its teens.

Gene Stratton-Porter expresses little sympathy for the girl or boy who, because an education is not offered upon a silver platter, does not attempt to get an education. She says that an education is within the reach of every healthy, normal boy or girl—that it is merely a question of desire.

If the growing generation is smarter than the preceding generation—and there is every reason why it should be—of course every boy and girl can easily get an education if he or she will, for many boys and girls of the grown generation were able to do so without aid.

But why pick on the growing generation?

Try asking the grown generation some of the simple questions in

American history that the eighth graders and high school students can not answer.

The percentage of those who can not answer will be surprising. The percentage probably will be as great as among the younger ones.

Well may it be asked, "What are we doing with our noodles?"

Only a small percentage are really doing what the Creator intended they should do with them.

How many persons are there in your own community, or in your neighborhood, who are each day charging the memory with some additional piece of knowledge?

Isn't the number far greater of those who perform their daily tasks without thought of doing them in a better way and at eventide cease from labor of both mind and body? The number who do little or no reading at all will be found surprising—yes, astonishing—but we will be surprised at the number who read a daily paper without retaining in the memory a single thing to improve the mind, a single thing that may at some future date be put to use.

Columns of instructive, informative editorials in the great dailies, written by master minds, are wasted upon all but the few.

Stories are read for no better purpose than to kill time. Even the moral, if the story has one, is lost or, if seen, is not remembered. Nothing is absorbed.

The movies may be responsible for much of our frivolity, for much of our lassitude toward improving mentally each golden hour, but they should be a great educator. The movie fan should be one of the best informed persons in the world. How many absorb the knowledge so pleasantly and so entertainingly offered?

There are the outstanding few who can not read a newspaper without charging the mind with some-

thing that may some day be put to use—who can not read a story without absorbing something that may later be used in directing erring feet from dangerous paths, or added to the storehouse of information for the delectation of friends at the opportune moment; who absorb something from almost every worthwhile conversation; whose minds are so trained that every incident suggests something that is retained in memory's storehouse.

Study these two classes and you will not have to ask why one young person rises in the world, seemingly without effort, while another with

the same opportunities seems ever to remain in the position into which he dropped when thrown onto a cruel, cruel world.

The office boy who rises to the presidency of a railroad is the one who absorbs the things he hears in his humble station; is the one who has observed how the person on the next round of the ladder does his work—and is fitted for that position when it is offered to him.

The one who rises highest in any position is the one who is ever alert to see how the successful one above him does things and what has

caused the failure of those he passes on the way up.

What we have in our noodles, at least what we have in there that is going to profit us as the years go by, that is going to enable us to help others we meet along the way, that is going to make our company agreeable and our society and our services sought, is largely the jewels of wisdom which we ourselves pick from the places where others less successful fail to look.

As Gene Stratton-Porter has indicated, what we have in our noodles is largely up to us. Anything that is pumped into them must be in

such liquid form that it will easily run out again.

Education and success are for those who earnestly seek them. Our noodles were given us to use. What are we doing with them?

The New York Herald recently said that girls who have red hair usually have bow legs. The bow legs probably are natural but the fiery hair probably came from listening to the remarks made during the time the girls had to expose their limbs to the male gaze.

Rubber stamps. The Sentinel. 1f



# Kem's for Drugs

Directs your attention to the opportunity they offer for gift selection. Three weeks remain before the holiday. Are you ready? Now is the time when we can save you time and trouble. Stocks are complete, assortments large, showings are varied and attractive. We can give you better service now than when the final rush comes, as it always does. Look these suggestions over; then let us show you the goods.

**BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!**

for everybody. Children's books, grown-ups' books, youths' books.  
Fiction, copyright and reprints.....85c to \$2  
Youths' books, for boys and girls.....65c  
Children's books.....5c to \$2  
Gift books, fine binding, excellent paper at.....50c to \$3.50  
Bibles and Testaments.....\$1 to \$5

**AUTOMATIC PENCILS**

World famous Eversharp and Ingersoll Redipoint; gold, silver and aluminum, at.....50c, 75c, \$1, \$1.50, \$2, \$3  
Pencil and pen guards.....50c, \$1

**FOUNTAIN PENS**

Waterman, the world's standard self-filling, plain or mounted; purse, pocket and regular sizes.....\$2.75 up  
Dunn Pens—it's a camel for ink; the pen with the little red pump handle—at each.....\$2.75 to \$9

**IVORY PYRALIN**

Puff and powder boxes, manieure instruments, trays, combs, brushes, jewel boxes, picture frames, mirrors, buffers, cloaks, etc.—make durable gifts that are attractive and pleasing.

**CANDLES AND CANDLESTICKS**

in a pleasing variety. These will add a touch of beauty to any home and make inexpensive and appreciated gifts.

**LEATHER GOODS**

Purses, bill folds, letter pockets, tourist tablets, boston bags, brief cases, music folds and rolls—big values in real leather and moderately priced.

**TOYS**

Gas-filled rubber balls, pecking hens, jumping monkeys, Teddy bears, Moo cows, celluloid rattles, etc. These are the things that please the children.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

The most wonderful assortment we have ever offered you—better values than ever and priced at.....2 for 5c to \$1 each  
These are from the Thompson-Smith & Hall Brothers creations, which means the "last word" in greeting cards.

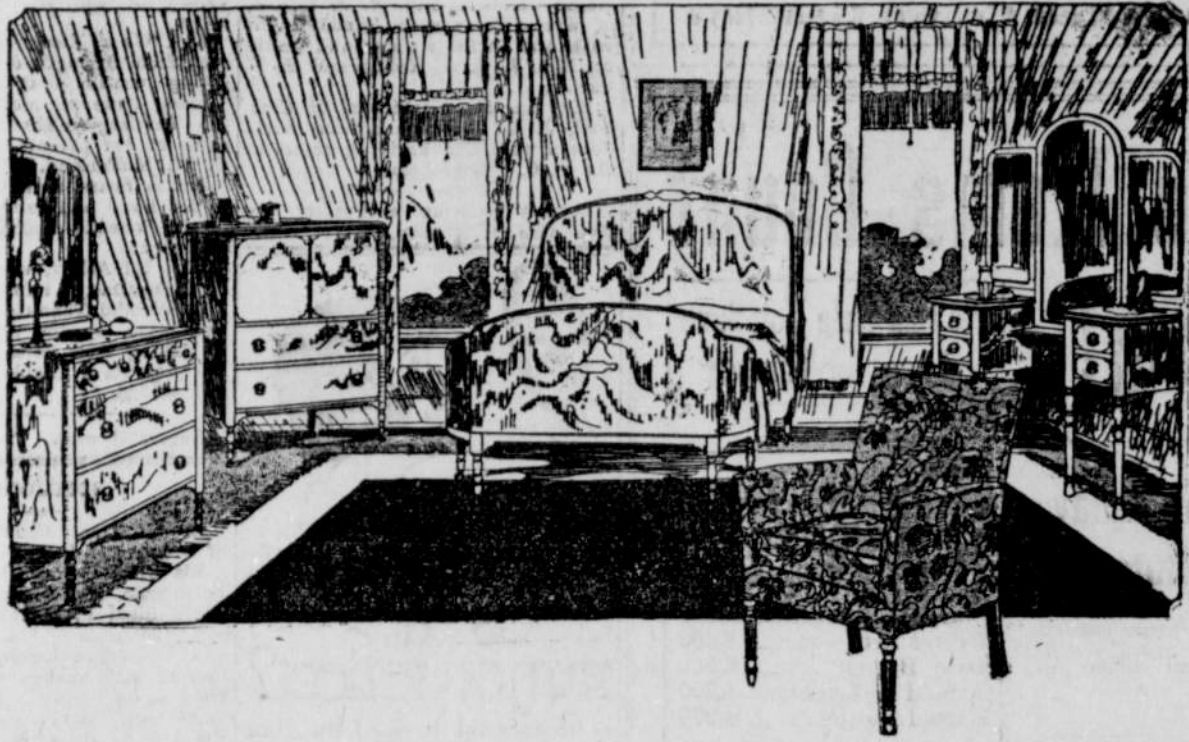
You have these at your very door—you have our reputation back of every article sold—you are assured of splendid values in standard, high grade merchandise.

## KEM'S for DRUGS

C. J. Kem Prop.

The Rosell Store

Cottage Grove 6th and Main



## Introductory and Removal Sale on Home Furnishings

WE are new people in your city but, having made a heavy investment here in the purchase of the Knowles & Graber and W. L. Darby & Company furniture stocks, we feel that we are real citizens and we wish to become acquainted.

In order to induce all citizens to give us the opportunity to meet them face to face we will, during the month of December, conduct an introductory and removal sale and will give

### Special Discounts on All Cash Purchases

We have as yet been unable to get our stocks in such shape that we can select the items upon which we wish to make special prices, but we assure you that you will find a saving (by paying cash) over prices which have heretofore been quoted you. As new citizens we want to make a good impression with those who will, we hope, soon or late be our customers and we will make it worth your while to come in and get acquainted.

WE are now moving the Knowles & Graber stock into the building which has been occupied by W. L. Darby & Company, where the Darby stock will remain.

# Bressler & Son

(Recently of Springfield)

Complete Home Furnishers

FORMER DARBY & CO. LOCATION

COTTAGE GROVE, OREGON