

Make a Garret of Your Mind

KNOWLEDGE THAT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED, AND FACTS THAT NEED ONLY BE PIGEON-HOLED

BY CYNTHIA WESTOVER ALDEN.
THE best advice a young woman who is still studying can get from a friend is this: "Don't make a garret of your mind!"

Your ambition should not be to know everything, to remember everything, to discuss everything. This is a fault of youth. Then—

When I was younger I will you see me now. Nothing from Adams's Fall to Rudy's home. I was full of knowledge with my judgment on it.

If your life were to last a thousand years, and you were to sleeplessly acquire facts and were to be mysteriously endowed of retaining all you might acquire, you would still be like a child picking up pebbles on the shore of the Ocean of Knowledge. You would still be a million years away from knowing everything.

As men and women are constituted, there is no such capacity for sleepless work, there is no such immunity from loss of memory. We are what we are. The problem is to make the most of ourselves. To do that we must study first out absolute limitations.

Therefore, throw away the trumpery of knowledge. First of all, never remember anything for the vain glory of remembering it. You are not likely to seek employment in a museum or to be called upon to exhibit. Nobody is going to fall down and worship you because you know the date of the battle of Thermopylae, and he doesn't. Nobody will be pleased to repeat your demonstrated ability to repeat "Paradise Lost" backward. These things make serious persons smile. I am sorry, but I think it must be confessed that much of our organized education neglects this proposition, which seems to me very self-evident.

Good Servant, Bad Master. Memory is like fire—a good servant, but a bad master. It is, in a sense, the basis of all the faculties of the mind; the carpet, if you prefer that figure, on which we walk to success. But a basis must be of something besides flint and steel work, and the carpet must be neutral in tone, never distracting one's attention, one is to walk across it surely and rapidly. The vanity of memory is a chief stumbling-block to youth of both sexes, for often a stumbling-block that is a mercurial band of time fall to remove.

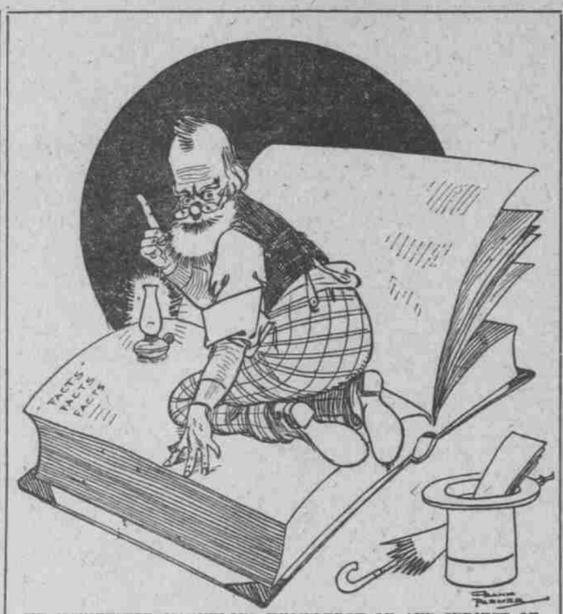
I know a woman who is really familiar with the history of ancient Egypt. She likes nothing else so much as to talk on the dynasties of the Pharaohs, to explain to weary, wondering minds the worship of Isis and Osiris, the reasons why the cat is sacred animal, and to describe the glories of the Egyptian priesthood. She has so many facts at her tongue's end on this subject that she is like a social leader and people walk blocks rather than meet her where there can be the slightest chance of her breaking loose.

I know another woman who has made a specialty of vocal and instrumental music. She cannot sing and cannot play any instrument. She can give pleasure to no one through her knowledge. She is a deadly bore with her own knowledge.

A third woman of my acquaintance is equally daff on architecture. If you call on her she will show you as fine a collection of photographs of the best cathedrals in all Europe as you can find in any private house in America. She will spend two hours, if you will let her, telling what she has learned, and incidentally what you have never seen nor learned. That is where the offensive element of a disordered memory is most apparent. There is no man, woman or child who likes to have his own inferiority too strongly brought out. Few of us ever forgive it. None of us ever courts a second interview with one who has shown guilty of this lapse of good breeding.

How One Should Know. It has been said that one ought to know something of everything, and everything of something. But like every other rule, this needs explanation before it can convey any definite meaning to the mind. The something of which you should know everything should be related to your advantage in life. It should give you an advantage as a worker in your own field. It should be useful, not ornamental. It should not be a matter of vanity, but a matter of calculated utility. The something which you should know of everything is in the nature of things that are important to the man who bought the "Encyclopedia Britannica" in sections. He had a wonderful memory, and he kept it to memorize all the articles, and make himself the best equipped person in the world on matters of general information. He was remarkably successful. He got down to the end of "C" before his patience gave out. Even after that he tried to do too much. But the knowledge he had was in a measure, systematized, and to that extent he had the advantage over many of the rest of us, of which he was justly very proud.

I remember a dear old garret, the mecca of childhood, where all manner of things that had passed their days of usefulness were stowed away. There was a rocking-chair with two broken arms, an old sewing-machine that would sew no longer, a pile of volumes of the United States census, a shogun with the hammer missing, a half dozen worn-out umbrellas, a wooden household cradle that had done duty for two generations, three cracked-looking-glasses, and two trunks full of—oh! I can't begin to tell you what was in the trunks. But everything was always in confusion. In your own mind are like that garret. Nothing is in order; and though the list of what is there might fill a book, nobody cares who becomes of it all. Such a hodgepodge of knowledge is almost worse than no knowledge at all. There is a certain virtue in submitting him to ignorance for the more complex kind.



HE MANIFESTED MARVELOUS KNOWLEDGE ON ANY SUBJECT OF WHICH THE CATCHWORD BEGINS WITH A, B OR C.

tempt to hold everything. They have within instant reach what is likely to be needed. Their owners work rapidly and logically, because their material does not have to be searched for. But in the pigeonholes there is a storehouse, not of facts, but of ways to get at facts. It is the pigeonholes to which I want to call especial attention. Never take trouble to remember what can be easily searched out in a reference library or in reference books of your own. It is much better to know where information on a hundred points can be obtained than to know all about five points so that you can give your knowledge as from a book. If you apply yourself to the sort of memorizing that I am approving you will be astounded at the range of your possibilities. Most human knowledge is recorded somewhere. Make it your business to know where whatever you read will be recorded. When you read, read with that end in view. Keep a memorandum that will refresh your memory as to the exact sort of information to be obtained from a reading you do. Effective Cribbing. I once knew a man who had followed this plan. He was suddenly asked to deliver a lecture on the history of French literature. He never had paid any particular attention to the subject. In fact, I believe he never paid any particular attention to any subject. He accepted the invitation promptly. I went to listen to him, for I wondered what on earth he could do with it. His address lasted for 40 minutes and everybody was sorry when it was finished. It was vivid, instructive and seemed the result of the ripest knowledge. He was not talking to ignorant people, and any blunder would have been instantly detected. When he was through and had received general congratulations, I asked wonderingly: "How did you do it? Did you crib it all from somebody else's lecture on the history of French literature?" And he answered: "You might hunt from now until the end of the century, and you never could tell where I cribbed that matter. I didn't crib it. I merely spent an hour in the Astor Library, digested the facts I needed, picked from each of

same publishers state that they are sending to press a fifth large edition of "The New Knowledge."



SHE WILL SPEND TWO HOURS, IF YOU LET HER, TELLING WHAT SHE HAS SEEN.

half a dozen books and then wrote my own lecture. My memory system always stands me in good stead. He was talking the truth. I never knew him to be at a loss for the treatment of any topic, and yet he never tried to remember more than a little rest in the dinner, and the other side, and crawling vines strung toward the top. The house is of the English seventeenth century style, a copy of the famous English house, the seat of Lord Brownlow in Lincolnshire. Its tasteful architectural line, its well-chosen location and its pure whiteness combine to give the house an air of stateliness and dignity. The villa was built four years ago.

with brilliant dialogue and a rapid succession of humorous situations. The juxtaposition of the extremely sophisticated girl of the East and the rough frontier characters affords many a lively and laughable situation.

"The Making of a Socialist," by William Hard, is a justification of Socialism by a lawyer who never read Marx, and it certainly goes far to show that the "Socialist" is not the "World's Work." Charles M. Harvey discusses "Roosevelt's Successes and Failures."

"Our Country Needs," by Henrietta Dowle, is the principal feature in Suburban Life. It deals with the random thoughts, fleeting impressions and the moving fragments of memories of a day's drive on rural highways. William Macfarland writes on "Climbing Vines in the Back Yard."

"The Curb Hill," a record of some effective rate regulations, and written by Ethel Harrison, is the feature for the student, and contains many interesting features of the Texas railway struggle. Geraldine Bonner, talks of "The Passing of the Argonauts." This article on the coast, by Richardson, is a lively and interesting study.

The Western Magazine, with a home office at San Diego, Cal., makes its bow with its first issue for August. It is edited by John Scott Mills and its mission is to help to make known the varied resources of the West, to give the culture of the West, and to give of its own a strong one, and the magazine well worth reading. Ben E. Lyster contributes an story, "A Night in Oregon."

Professor A. B. Kennedy of Harvard University is putting the finishing touches to a popular work on "Wireless Telegraphy," which brings the facts of the science of the wireless, scientific and commercial. It makes the whole subject clear to the uninitiated mind, and is a valuable work in detail on its development in America. The book is illustrated informally with diagrams and plans.

"Disenchanted" is the title of Pierre Loti's book, which is the latest in his series, which deals with bare life in Constantinople, and is a study of the life of a young man in the East. It is a study of the life of a young man in the East. It is a study of the life of a young man in the East.

There is evidently a revival of interest in the work of Edgar Saltus, judging from the new editions of his works published by Mitchell Kennerly. The "Magazine" first published in 1891, and which has been out of print since the original publishers failed.

Bram Stoker's "Reminiscences of Mr. Henry Irving" is now well under way, and will be published in the next few weeks. It is a study of the life of a young man in the East. It is a study of the life of a young man in the East.

Herbert Quick writes a helpful article in the "Magazine" for August, "The Farming Without Irrigation," describing the simple, inexpensive method of a fair young man in the East. It is a study of the life of a young man in the East.

A peculiar circumstance in connection with the publication of "The Incubator Baby," 2115 Parker Butler's new book, is that neither the author nor the publisher has ever seen an incubator baby until after the book was published. The rather clever way in which the incubator baby makes her entrance into the tale, is a study of the life of a young man in the East.

Commander Peary has a timely article on "The Fate of the Pole," one of the many numbers of the "Youth's Companion," because of a kind which appears more tempting in August than in February. The article is a study of the life of a young man in the East.

"The Fall of the House of Usher," by William John Hopkins, is in the August Atlantic Monthly. It is a study of the life of a young man in the East.

The Golden Age, a new monthly magazine for the home, continues to prosper under the editorial control of Logan Douglas Howell and Ada Jenckey. Its literary presentations are very satisfactory.

Do you want to read a most amusing child's story? Get "The Wars of the Roses," told in this month's St. Nicholas. Carolyn Wells contributes a most readable, delightful poem, "Who's Who in the Zoo," with significant illustrations.

A. S. Barnes & Co. announces that "The Art," in one volume, is now ready. The volume is a study of the life of a young man in the East.

McClure, Phillips & Co. announce for immediate publication "Letters to a Chinese Official," by William Jennings Bryan. It is a study of the life of a young man in the East.

Close to the western shore of Laurel Lake in Lenox, Mass., is Mount, the beautiful Summer villa of Mrs. Edith Wharton, novelist, who she wrote "The House of Mirth." In this Summer home Mrs. Wharton lives with her husband, Edward R. Wharton, until long after snow falls in December; there they entertain during the gay Lenox season some of the best known men and women of literature in the country.

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self-reliance. For there is this to be said of the men of the desert and mountains, that they know how to take defeat with a smile for the future and a firmer set of the jaw for the present would prevent them from being prodigal and foolish deeds among the few who find bewildering wealth in the earth, a finer wealth of manhood is developed in the hearts of the many who fail to find that which they seek.

Thompson & Thomas announce for publication their new book, "A Strange Flaw," by Henry S. Wilcox, a well-known Chicago lawyer. A flaw in a land grant is used to exploit the ways in which the public is plundered by capitalists and promoters.

A. S. Barnes & Co. say that they recently received this letter: "I am interested in Mr. Peole's book, 'The Voice of the Street,' and would like to do all in my power to give it a wide circulation in Connecticut. The circulars you sent are of no use to me because, in this connection, and in that of the best you can do I will get something out on my own account and at my own expense. I have about 5000 correspondents in the state and the number increases, and I want a card or an artistic announcement of some sort that I can include in letters. I have a friend and comrade in the Socialist movement who has a studio in my attic. He is reading the book with the idea of making an art poster to be used in New Haven and at Socialist headquarters throughout the state. I have no personal interest in the thing, but I see an idea underlying the story. It is not so much the story of 'Lucky Jim' as the undoing—the spoiling of a fair young life by the system. It is that the system might the fairest and purest and damns the strongest and best in our nation and in society. Then there is the resuscitation of 'Lucky Jim' through love. The power of a word, when awakened by love. The story tells that at the bottom—in the social sublimity—men and women are made noble and self-sacrificing through love."

College Men Hunting Gold. College men fairly swarm in the gold camps of Nevada, and many of them flocked in as soldiers of fortune.

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