

GIRLS' TRADE SCHOOL IS CALLED A BOON TO HOUSEWIFERY

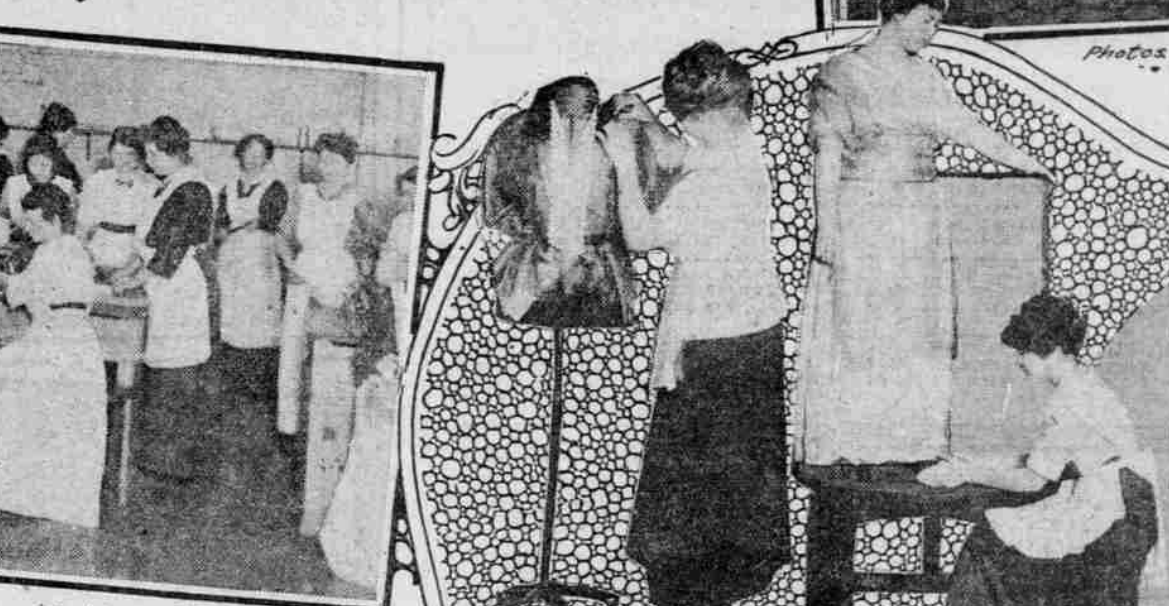
Addison Bennett Says That, Despite Unfitness of Building, Study of Cookery and Dressmaking Is Valuable Asset of City—Industry of Students Proves Pleasant Surprise.



Girls of Trade School at Play



BY ADDISON BENNETT.



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Purchasing Supplies, Girls Trade School

My article last week I said that the girls' trade school, which is located in the old Lincoln High School building at Morrison and Fourteenth streets and which now is called the Lowndes school, receiving that name since the building of the Lincoln High School, situated on West Park and Market streets. It is said by some that the old Lincoln building when erected was considered the model school building of the Northwest. It often has been said that it was then, that was about 1885 I believe, the finest school structure west of the Missouri.

Be that as it may, on visit to this building now and a close examination of it will show that it is far out of date. Such a building would not be erected for school purposes at present and it is surely unfitted for the use of the trade school. Yet we are lucky to have even so good an edifice for it if we did not have it I am sure I do not know how the directors would be able to house the girls' trade school. If the three rooms now occupied by the primary overflow from the Couch and Ladd schools could be vacated by those pupils and turned over to the use of the girls it would be a great benefit and this additional space would allow the admission of some of the many who now wish to take instruction there but are barred for want of space.

Mrs. Alexia Alexander is the principal of this school, and she has as able a corps of assistants as any school could wish for. At least two of the instructors, Miss Labrie and Miss Lucia Schmidt, have national reputations, the latter principal of the millinery department and the former in domestic science. Mrs. Schmidt stands so high that her services during the vacation period are in demand all over the country. This summer she will be teaching at the Chicago University. The Portland School Board was fortunate in securing the services of both Miss Labrie and Mrs. Schmidt, and she still more fortunate if they remain there.

Housewifery Study Big Aid.

That term domestic science gets my goat. Housewifery more nearly fits. But I suppose the bifurcated term domestic science was invented to better the minds of the people, for a professor of plain housewifery could not expect as high a salary as a professor of domestic science; yet the common, every day people for whose benefit we desire to teach the occupation of conducting one or all branches of homemaking and housekeeping, would fully understand its meaning.

Let me say that the first thing that struck me favorably with Mrs. Alexander's school, or perhaps I had better say the thing which struck me most forcibly, was the character and bearing of the students. I expected to find a place filled with school girls, many of them perhaps giggling and gum-chewingly taking their lessons as a matter of course because their parents had sent them there. I never was more badly mistaken in my life.

No girl is admitted below the age of 14—at the other end of it there seems to be no limit, for I am sure I saw women there who are well past 50 years of age. Now take these middle-aged or elderly women, many of them the heads of families, and think of their discovering at such a late day that they were deficient in knowledge as cooking or sewing—were not able to conduct their households along modern lines. Just think of them dropping their pride and becoming schoolgirls again. Next I found there the daughters of poor people, very poor, who were going to learn a better way of homemaking, so that their daughters might be able to reach farther and yet supply more luxuries than least some luxuries.

Rich Class Study, Too.

Then another class, the daughters of sensible people, of mothers who had gone a little too far in allowing their daughters to sit in the parlor or gad the streets while mother made this world—that mistaken policy of letting-mother-do-it—then the awakening and the girl sent here for effective instruction. Or perhaps many of these young women are expecting to marry and the mother has found that the best and quickest way for the daughter to learn the art of housekeeping is in such a school as this.

And still another class, and a large one, we find here—the daughters of the rich and very rich people—but people of sense. These people do not care to make servants of their daughters, nor yet household drudges. But they do know that their daughters ought to know how to conduct a home when they are called into one of their own. When I had pointed out to me the daughter of a gentleman who is many times a

millionaire standing and working, and later taking her lunch by the side of the daughter from a very, very poor mother, and now sent here to gain knowledge so that she might obtain a position as a servant—when I saw the very rich and the very poor, with all of the intermediate classes working, studying, learning and fraternizing all as equals, I thought that there was an institution conducted in accord with the golden rule if ever there was one.

And let me tell you that no corps of low-grade teachers could lay down any rules of discipline that would bring about this democracy of feeling and actions, no ordinary principal could secure the co-operation of her teachers to such a degree as to accomplish these results. It takes diplomacy of a rare kind, and Mrs. Alexander possesses it.

Half Time Given to Study.

In the course of study, a booklet issued by the School Board explaining about the trade schools, I find in the girls' school only four trades or occupations mentioned—sewing, cooking, millinery and home-making. (I have just observed that Superintendent Alderman often steps the "domestic science" phrase). But it must be understood that in this school, the same as in the boys' trade school, only half of the school hours are devoted to this manual training; the balance of the time is given over to book learning. But the studies always carry the student along the lines of the occupation for which such student is being fitted.

In the case of the girls' school, however, the four branches taught all really come under the head of homemaking, housekeeping, housewifery or domestic science—call it what you will. Every young woman ought to be grounded in the rudiments of sewing and cooking before her marriage.

As she learns those simple duties in this school she may also apply her talents to becoming expert in making various garments, from the simple dress to the elaborate gown. The practical art of real flower making. It must be remembered that the student furnishes her own materials in

ten everything else except the finest of girls' homelike over the waffle iron and the teacher showing how they could be cooked to perfection and yet come out of the iron without the least bit of sticking. I tell you, those waffles were fine, as good as I ever tasted, and I am some connoisseur on waffles—make a nice fat one myself occasionally.

Well, we had a splendid lunch, everything being just to my taste—then I footed the bill. We had lunch rather extravagantly, so the bill for the two of us was 15 cents. Feeling flush, I gave the cashier two bits and told her to hand the change to the young woman who built the waffle. I am going to take a little and go over some of my words again. I want to impress upon the citizens, fathers, mothers and taxpayers of Portland that this school is run along practical lines, every department of it. The work is done as nearly as practicable under ordinary home conditions.

Visit by Parents Is Asked.

It is not a play school, by a long shot. Let me tell you that a girl going to this school is not a girl with an average intelligence—would come through knowing as much as a girl graduating from the home of the best housekeeping mother in existence. Of course, after all is said and done, that is where housewifery should be learned, but it is unnecessary, would be if every parent were doing his or her full and complete duty. But they are not, not one out of ten is doing this. Hence you ought to remember that as your negligence has made such schools necessary it is your "privilege" to pungle up some of the cost.

Night Schools Gain Attention.

As I am about to draw this article to a close, my attention is called to the night schools conducted in both the boys' and girls' schools. Mrs. Alexander has about 300 regular attendants, a large number of whom are "girls" of mature growth. During the term the registration in this department will be 700. It is true also that many of these girls are from the families of the boys' school the night attendance is largely made up of men who are employed during the day. But I cannot get into the details of the night schools in this article. I have already overrun my allotted space. It is a theme to write a book upon and justice cannot be done in a brief or even lengthy newspaper article.

In my first article on the school question I stated there would follow two others. At the time I thought I could treat of the two schools in the first article. It has taken two. So there may be a fourth article, as I have the financial question and the school-building question yet to take up. Also the matter of what Professor Alderman calls the "home credits" system, of which I believe, he was the originator, but which has been taken up and put into operation by most of the leaders of education in the country. This "home credits" question is one of great interest and I will go into it as a commencement for my next article.

ing malicious mischief. Now Louis is having his rheumatism treated by J. H. Physician Ellis, as he could not furnish \$300 bail.

Sweet Corn to Be Planted Late.

Corn should not be planted until the ground is warm, as the seed will rot in cold, damp soil, or if planted too deep. It is best to plant the seed for first plantings and for succession plant every two weeks through May and June. Cover the first planting with a light mulch, and the second with a little for the later plantings. For the early varieties rows should be three feet apart; for later large varieties, four feet, and the hills two to three feet in the row.

ALL PLANTS ARE WEEDS IN FOREIGN LOCALITIES

Pest-Ridden Lots That Bespeak of Slovenly Owners May Be Remedied by Plowing or Elimination of Conditions That Afford Growth.

THE definition of a weed is a fruitless source of speculation for jurists and botanists. Their prevalence and characteristics are discussed, their beauty and noisomeness are considered, but most of all a few remarks are made upon them in their bearing to the city beautifying campaign now under way under the auspices of the Rose Festival Association.

Portland has its share of vacant lots awaiting the construction of houses. Until they are built upon, the customary method is to leave them abjectly alone and that means to allow whatever will grow upon them to develop undisturbed.

In bringing lots to the salable state of building sites, it ordinarily means that the forest is cut down, streets are graded and walks built. During the grading some streets are cut, the top soil is removed and the parking smoothed over with sterile subsoil.

Grading Often Brings Weeds.

If the excavation provides an excess of yardage, the surplus is sometimes slipped upon the lots and all vegetation is not only destroyed but a poor soil is suffered to form the top layer. Being loose, it becomes an excellent area wherein seeds may germinate. First among those likely to occur are seeds of plants wafted by the winds, those washed into place by streams of water or carried by the multitudinous means provided by the niceties of adjustment found in nature.

Grading itself will bring upon the filled ground a host of weeds, and all that is required to bring a crop to fruition is to leave the lot unmolested. The lot is usually allowed to remain free from any building improvement by reason of the speculative element in

they produced on plants other than those we consider weeds. Camas lilies and poppies are examples.

The pollen of some weeds are vital to the life of the plants which are familiar. The volatile oils of some are poisonous—like poison ivy. The range of medical uses of weeds is well illustrated by the very large representation given to them in materia medica. Attention here is intended to be confined to their every-day appearance in the city, so the sole designation of their healthfulness is restricted to the healthfulness of what we commonly see rather than the products of that thereof.

Barren Earth Less Healthful.

Barren earth is not only more unsightly, but decidedly less healthful than a weed-covered area. Plants give off oxygen and consume carbonic acid gas—the reverse of the process of human respiration, hence they purify the air and make it richer for human consumption. This process only prevails while the plants are green. When they die, become brown and dry, they cease their function of sanitation and purifying and are elements of danger insofar as they are fuel for fires.

Weeds have numerous objectionable features. Odors are objectionable in some, skunk cabbage, stinkweed and ragweed are some of the more offensive. Weeds are unsanitary in that they absorb oxygen and give off carbonic acid gas and thus parallel the breathing of persons and deplete the purity of the air; when dry they shade the ground, causing it to become damp and sour and prevent the purifying and drying effects of sun and wind.

Weeds harbor injurious insects and fungous and bacterial diseases of cultivated plants. Many insects injurious to garden and field crops also live on weeds, upon which the thrive and multiply, and thus keep up their numbers, ready to attack their favorite crop as soon as it is laid unprotected. The control of insect enemies and fungous and bacterial diseases of field and garden crops is rendered much more difficult, and their extermination, in some instances, is made practically impossible because they exist on weeds that are not subject to the care bestowed on cultivated crops.

In these parts, where wheat is grown

so abundantly, the romanticism as well as the stern realities of the peculiarity of a certain barberry playing host to wheat during one stage of its life history is of serious importance even though remarkably astonishing as well. So serious has the cultivation of this plant become in Maryland, that farmers objected to the cultivation of the plant as an ornament in the Baltimore parks.

Weeds Suggest Slovenliness.

Weeds suggest neglect both of regard to appearance and to husbandry. Slovenliness is apt to be ascribed to a person who suffers them to become rampant in his yard. It is a token of a low order of civic pride if the general public are indifferent to their prevalence. They are unusually ugly, repellent, disreputable and signify careless abandon of little use to anyone. They may become a source of danger if not of certain injury to the community.

Public welfare demands the removal of elements dangerous to life and health. Why, therefore, is it not reasonable to require the removal or destruction of weeds as soon as they stop growing. Health regulations often do require this, and an ordinance in effect in this city to require their removal. Thus far it has not been very effective in changing the aspect of the city, but any shortcomings in methods of operation provided does not prove that the principle is unworthy. It would be an excellent subject for the women's clubs to investigate for the purpose of securing a reasonable ordinance covering the topic and then to educate the public to sustain its enforcement.

Flowering Considered Remedy.

Alberta section has advanced an excellent plan providing that vacant lots will be tendered to individuals rent free for the cultivation of Irish potatoes and various vegetables. Appearance, health and utility are all served with one stroke. Another method would be to plow under the weeds and by discing and smoothing bring the surface to a reasonably smooth plane, then sow to white clover or to turfclovers.

Lots filled with sterile soil may not support grasses, and in such cases the white Melilot, "white sweet clover,"

LOUIS, WAG, LANDS IN JAIL

Rheumatic Lintment Given Rival With Penchant for Liquor.

PITTSBURG, March 14.—Louis Ruts always was a joker. Back as far as his friend Ralph Zagowitz can remember, in the little town in the country where they both were boys, Louis would always have his little joke. Now Louis is in jail. His joke with Ralph once too often.

Louis and Ralph were rivals for the hand of the girl back home. Intent upon earning a competence, so that they could marry, both came to America, both arriving on the South Side, and both went to work in the same steel mill and at the same wage. There was the rub. The one who could offer the girl the most money was to have her. Their first year ended the other day and when both counted their savings they found they had run a dead heat.

Louis had in addition to his savings a case of acute rheumatism. Ralph had his savings and a fondness for liquor. So Louis, the merry war, activated by a desire to have a clear field for the woman in the case, offered Ralph his bottle of rheumatism liniment, suggesting that it was his. Ralph's accusation says. After a doctor had seen Ralph, the latter saw Joseph H. Jackson, Alderman, charged

COCOANUT OIL FINE FOR WASHING HAIR

If you want to keep your hair in good condition, the less soap you use the better.

Most soaps and prepared shampoos contain too much alkali. This dries the scalp, makes the hair brittle, and is very harmful. Just plain mulified coconut oil (which is pure and entirely greaseless), is much better than soap or anything else you can use for shampooing, as this can't possibly injure the hair.

Simply moisten your hair with water and rub it in. One or two teaspoonfuls will make an abundance of rich, creamy lather, and cleanses the hair and scalp thoroughly. The lather rinses out easily, and removes every particle of dust, dirt, dandruff and excessive oil. The hair dries quickly and evenly, and it leaves it fine and silky, bright, fluffy and easy to manage.

You can get mulified coconut oil at most any drug store. It is very cheap, and a few ounces is enough to last everyone in the family for months.