

D ENOUNCING as a "crime, a shame and a disgrace" conditions that permitted more than 30 per cent of the young
men of draft age to be classified as illiterates, Gen. John J. Pershing, in a talk to the soldier patients at Walter Reed army Mospitass upon comimunities the obligations the latter owed to the youth of the United States in education, His startling disclos
ures also constitute one of the strongest possible arguments for compulsory education, at least up to a certain age. This appeal
by General Pershing, and the illiteracy to which he called attention, it is pointed out, emphasizes the importance of a federal
department of education, one which department of education, one which would give moral and ii-
nancial support to the states in their campaigns against ignor ance.
The Washington Post, in an editorial discuissing the report of
the house committee on education, through Chairman Fess, recommending the passage of the department of education measure, drives home some of the facts with respect to iliteracy con-
tained in the report, The editorial says in part: "It (the report) places the United States as ninth in rank among the civilized nations in the matter of education, which idea that this country was a leader in literacy, It also quotes
former Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane to the effect 1ormer Secretary of the interior Franklin K. Lane to the effect
that illiteracy alone is responsible for an economic loss of $\$ 825$, ,
000,000 a year in this country $000,000 \mathrm{a}$ year in this country,
It is carefully explained $t$
tempt to set up standards or to exercise any authority not atconduct of the schools. It seeks through government coopera-
tion and aid to encourage education throughout the country and leaves to the States all details with respect to courses of study, plans and methods. Nor does it appropriate any money; but
fixes a limit of $\$ 100,000,000$ a year which congress may approuxes a imit of $\$ 100,000,000$ a year which congress may approof an appropriation by complying with the provisions of the act after the method provided in the federal good roads act. lishment of a department of education in the government, with lishment of a department of education in the government, with
a view to co-ordinating the federal agencies already existing for a view to co-ordinating the federal agencies already existing for
the furtherance of education and to extend the scope of the work,"

## ONE SMASH IS ENOUGH

0N trial for her life accused of murder, Clara Smith Hamon: said: "Those whose que is "eat, drink and be merry, for
tomorrow ye may die," for their part in life, think they are happy, but it is only the deepest sorrow and a guise of tem-
porary bliss. This is usually realized when a tragic crash comes -and then it is too late."
Having played the game the young woman should know Whereof she speaks. It is only necessary to add that when you ride in the airplane of fast living and loose thinking it is usually
necessary to drop but once in order to make a sizable wreck fartieularly if there is a murder in the wind.
ONE MAN'S CHOICE

R ATHER than pass his last days in a poor house, an aged
resident of Seaside committed suiside. Bidding those who had called to take him to the home provided by the he did that which left for his callers to do only a service for the
de cannot condone an act of self-destruction and neither can we condemn the cold form of charity typified by a county
poor house. The one is as indefensible as the other is necessary, poor house. The one is as indefensible as the other is necessary,
but we can sometimes understand the one and always regret but we can sometimes understand the one and always regret
the eternal exigencies which require the other. And what hu-
man heart is not touched by an expression of proud spirit that prefers death to the callous charity of government! Verily, Iife's little tragedies are all about us, FOOOSTHAOVNI

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