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EDUCATION
RECREATION

WOMAN AND HER INTERESTS

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THE KITCHEN
THE GARDEN

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Help for American Teachers

BY SAMUEL GOMPERS.

Few fully realize the vitally important work that teachers perform for our nation. With the development of the public school system and the constant widening and deepening of the scope of school instruction, the power and the influence of the teachers have increased until now they hold in their hands the molding of the nation's life.

Instruction of various kinds, that was formerly left to the home or was neglected entirely, has, little by little, been added to the province of the school. Now the educational ideal is "to send the whole boy or girl to school," in order to make education life. As the educational ideal grows, the teacher must measure up to new demands upon culture, wisdom and character.

And what of these teachers of America's children—those to whom are entrusted the health, minds, morals, ideals, of the children?

America boasts of her school buildings, of the money expended in modern improvements, but does she boast of the social and financial recognition that are given to those whose influence can make or mar human lives? Are these public servants paid according to the value of their services, or are they to be content with "compensations greater than mere money?"

Are the teachers given social recognition as those who have in trust the nation's ideals, who are a vital and honorable part of the common life? Are they consulted as those best informed on social and community problems and closest in touch with the heart of the nation?

To ask these questions brings out how the actual is at variance with the ideal. What are called the grade teachers, those who mold the plastic minds and hearts of the greatest numbers of the children, are not even paid what would be a minimum wage for factory workers. Many an unskilled laborer is paid higher wages than teachers in grade schools.

Though there may be other compensations than "mere money," yet these compensations will not feed, clothe, provide for the physical and intellectual wants that must be satisfied if the teachers are to attain highest individual development and greatest usefulness to the school.

Too many teachers are forced to give so much concern to bread and butter problems that they have not time nor strength to possess their souls and reach up after new ideals. How can they bring to the children that which is starved out of their own lives?

If they have not the means to continue to add to their own mental development and social experience, how can they continue to give out to the world?

The teachers of the country are beginning to realize that they must solve their own problems. Strong individuals must not wait passively for some outside force to secure justice for them—they must feel responsibility for righting their own wrongs.

If a teacher is not capable of self-help, is that teacher capable of inculcating the principles of democracy in the youth of our country?

Our present-day school system presents some serious problems, and not the least serious is the anomaly of autocratic management of the schools of a democracy.

The teachers themselves have long realized the seriousness of their problems. Tradition and conventional public opinion have restrained them from the only method by which they can help themselves—organization. But organization is the practical method of professions and trades. What organization has done for them it can do for the teachers.

Organization will bring to the teachers wages that will enable them to live in such a manner that they can bring more to their work, more into their lives and ideals of future citizens themselves but they will make the school better, aiming at higher ideals. The effect will be cumulative.

Organization must and will come to the rescue of America's teachers. It is a right they cannot be denied under a free, democratic government.

Women never really admire each other. They are too busy admiring each other's clothes.

WHY SHOES ARE WORTHLESS.

The following striking information as to the adulterating treatment given to sole leathers, is particularly interesting as coming from a government report, Bulletin No. 165, Bureau of Chemistry:

An extended examination of sole leathers shows that a surprisingly large percentage contain great quantities of foreign materials. Tanners state that leather is "loaded" with foreign materials because the boot and shoe makers will buy only the lower priced leather, which "cuts to advantage"; that is, from which the greatest number of soles can be cut at the lowest cost a pair. If the poorer portion of the hide is stiffened and weighted with foreign material, no matter how useless it is nor how soon it may wash out, some shoe manufacturers will thus obtain more soles from the unweighted leather. "Unloaded," flabby leather makes poor shoe soles, and "loading" with materials readily soluble in water increases the cost to the purchaser and does not make soles more serviceable.

Loading or weighting materials are cheap, costing from .75 to 2 cents a pound. Those most commonly used are glucose and epsom salts. Loading with these, or with water-soluble organic material, is often detrimental to leather, rendering it hard, brittle, more likely to crack, and after the loading washes out, as usually happens quite quickly, it is more easily penetrated by water. Loaded leathers are more expensive to the public, less durable, and a menace to health.

A comparison of the percentages of materials in the loaded leathers, with the figures given for normal leathers, shows that the epsom salts, glucose and water-soluble materials are present, as a rule, in more than permissible quantities, while the amounts of fats and oils and actual leather substance are lower than they should be. These figures show a serious moral, economic and business condition.

The tanners whose leathers have been examined produce a large percentage of the sole leather made in this country. According to these samples, fully 60 per cent of the sole leather is loaded with undesirable materials, and practically all of it contains more uncombined tanning materials than it should.

At least 150,000,000 pounds have been weighted annually with no improvement in its wearing value. The people have paid for not less than 12,000,000 pounds of epsom salts and glucose, plus a profit to the tanner for working them into the leather, and have obtained nothing of value thereby.

In addition to this, the almost universal use of too much uncombined tanning materials, is perhaps the most reprehensible form of weighting. Practically all the leathers analyzed contain as much uncombined tannin as good quality oak or hemlock bark; and many contain more. Approximately one-third of the tannin in these leathers is uncombined, the quantity varying from 9 to 17 per cent. This is sufficient to tan one-third as much sole leather as is now made. Fully half of this wasted tannin can and should be saved. It is worth approximately \$1,000,000 and would tan approximately 100,000,000 pounds of leather. This tanning material is now practically a total loss.

Leather properly tanned is of light, uniform color. Consequently it is commercially desirable that leather improperly tanned should bear a similar appearance. To attain this, bleaching is resorted to. Bleaching is especially detrimental, as the process greatly hastens the rotting of the leather. The cost of the leather is increased by this procedure; the serviceability of the leather is decreased; and the superior appearance secured in this way permits the fraudulent sale of the leather at a higher price. The bleaching of heavy leather is the most useless and harmful of all leather-making practices, and the most vigorous efforts should be made to eliminate it.

COZINESS IN HOME DESIRABLE.

When furnishing a home there is often a tendency to purchase too much furniture at first, to have everything complete when one settles; but in doing that it is found later that this leads to crowding, for as the weeks and months pass other pieces are found to be needed and some of the original purchases could have been omitted.

Crowding is one of the greatest barriers to an artistic home. However beautiful the furniture may be, much of the attractiveness is lost if the room is cluttered, and as one necessary piece after another is added after the house is supposed to be furnished, it is not long before there is a cluttered look which detracts greatly from the artistic appearance desired.

The first requisite for attractive furnishing is a cozy, home-like look without which no house will have a comfortable, inviting appearance. Arrangement of the furniture has much to do with producing this comfort and attractiveness. Primpiness in placing the furniture is never conducive to a cozy-looking room, as illustrated by the parlors or former days.

One recalls the old-fashioned high organ or low melodeon placed straight against the wall; the chairs each side

of it just as straight and prim, and only far enough away from the wall to prevent marring the plastering; the marble-top center table placed squarely in the middle of the room under the hanging lamp. From the walls there looked down on all this primpiness and formality of arrangement the family portraits surrounded by heavy gilt frames, and a wreath of wax work or worsteds over which was draped a fancy silk scarf. This room, which was carefully swept and dusted, was always ready for company and it was seldom used except on such special occasions. With all this stiff, solemn grandeur, there was no room for coziness or comfort.

A chair placed invitingly near the table, and others drawn away from the wall with something of the get-together air, as if occupants had just left them after a pleasant conversation, will do much toward producing the desired coziness. What if a book is found open on the table, with a handkerchief beside it just as the reader left it. Surely it would radiate an air of comfort and enjoyment that would be a pleasure to one coming into the room.

Every article that is placed in a room should be carefully considered that one may be sure that it harmonizes well with everything else in the room. If one is not a good judge of artistic furnishings, there are experts who may be employed; but care should be taken that the mistress of the home has sufficient voice in the subject that there may be something of her own individuality reflected.

THE "SHIFTLESS" POOR.

It hurts me to hear the tone in which the poor are condemned, as "shiftless," or "having a pauper spirit," just as it would if a crowd mocked at a child for its weakness, or laughed at a lame man because he could not run, or a blind man because he stumbled.

"Lazy!" Some of them are "born tired," and enter into life without their share of vigor or vitality. Some of their mothers were overworked and undernourished, perhaps scrofulous. Some of them, themselves, are overworked and underfed, or have lost their efficiency through illness or exposure. And they breathe poisonous air, sleeping in unventilated quarters, six or twelve in a room. They drink sewage-poisoned water that makes people lethargic and dull.—Albion Fellows Bacon, in the Survey.

CHILDREN.

Train them to virtue; habituate them to industry, activity and spirit. Make them consider every vice as shameful and unmanly. Fire them with ambition to be useful. Make them disdain to be destitute of any useful knowledge. Fix their ambition upon great and solid objects, and their contempt upon little, frivolous and useless ones.—John Adams.

Women in Mining Industry.

In Upper Silesia, Germany, women are employed in mines at very low wages. The numbers in each class are:

Mining, large coal, 5786; iron ore mining, 386; zinc and lead mining, 2584; coke ovens and cinder, etc., depots, 180; blast furnaces, 757; iron and steel foundries, 32; ingot and malleable iron and rolling works, 581; refineries, 763; zinc sulphite furnaces, 372; pig zinc, 1276; zinc plate rolling works, 15; lead and silver blasting, 32.

Millions for Churches.

Contracts thus far let call for church structures in this country that will cost between \$35,000,000 and \$40,000,000. While all of this money may not be spent upon the buildings before the end of this year contracts uncompleted at the beginning of the season will make the total expenditure this year approximately \$40,000,000.

Understands Crowding.

Little Elizabeth's mother was making cookies and when there seemed no more room on the moulding board she said, "Mother, will some have to sit in the other's laps?"

Women in Silk Industry.

More than 5,000,000 silkworms will be raised in Napa County, Cal., during the coming season through the activities of a woman's silk culture society.

Swift.

So fast gossip travels
That sometimes we feel
Dame Rumor must ride in
An automobile.
—Boston Transcript.

A Moment of Suspense.

Teacher—Now, children, I want you all to be so still that you can hear a pin drop.
Boy (after a moment's silence)—Let her drop.—Boston Transcript.

Not Satisfactory.

Betty Van Rocks—Did you have a satisfactory interview with papa?
Jack Brokeleigh—Not very; he said all he would give was his consent.—Boston Transcript.

Handy Conveniences.

She—Let me drink in the beauty of this starry night!
He—All right; there's both the Great and the Little Dipper.

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