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NO TEXT BOOKS EXIST ON SUBJECT OF NEW COURSE

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, EUGENE, April 18.—Oriental history, a new subject for a high school study, has been introduced at the University high school this semester. This is a course dealing with the Philippine Islands, India, China and Japan, and is a subject seldom studied in high school, but very important, especially to the Pacific coast, because of the nearness of the Oriental countries.

This study is by way of an experiment. The chief difficulties in teaching the course arise from the fact that there are no text books on the subject in existence.

CHECK MADE ON MENTAL DEFECTIVES

"The prevention and correction of mental defectiveness," says the U. S. public health service, "is one of the great public health problems of today. Its influence is continually cropping out. For instance, recent studies have shown that feeble-mindedness is an important factor in prostitution, and that a marked proportion of juvenile delinquency is traceable to

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mental deficiency in the offender. "A recent state-wide survey in Oregon shows that more than 75,000 men, women and children out of a total population of 733,000 are dependents, delinquents or feeble-minded, and that more than 500 school children out of a total enrolled school population of 32,500 are more or less mentally deficient. The latter fact is significant when it is remembered that the condition of the children of today is the best possible index to the condition of the community of tomorrow.

"The Oregon figures are considerably lower than the average shown by the draft examination, indicating that they are certainly not higher than those that would be obtained in other states."

MERMAID FROCKS STARTLE ENGLISH

LONDON.—The freak fashions which inevitably accompany spring-time madness promise this season to surpass anything that has gone before in the way of daring and novelty.

Dame Fashion has been having a confab with Father Neptune, and the net result is decidedly fishy.

One of them is the mermaid frock, which is a close-fitting affair entirely composed of paillettes, which overlap one another in the approved fish-scale style. These paillettes are of iridescent shades of silver, green and blue. No trimming or ornament of any kind is worn with the frock and corsets are doffed, so that the sinuous mermaid effect is complete.

Another fishy fad is the girdle, composed of painted sea shells. With this is worn a head-dress of similar design, or, maybe, of tinted pearls.

For those whose systems cannot assimilate too much sea breeze, a few Hawaiian modes have been thrown in. The one which is likely to excite most comment is the Hawaiian skirt. This extends from the waist to just below the knee and is composed of course, matted, hay-colored fringe and has the ragged primitive effect of the garments of South Sea Islanders.

FAMINE VICTIMS FREEZE TO DEATH

HOCHIENFU, China (By Mail to United Press).—Daily reports of famine victims freezing to death are be-

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 ASHLAND OREGON

ing received here by the relief mission station here. Rev. B. M. McOwen, Anglican missionary, says that when grain distribution began many of the men in the country hereabout were too weak to come and fetch their family ration.

Despite a blizzard that lasted 48 hours without a break, McOwen continued to issue relief stores to the starving, though many who started from points remote from the relief station lost their way in the storm.

We are now enabled to feed about 40,000 persons through to the spring harvest," McOwen says. "Probably ten times that number will need to be fed, if they are not to starve to death."

Compulsory Law Hard on This Father

YORK, Pa.—The compulsory attendance law bears hard on a farmer with 13 children, Earl Mundis of Lower Windsor township, told Jacob Stager, alderman, before whom he was taken after being arrested, charged with failing to send his children to school. Mr. Mundis' defense at the hearing will be that he is unable to bear the financial burden imposed by the law.

Screen Gossip

Fearing an attack of appendicitis might interfere with her work in "The Great Impersonation," George Melford's next production for Paramount, Ann Forrest, who is to play the leading feminine role in the new picture, has gone to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles for an operation, from which she hopes to be recovered in about three weeks. Miss Forrest recently completed her work in "A Wise Fool," which was also produced by George Melford from Sir Gilbert Parker's "The Money Master," and was last seen here in "The Faith Healer."

Dore Davidson, known to motion-picture patrons for his work as the father in Humoresque, plays the part of "Grouch" in George Fitzmaurice's production of "Experience," which is being filmed at Paramount's Long Island studio. Mr. Davidson also is appearing on Broadway in "Rollo's Wild Cat."

To impress it upon the mind of Wallace Reid, Paramount star, that they wanted to see him during his recent trip to the Pacific Northwest, the Eugene (Ore.) Chamber of Commerce sent him a "Stop in Eugene" telegram, consisting of 48 "stops" and the two final words, "In Eugene."

William D. Taylor has begun work on "The Lifted Veil," a starring vehicle for Ethel Clayton, which Julia

Crawford Ivers adapted for Paramount from the play by Henry Arthur Jones.

Elliott Dexter, after a vacation in New York, is back in Hollywood, preparing to start work shortly in a picture at Lasky studio.

Betty Compson, the newest Paramount star, will start soon under the direction of Penrhyn Stanlaws on her first Paramount picture, "At the End of the World," from the European success by Ernest Klein.

Gloria Swanson is nearing the finish of "The Great Moment," her first picture as an individual star for Paramount, written by Elinor Glyn and directed by Sam Wood.

Roscoe (Fatty) Arbuckle is in overalls a good deal of the time these days, playing the title role in his new Paramount picture, "Gasoline Gus," by Walter Woods from George Patullo stories.

Reginald Denny has been selected

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to play one of the leading male roles opposite Miss Elsie Ferguson in her latest Paramount picture, "Footlights," which is in the process of production under the direction of John S. Robertson at Paramount's eastern studio. Before the holidays Mr. Denny worked with Ethel Clayton in "The Prince of Possession" and preceding that in George Fitzmaurice's "Paying the Piper."

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