

MANS GREATEST VICTORY

Each day we pride ourselves over some achievement and do well for it is but the birthright of human progress in which we may discover to be immortal if not in origin at least in continuity. This birthright is extending its foundations in mighty strides of progress, strides of achievement, such as the steam engine, the telephone, the aeroplane, wireless telephony, conquerers of time and space, need we then mention medical science, surgery, chemistry or astronomy which are also a part of the foundation which enables us to achieve the hitherto unattainable. These, no doubt will be classed as great conquests, yet a greater conquest becomes at each generation more manifest and permanent. I refer to man's mightiest struggle and final victory over the fear of the unknown and undiscovered; a fear which even recently centered on demons and witches and animate objects "possessed" of the evil spirit. Earlier, they centered on false gods which mocked the fears that came to those who believed in them.

The victory has as yet been really won for but a third of mankind. Who can tell or describe thru what eons of time they battled against fears and terrors; terrors often lured of ignorance and imaginary adversity which today are scarcely recognized in superstition.

We, co-respondents in the tide of civilization, firmly believe that all phenomena both known and unknown are governed by laws, and not by adverse spirits endowed with the power to use them in controlling the fates of men.

While it is a fact that history does not take us to the beginning yet we may feel quite sure that earliest man devoted his thoughts, in the main part, only to such conditions as effected his interests in a beneficial or detrimental way, for not only did man have to contend with all the mysteries of contemporaneous nature,—he had himself and of himself he knew nothing." Thus imagine his terror at the appearance of a bolt of lightning. A terror but augmented by noises probably as loud as they are continuous in a

rocky gulch on the side of which he may have had his cave. The wind, the rain, sunshine and darkness and perhaps even poisonous or other reptiles may have taken the shape of benevolent or malicious gods, since with him it was obviously impossible to unite all nature under one supreme being and law.

For us to get a just idea of his terrors is now impossible; imagine, if you can, the tension man must have been under while, during all the day, their main thoughts and care was for the preservation of their lives from dangers as real as they were many and from imaginary dangers the more vast by reason of their sources. As fatalists perhaps, some rest could be enjoyed; perhaps some little relief in attempting by sacrifice and exercise to have the spirits they feared to cease their harmful activity. Thus religion sprang mainly from fear of spirits. In the course of time thank offerings were in turn bestowed upon benevolent influences and phenomena.

It is evident that giant strides of progress became manifest only among such peoples of the race as had overcome the great obstacle—FEAR. That this victory was the result of a gradual accumulation of knowledge and subsequent understanding is now recognized as mostly true, thus "what we are in part only of our making; the greater part of ourselves has come down to us from the past. What we know we think is not a new fountain gushing fresh from the barren rock of the unknown at the stroke of the rod of our intellect; it is a stream which flows by us and thru us, fed by the far off rivulets of long ago. As what we think and say today will mingle with and shape the thoughts of men in the years to come, so in the opinions and views which we are proud to hold today we may, by looking back, trace the influence of the thoughts of those who have gone before. Tracking out how new thoughts are linked to old ones, seeing how an error cast into the stream of knowledge leaves a streak lasting thru many changes of the ways of man, noting the struggles thru which a truth now

rising to the surface, now seemingly lost in the depths, eventually swims triumphant on the flood, we may perhaps the better learn to appraise our present knowledge and the more rightly judge which of the thoughts of today is on the direct line of progress, carrying the truth of yesterday on to that of to-morrow, and which is a mere judgment of the hour, floating conspicuously on the surface now, but destined soon to sink, and later to be wholly forgot." (Quotation—credit Michael Foster, History of Physiology.) 1323

EXPERIENCE TELLS US

Late industrial development demands technical trained men and women. This fact is being found out again and again by the younger folks who leave the home fireside for the industrial fields. It is these same young men and young women who, when coming back to the home town for an occasional visit, make mention of the all important question, usually the first one on an applicant blank, "Have you a High School Education."

Industrial leaders have long recognized the fact that it was the high school training taken during the early maturing years that caused the rising generation to use their thinking powers, that it develops, broadens, and increases some sixty per cent the real service possibilities of such high school trained workers.

The continuing of such training in the various colleges of the country being the finishing touch taken such as have a desire to know the why of things and get it through the practical courses given at the majority of our colleges.

In former years such special training was received only in the fireside circle or during the daily experience and amidst hard knocks; a whole life time being spent in obtaining the education at present gathered in fourteen years. Time has told us. And the way the younger folks go after knowledge harbours many tremendous possibilities for the future generation.

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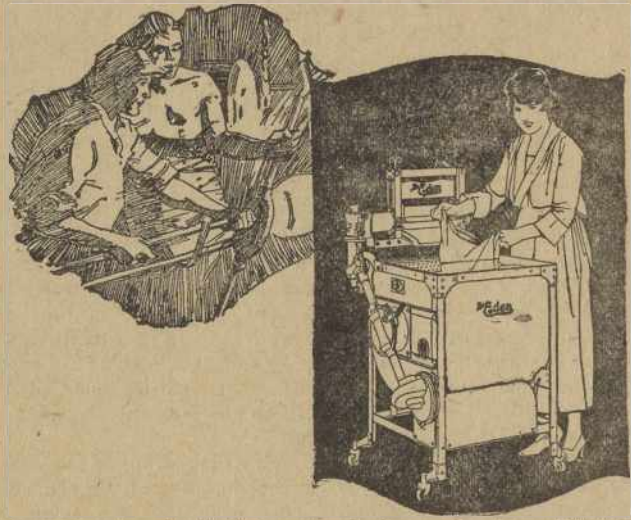
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