

DEATH FOR NEGRO FATHER OF WHITE INFANT

Scapegoats For Our Social Sins..

BY WILLIAM PICKENS

This news comes out of Mississippi, from Meridian: That one Irvin Pruitt, a colored man, was sentenced to death by the white judge for connections with the poisoning of the two-month-old baby of one Mrs. Luella Williamson, a white woman. Mrs. Williamson confessed to giving the poison to the baby, and testified that Pruitt had secured the poison for her, and that Pruitt was the father of the baby. She was given a life sentence.

Not stopping to comment on this style of Mississippi justice, which will give a lighter sentence to the murderer who willingly administers poison, and the heavier sentence to the accomplice who buys and delivers the poison to the murderer, let us pry into the whole background, and see how this white woman and this colored man and this little innocent mixed-blooded baby were all helpless victims of a great brutal social prejudice. The judgment of the court is true to Mississippi type: the Negro accomplice gets a death sentence; the white killer gets a life sentence.

Who killed this little baby? Why the social system which made its very conception and birth a double-dyed crime. Mississippi has made it a crime for black to marry white, legally or illegally—especially for black

men to marry white women in any way. But it is tolerated that white men shall have natural, informal "marriages" with colored women. Legal marriage is not tolerated in either direction, from either side; but natural marriage is tolerated if it is white male and colored female. Mississippi has made interracial marriage a great statutory crime, and greater still when the male is colored. These two frightened creatures, who had a baby, whom in a normal civilized country they could no doubt have cherished and loved, killed that baby at the behest and command of this great brutal, unreasoning and terrifying social prejudice. They killed the baby to propitiate this wild beast, and then the beast devours them for having done the killing. That is the plain statement of the matter.—And if the same beast could have his untrammelled way, he would now kill me for simply stating the case.

The most brutal and heartless thing in the world today is hatred based on race and color psychoses. International hate has been largely toned down and its horrors lessened. But the hate of race and color is still thousands of years back in the jungle; tooth and fang and claw and blood and fear.—God! what a world!

Keep On Singing

BY ELMER BARTLETT

(Exclusive for The Advocate.)

In view of the fact that a large number of Afro-American Portlanders have recently devoted a deal of time and work in the presentation of Negro spirituals and folk songs to the public, a word about singing will not be out of place.

Music may be divided into two classes—vocal and instrumental. To sing is to use the voice in accordance with musical laws. Singing is a musical expression of thought and feeling through the medium of the voice. From the time of man's first awakening to the influence of that which was not purely animal, it is probable that singing in some form has had its place as an individual solace or as a convenient means of expressing a common sentiment, either as war cries, afterwards war songs or as addresses to the deities or idols, afterwards called chants and hymns.

It scarcely matters which of the many theories may be the right one of the origin of musical sounds. It might have been any one of nature's instruments—the cleft in the rock, the

distant trickling of water, or the wind blowing into a reed. We have music and that fact alone will suffice. Singing may be in any form from the solo voice to the mighty choral organization. Singing tends to preserve intact the relative purity of a language. It might be added that choral singing, either in a church choir or large society, is an exercise eminently useful in training of the musician, whether the vocal powers be good or indifferent. Solists, as a rule, eschew choral singing on the plea that it strains the voice. But if indulged in with moderation no harm can possibly be done to a very beautiful voice. The advantages of choral singing are manifold. It assists in sight reading, helps ones sense of time, notation, pitch, and acquaintance with great works, classical and modern. Many famous solists have served an apprenticeship in a church choir. Such experience is invaluable and should be sought for when possible.

The person who sings is a happy person. If everyone will sing this will be a happy world. Sing whenever you can. It's a God-given gift.

KEEPING-FIT-

A Health Column
DeNormal Unthank, AB, M.D.

TEETH; A FOCI OF INFECTION

Affections of the teeth play a role of probably equal importance with those of the tonsils.

Oral sepsis due to unhygienic conditions of the mouth and to the disease that grow from such conditions. Such unhygienic conditions tend to promote a lowered resistance of the gums and teeth to infection. The resulting sepsis ultimately leads to gastric and intestinal disturbances, diabetes, gout, scurvy, arthritis, rheumatism and other systemic diseases.

The two most important diseases are pyorrhea alveolaris and chronic alveolar abscess. These conditions are more prevalent in adult life, resulting after long standing unhygienic and septic mouth conditions—probably beginning in childhood.

Pyorrhea alveolaris, chronic periodontitis or Riggs disease is suppurative inflammation of the gum margins and the bony structures around the roots of the teeth. The gums become reddened, tender and bleed easily. The teeth become offensive. The gums recede and pus forms between the gums and the roots of the teeth. If this suppurative process is not stopped, the teeth become loose and the gums ulcerate.

Chronic alveolar abscess forms slowly and generally at the roots of the teeth. These abscesses form either a closed pustular sac or as a sinus into the gums.

Faulty dental work is often responsible for oral sepsis. Poorly fitting crowns or bridges may cause friction to the gums and in this way cause serious diseases. Old and broken crowns cause a great amount of trouble.

The proper diagnosis and treatment of these oral affections requires the combined skill of a competent dentist and physician. In the majority of cases x-ray examination is of the greatest help. In all cases of sepsis the most important thing is to remove the foci causing the sepsis as soon as possible, leaving the mechanical replacement until the systemic involvement is controlled.

Helpful hints

by Nancy Lee

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS

Rose says she has been married nine years. Her husband has had a steady job, but he is always in debt and they live from hand to mouth. She wants to know if she should visit a relative until he gets something ahead, or stay by him while they lose their home and everything they have accumulated during their married life.

There are just as many men who have no "money sense" as there are women, the only difference is that the men never seem to realize the fact, and still want to handle the cash. Their egotism in providing for their families is astounding. It never occurs to them that their wives have any business ability and could use the money to a better advantage if they got the chance.

I advise this woman to have a heart to heart talk with her husband, let them budget his salary, and little by little get out of debt. If he won't listen to reason, a visit to her relative might humble his ego a little bit and make him more pliable, but if he still persists in handling the money and has no executive ability, I am afraid she would have to spend the rest of her life with her relative and he would still be unable to pay his bills, and take care of his family.

—NANCY LEE.

"AS NOTED"



by Ralph C. Clyde
City Commissioner

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS

The people of this state have cause for rejoicing. Oregon has followed the example of other states by providing free text books for our school children.

Many a mother's eyes have been filled with tears when her child brought home a long list of school books required for the ensuing term. The new law will do away with this needless anguish. Parents and children will no longer have to skimp on the necessities of life in order to buy new text books.

Those of us who have been working year in and year out to induce Oregon to take this progressive step, are indeed very happy that another one of our dreams has come true. We are also very thankful to Governor Meier for his help in bringing this about.

BOOK REVIEW

"SCHOOL ACRES"
BY ROSSA B. COOLEY
(Yale University Press—New Haven, Conn.)

(Reviewed for The Advocate by Clifford Mitchell.)

Off the southern coast of South Carolina lies St. Helena Island. On this island away back during Civil War days some courageous spirits conceived the idea of establishing a school for our boys and girls.

"School Acres" is the true romance of this undertaking. Miss Cooley has vividly described the early struggles of what is now the Penn Normal and Industrial Agricultural school, of which she is principal.

If you like to read of human struggle against the odds of misfortune, ignorance, superstition, poverty, plagues, storms, and how this little group bravely faced and overcame each, you will be touched by the narratives in this book.

Throughout, there is the thesis of co-operation and one chapter in particular, "The Growth Folks Come to School," wherein is described the origin, growth and accomplishments of their "Co-operative Society," should be read most carefully. There is a lesson in every community in which our people are seeking better economic conditions.

If you can afford to spend \$2.50 for an actual human-interest story of one of our institutions, "School Acres" should be added to your library. The facts therein will broaden your knowledge of the actual struggles of some of our people.

MERIDIAN, Miss.—(CNS)—Irvin Pruitt was sentenced to death last Saturday by Judge J. D. Fotherlee in connection with the poisoning of the two-month-old baby of Mrs. Luella Williamson, white. Mrs. Williamson, who pleaded guilty to giving the child the poison, admitted that Pruitt was the father of the child and had secured the poison which she administered. Pruitt denied that he furnished her the poison. The woman was given a life sentence at the same time.

JAILED FOR MARRYING RACE GIRL

VIRGINIA WOMAN HAS 19 YEAR OLD HUSBAND PUT BEHIND BARS IN MD.

ROCKVILLE, Md., Sept. 30.—Because her family is supposed to be one of the "first of Virginia" and because there is a claim that it may be "traced to the Mayflower," Lillie R. Buchanan, Richmond, Va., had her son, William R. Buchanan, arrested last week for having married a Negro girl.

Both the nineteen-year-old husband and his wife, Gladys Weeks Buchanan, were lodged in jail after they were charged with violation of Maryland's miscegenation law, which forbids the intermarriage of whites and Negroes.

"What do we care about your old laws," the groom said as he was being jailed, "we still love each other!" This seemed also to be the sentiment of the bride, who brought their one-month-old baby to jail with her.

The couple, who are residents of Indianhead, Md., were married last January at Rockville, where they were returned after warrants had been sworn for their arrest by the mother. The two lovers are determined to leave Maryland and live in a state where laws do not interfere with their affection.

JOHNSON WRITES MEMORIAL FOR FAMOUS ACTOR

NEW YORK, Sept. 19.—(CNS)—

An inscription commemorating the great Negro actor, Ira Aldridge, to be placed in the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, England, has been prepared by James Weldon Johnson, vice-president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who had charge of raising the fund in this country for the Ira Aldridge Memorial chair. The Shakespeare theatre is to be opened on Shakespeare's birthday, next year.

The inscription, which Mr. Johnson prepared at the request of the Shakespeare foundation, reads as follows: "Ira Aldridge, 1807-1867, American Negro actor whose name is an honor to his race, his native land and to the Tragic Stage of England."

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