

Sick Children of Aurora Study in Open Air



This is not a schoolroom in the Arctic, with juvenile Eskimos as pupils. It is simply the system of "fresh air education" as demonstrated in the Brady public school at Aurora, Ill. By this method boys and girls who are found to be underweight or undernourished, or have other physical defects which fresh air treatment may overcome, are segregated, and by studying, eating and sleeping in rooms where the windows are always open, even during extreme temperature, regain weight and health without resorting to medicine. Each child drinks three and a half pints of milk a day, and hot dishes are served for luncheon, with a menu of carefully selected nourishing food. The average gain in weight is two to three pounds per week.

Footprinting Last Word in Accuracy

Proves Infallible Means of Identification.

New York.—"Footprinting is my fad," said Mary E. Hamilton, director of the New York policewomen's bureau. "But it is a fad that will last as long as I do. I hope it will last as long as the world." The head of the policewomen of New York made this remark to Ada Patterson, who tells the story in the Police Magazine. Mrs. Hamilton has furnished an apartment next to her own home for desperate, unmarried mothers who might otherwise become human waste. Frantic, betrayed girls with the dawn of motherhood in them may ring her doorbell at any hour and find sympathy and a room in the little waiting apartment that is a twin of Mrs. Hamilton's home. Twin in shining neatness and care and liveliness. We were talking of these distraught, despairing visitors, of the pallid faces and the midnight ring at the door, when Mrs. Hamilton mentioned footprinting.

"It is the last word in accuracy in the detection of criminals," she said. "Commissioner Richard E. Enright, who is a progressive, forward-looking official, deeply interested in fingerprinting not only for detection, but for personal protection, approves footprinting."

Origin of Footprinting.

"It came into the department in a strange way. A beggar was brought in. His hands were gone. His arms were mere stumps. How should we secure means of identification in his case? There were no birthmarks. Comparatively few persons have them. The only thing to do is to take his footprints," said some one. The beggar's foot was smeared with the ink used in fingerprinting. He was told to step upon a sheet of white paper. There was a complete print. By that simple act the perfection of methods of identification had been reached. A criminal may twist his fingers and prevent a perfect print. But the sole of the foot is uncompromising. The footprint is a masterpiece.

"Footprinting has the widest application to the problems of life and the police; for hands may be maimed and manipulated, but the soles do not change. So long as the feet remain,

the footprint is an infallible means of identification.

Possibilities.

"It solves the problem of the unfortunate stricken suddenly by amnesia or aphasia. If every person were footprinted at birth and records made of the footprints the footprints would answer the sad old question, 'Who am I?'"

"Footprinting would prevent the hospital blunders of mixed-up and missing babies."

"It would make complete and accurate beyond doubt the identification of the dead."

"Potters' field would dwindle to a mere record of poverty rather than mystery. The appalling record of the burial of 250,000 unknown dead a

year in New York city would be erased.

"It would have caused Charlie Ross to be found—and Lillian McKenzie."

"There would be no more lost children?" I asked.

"If lost they would be quickly found," returned Mrs. Hamilton. "And there would be no possibility of mistaken identities. No two footprints are alike and they never change. What mother could say with certainty, 'If my child were lost today I would recognize him in 12 years?' The woman who is not sure whether a child is her own or another's is the saddest sight in a world crowded with sad spectacles. Yet it is a common one. Nothing in nature changes so wholly as does a babe that is growing up. A mother's heart may tell her the truth, but she has no sure means of proving it."

Kills Huge Owl

Tacoma, Wash.—A great owl that had long been killing poultry and wild game near South Bend, Wash., recently was caught and slain as a result of the pluck of Mrs. W. A. Wilson. The bird measured 4 feet 5 inches across the wings.

Scene of Battle Is Now a Museum

The Alamo in Charge of Texas Women.

San Antonio, Texas.—The Alamo—the shrine of Texas liberty—is the best-loved historical building in Texas. Wrapped in its gray cloak, it stands here amid the bustle and bustle of modern city life. The word "Alamo" is a Spanish name for the cottonwood tree, a species of poplar whose wood is noted for beauty of texture. These trees grow along the creeks and rivers of Texas. The Alamo was erected in a grove of cottonwoods.

The building now known as the Alamo was the church in the Mission San Antonio de Valero. It stands on the east side of Alamo plaza in the center of San Antonio, with its carved stone face toward the setting sun. Its front bears the date of 1757, probably the date of its dedication.

The foundation stone was laid on May 8, 1744. It is understood that the mission was founded on the Rio Grande river in 1703, was moved twice, then finally brought to San Antonio,

by order of the viceroy of New Spain, the Marquis of Valero, in 1718, a number of years before the revolution.

The church was built of stone, and there are evidences that it once had twin towers, though at the time it was besieged by Gen. Santa Anna they had disappeared and the dome had partly fallen. At the time the Alamo was rehabilitated, a new roof was put on; but it still retains the old dirt floor.

Famous Battle.

During Texas' war with Mexico in 1836, the Alamo, containing 181 men under the command of Col. W. B. Travis, and including Bowie, Crockett and Bonham, was besieged by Santa Anna with a large force. Col. Travis sent messengers with a call for help which failed to come. He then made his famous speech to his men and asked those who agreed to remain with him and defend the fort to the last to step over a line which he drew on the floor with the point of his sword.

Every one, with the exception of a man named Ross, who made his escape, stepped over the line to Travis. Bowie had to be lifted across the line. On March 6, Santa Anna stormed the fort. The brave defenders were overwhelmed.

After the siege the Alamo was in ruins until 1849, when it was partly restored by Maj. Babbitt, acting quartermaster of the Eighth Military department, for offices and a storehouse, Texas having been admitted into the Union. It was thus used until the Civil war when the Confederate forces took it over. After the war, the United States government again used it until a quartermaster's depot was built on Government hill.

The state afterward purchased the Alamo for \$20,000. The Daughters of the Texas Republic have charge of the relics and mementos within its walls. They have put up bronze tablets containing the names of the 181 men who made the heroic stand.

The Daughters of the Republic bought the ground, now inclosed by the vine-covered arched walls on the right of the Alamo and once a part of the mission, for \$75,000 and later sold it to the state for \$65,000. They made a walled garden of this spot with wide iron gates opening toward the Alamo.

Many semitropical plants, vines and flowers grow there. Six pecan trees, now bearing, were sent as a gift. A peach tree stands within the iron gates. The ivy that runs over the stone archways was brought from Mount Vernon. A granite shaft—a gift from Japan to commemorate a similar battle fought at Marischino in their own country—is within the garden.

Foreign Parasites Help Agriculture

Progress Reported in Warfare on Insects.

Washington.—Substantial progress in warfare against a variety of insect pests is described by the bureau of entomology in its annual report for the fiscal year 1924. A number of effective new methods and materials for use against different types of infestation have been developed, and the control of insect pests by the importation and rearing of natural parasites has received considerable attention.

Work designed to prevent the spread of the Japanese beetle has been greatly strengthened, it is said, by increased appropriations. More effective inspection of farm products and nursery stock has been made possible, as well as the broadening research activities. These have resulted in information which may lead to the better utilization of evergreen stock grown in the infested regions of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, in the development of better insecticides and methods of applying them, and in new measures for treating infested soil in nursery beds.

Every effort has been made to secure the maximum number of parasite enemies of the Japanese beetle, and to establish these successfully. In co-operation with the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania and the federal horticultural board, the prevention of the spread of the Japanese beetle has been enforced to the fullest extent possible by means of a rigid embargo on a very large class of produce likely to be moved out of the infested areas.

Corn Borer Expands.

The European corn borer has made its appearance on the western end of Long Island, and the infestation in the Ohio area at the western end of Lake Erie has intensified. Progress has been made in the work of importing insect parasites of the corn borer from southern Europe. General control campaigns have been instituted.

One imported parasite is aiding in the control of the alfalfa weevil. Vigorous control efforts by state and federal entomologists are believed to have contributed importantly to the suppression of grasshopper outbreaks in the Dakotas, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas and Oklahoma. Extensive investigations have been made in connection with weevils attacking stored products of all kinds, resulting in the recommendation of several better and safer methods of fumigation.

The Mexican bean beetle has continued its rapid spread. It has now almost reached Lake Erie, has been found in West Virginia near Pennsylvania, and has extended its range greatly in the Southeastern states. Attempts to establish a tachinid fly parasite have thus far been unsuccessful, but it is hoped that this can be done eventually.

Extreme cold weather in January, 1924, and a phenomenal drought later, in the states from Alabama westward, resulted in a low emergence of the cotton boll weevil this year. Control measures have been perfected along several lines, including airplane dusting and the maintenance of a supply of calcium arsenate, and the outlook is encouraging.

Bark-beetle control projects in the Pacific coast states and the Rocky mountain region have continued to require much attention.

New Contact Insecticide.

A new contact insecticide, which will in many instances be a suitable substitute for nicotine at a lower cost, has been developed at the Silver Spring (Md.) laboratory. The practical value of pure ethyl acetate as a fumigant for grain at railway terminals has been demonstrated. The substitution of hydrocyanic-acid gas fumigation for sprays and other treatment of hides and skins for the control of the hide beetle has been a complete success. A new formula under investigation at the Orlando (Fla.) station, the so-called kaolin emulsion, has proved to have distinct merit in the control of scale insects affecting citrus fruit trees. A project is under way,

involving co-operation with the bureau of public roads and the bureau of standards, to learn the effect of the electrical charging of particles of insecticide dust produced by the airplane used in airplane dusting of cotton fields.

Studies relating to the problems of bee-keeping, such as the diseases of bees, the causes of differences in the colors of honeys and the behavior of bees, as affected by change in meteorological and other factors, have continued at the bee laboratory at Somerset, Md.

In recognition of the position filled by the insect pest survey, the entomologist in charge of the survey has been requested to participate in the meetings of the crop estimate board, to serve that board in an advisory capacity on the status of insect pests affecting crops upon which this board issues estimates.

German Railways Adopt Yankee Efficiency Ways

Dusseldorf.—The German railway administration is introducing American efficiency methods.

The bureaucracy, inherited from Imperial times, is giving place to business methods. Various subordinates, such as divisional chiefs, are being given much wider latitude of decision and their initiative is thus being strengthened.

By way of reducing operating expenses, the administration is negotiating for the acquisition of sawmills, steel works, etc., in which much of the equipment needed is to be made.

The change of spirit is most noticed in connection with advertising methods. A comprehensive scheme has been mapped out for popularizing

"WAR" WINS A PRIZE



This bronze head design for Meade memorial, representing "War," has been purchased by the Art Institute, Chicago, for its permanent collection. It is the work of Charles W. Grady of Philadelphia and won for him the Mr. and Mrs. Keith Spalding prize of \$1,000 at the annual exhibition at the Institute.

travel on the railway of the reach through folders, maps, moving-picture films, and travel agencies maintained in foreign centers.

So long as the railway system was merely a department government, there was little done to make active propaganda for the roads. A trained advertising staff is now at work to change this.

Just as soon as the railway administration is on its feet financially, more comfortable cars are to be constructed and put into service.

Chinese Pirate Knightly Rogue

Is Polite and Considerate of His Victims.

Foochow, China.—With consideration for their victims worthy of Robin Hood, pirates recently took possession of the Chinese steamer Ningshin, ran her into a harbor near Amoy, and proceeded to loot her most systematically, according to a report brought here by William Overholt and family, American missionaries, passengers and witnesses of the occurrence.

The quartermaster bravely refused to turn over his keys to the pirate chief and was killed, but the pirates made up a purse of \$300 and intrusted it to another of the ship's officers to be given to the family of the murdered man.

The pirates boarded the ship in Shanghai in the guise of passengers. When nearing Amoy they overpowered the officers and crew, acting with precision and with practically no violence.

They politely warned the Chinese-speaking passengers not to get excited, informing them their object was primarily the seizing of 90,000 pounds of silver bars consigned to the American Oriental bank at Foochow. Nevertheless, it was explained somewhat apologetically, the pirates needed some clothing and would be obliged to accept some from the passengers.

Only the passengers in the private cabins were robbed, the less fortunate ones in the matter of comforts being unmolested. Toward the foreign travelers the pirates were extremely polite. From them they took nothing, evidently under orders from their chief.

Under compulsion the crew piloted the Ningshin into a harbor, where, in a concealed location, appeared a fort suggestive of medieval days. Boats

put out from shore in great numbers to take off the treasure.

Many of the wild-looking boatmen attempted to board, but the pirate chief stood them off at the point of a revolver while his followers brought the loot to the ship's side. He explained to the passengers: "If these fellows get on board I can't control them, and they certainly will rob you of everything you have."

As soon as the silver was unloaded into the small boats the captain of the ship was ordered to put to sea, and as the boats dropped astern the pirates fired a salute with their small arms, the chief bowing low and swinging his hat in a wide theatrical gesture.

Lucky, Once Alley Pup, Guest of \$5,000 Dog

New York.—A month ago Lucky was gleaming a precarious living snooping in garbage pails and sleeping in some darkened doorway.

Recently she sat at the right paw of Kiki, a princess in her own right, daughter of Bantam King, a \$5,000 bundle of canine perfection. Lucky munched liver and lipped ice cream, the guest of honor at a feast of the social elite of New York's dogdom.

About three weeks ago, Mrs. E. A. Rundquist was walking in Madison avenue. With her was Kiki, dignified, aristocratic.

On the curb stood Lucky, miserable, despondent, shivering. On the other end of the cotton string that encircled her neck was Joey Girojo, six-year-old human fragment, also shivering.

Mrs. Rundquist, wife of a surgeon, has a soft spot for boys and dogs. Joey acquired a new sweater, and Lucky a warm blanket, harness and leash. When it came time for Kiki's annual Christmas party to her aristocratic friends, Lucky was included, and Joey.

Mrs. Rundquist's spacious apartment was thrown open for the occasion and the guests permitted the freedom of the luxurious Persian rugs and brocade furniture.

Keeps Diary

Emporia, Kan.—Persons who buy diaries the first of each year, keep them a few weeks, then tire of the practice, will take off their hats to W. H. Brooks, Emporia grocer. He has kept a diary for 59 years without missing a day, and January 1 he started his sixtieth journal.

Brooks only writes a few lines a day, but he never lets a day go by without some sort of an entry. He keeps his diaries filed in his desk at the store, and always has them available for looking up events in the town's history.

Song Helps Sales

Washington.—The United States has plenty of bananas.

Last year, apparently spurred by the popular song, 44,000,000 bunches of bananas were imported, two-fifths of a bunch for every man, woman and child in the republic.

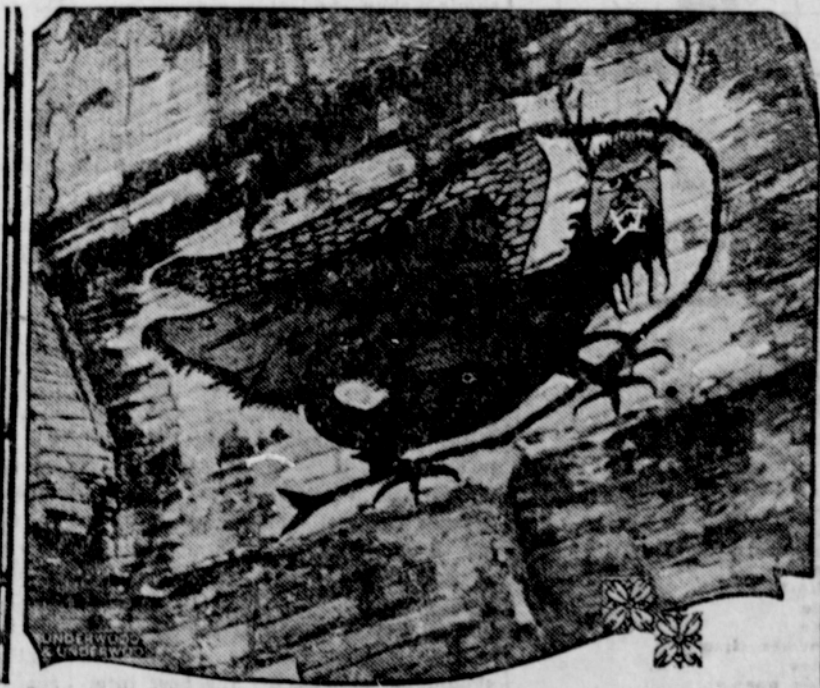
America also bought \$26,000,000 worth of nuts abroad. Almonds made up nearly \$6,000,000 of this amount.

Tribute From French Face Wounded



Capt. R. E. Brunschwig, formerly of the Twenty-seventh battalion, Chasseurs Alpins ("Blue Devils"), with the bronze palm, the work of Auguste Vimener, sent from France by the Union of French Face Wounded and placed on the tomb of the Unknown Hero in Arlington cemetery on Armistice day. The union, which is headed by Marshal Petain and Colonel Picot, is composed of officers and men in all branches of service in the French army whose features bear the mark of the terrible day of the World war. In ordinary conversation the members of the union refer to themselves as the "Genies Cassees," or "Cracked Faces." Captain Brunschwig, who was badly wounded in the face during the first battle of the Somme, is an officer of the Legion of Honor and wears the French and Belgian war crosses.

Piasa Bird Again on Cliff at Alton



Again the Piasa Bird, a noted aboriginal carving, looks down from the cliffs of the Mississippi river at Alton, Ill. The original carving of the Piasa Bird, first seen by Father Marquette when he cruised along the Father of Wa-