

COMMISSION REPORTS TENTH YEAR OF WORK

Educational Institute

By Carter G. Woodson

I have just returned from the market which is not far from my office. I often go there at noon to buy a bit of fruit and to talk with a young woman who so successfully conducts a fruit stand there in cooperation with her mother. Some years ago I tried to teach her in high school; but her memory was poor, and she could not understand what I was trying to do. She stayed a few weeks, smiling at the others who teased; and she finally left, feeling that going to high school was merely throwing away time. She learned from her mother, however, how to make a living and be happy.

I was reminded of her, too, just a moment ago when there came to my office a friend who succeeded in mastering everything taught in high school and then distinguished himself in college. He brought me a song of woe. Having extreme difficulty in finding an opportunity to do what he is trained to do, he has thought several times of committing suicide. I encouraged him to go ahead and do it. The sooner the better. The food, water and air which he is now consuming may then go to keep alive some one who is in touch with life and able to grapple with its problems. He has been educated away from the fruit stand.

I had been trying to convince this man of the unusual opportunities for Negroes in business, but he reprimanded me for urging him to take up such a task when most Negroes thus engaged have been failures.

"If we invest our money in enterprises of our own," he said, "those in charge will misuse or misappropriate it. We had just as well keep throwing it away or deposit it in financial institutions controlled by those of another race."

Upon investigation, however, I find that this complainant and most others like him have never invested anything in any sort of Negro enterprise. But they feel a bit guilty on this account, and when they have some apparent ground for fault-finding they try to satisfy their conscience which all but condemns them for their suicidal course of getting all they can out of the race while giving nothing back to it.

Gossipers and scandal-mongers among Negroes, of course, come to the assistance of these fault-finders. Mis-educated by the oppressors of the race, such mischief-makers expect the Negro to fall anyway. They seize then upon the unverified reports, exaggerate the situations, and circulate falsehoods throughout the world to their own undoing. You read such headlines as GREATEST NEGRO BUSINESS FAILS, NEGRO BANK ROBBED BY ITS OFFICERS, and THE TWILIGHT OF NEGRO BUSINESS.

When the concerns of other races fail, however, you read in the press only a brief mention of it with an expression of regret, and it passes from the public notice. The other day a large insurance company out West failed with a billion dollars of liabilities, but the dailies devoted only a few inches of space to it. In the case of the trouble of the National Benefit Life Insurance Company, however, reports, rumors, and falsehoods spread like a fire alarm at midnight.

Recently, too, when one of the main concerns of a multimillionaire in Chicago went into the hands of receivers the press said practically nothing about it except to give the facts then known. When a quarrel developed in the Victory Life management, however, almost every Negro of consequence industriously carried the alarm to the uttermost parts of the earth, proclaiming the failure of the

Negro in the business world. As a matter of fact, however, in neither case have the policyholders lost their investments, and the alarm is a reflection on people who are so easily disturbed. Intelligent people know that the government in this country protects the interest of policyholders so that, come what may, they do not lose. If the officers and stockholders so conduct their business as to wipe out their investments, that is their affair. Since they are in control they should so manage the business as to take care of such interests. If they fail to do so, they must accept the loss as their reward.

An investigation shows, however, that even when you consider the matter from the point of view of the proportion of the white and Negro populations, a larger number of white than Negro enterprises have failed and during this depression Negroes have lost much more money in the failure of white businesses than in the cases of those of Negroes. Yet these complaining Negroes seldom mention what they lose that way. A bank controlled by whites may fail with their funds in it, but a Negro bank must not do so.

Investigation further shows that in proportion to the amount of capital invested Negro enterprises manifest about as much strength as businesses of others similarly situated. The main trouble with the businesses of Negroes is that they are not adequately supported, and consequently they do not always grow strong enough to pass through such an ordeal as this depression. In the case of the businesses of others they not only find that necessary support to develop this power, but they become able to help one another. In the time of the depression one poorly supported Negro enterprise is about as weak as the others and the enterprises of other races are stronger. Neither one can help the other, not interested in seeing ours succeed.

Negro business men have made mistakes, and they are still making them; but the weak link in the chain is that they are not properly supported. The Negro business man, then, has not failed so much as he has failed to get support. The American Negroes as a group have failed in business.

I have never seen any sense in denouncing those Negro business men who with limited experience and opportunity have done the best they could in a sphere entirely new to them. I am sure that I can figure out some of the mistakes made by Herman Perry, Samuel W. Rutherford, and Anthony O. Overton, but I see standing out in bold relief so many of their beneficent achievements that I am praying for the day when we shall build monuments to these men. Following the lead of W. W. Browne for the True Reformers, these reformers blazed the way in an all but forbidden field and directed us toward economic independence. If the next generation, avoiding their pitfalls, will build upon the foundation which they have laid, the Negroes of tomorrow will have no reason for looking to others. They will be able to think and do for themselves.

In view of these facts, anyone going around decrying the Negro in business is either ignorant or malicious. If we listen to such nonsense and govern ourselves according to the do-nothing policy thereby suggested we do nothing but hasten our own ruin. The day of the hand-out has passed. The hope for the Negro like the hope for any other poor people lies in the proper solution of the problem of making a living by enterprise and cooperation. On this foundation and on this only can we build a culture which will attract the attention of the world.

K'PING -FIT-

A Health Column

By DeNorval Unthank, M. D.

"DISEASES OF CHILDREN"

(By Thornton Betts)

Diseases of children are divided into inherited, congenital and acquired, and also into local or constitutional diseases. In this item I will endeavor to point out the part various diseases, whether they be local or general, play in the role of producing malocclusion in teeth of children.

In considering those disorders which interfere with the factors governing normal growth processes, it might seem that most pathological conditions might be included in this category. Clinical evidence seems to bear out the fact that acute and chronic infections and deficiency diseases should be considered of greatest importance in this connection. There seems little doubt that the diseases of childhood play havoc with the normal growth and development of the teeth. In regard to those diseases of childhood, according to Wallace, those teeth whose buds appear during intra uterine life, namely the deciduous teeth, and the first permanent molar could not be affected by such diseases as scarlet fever, measles, chicken-pox etc., must be attributed to some embryological disturbance. All of these diseases are known to have a deleterious effect upon epithelial structures and, therefore, enamel, which we all know to be epithelial in nature. They affect the formation of the enamel of the teeth to such an extent as to produce a marked atrophy of the enamel organ.

Tuberculosis in the child causes the deciduous (milk teeth) and the permanent teeth to both be erupted early, the deciduous teeth will not be absorbed as it should, this permanent tooth taking a position somewhere to the side of it in malocclusion.

Syphilis, which is either congenital or inherited in the child has long been considered a disease that produces certain forms of crowns known as "Hutchinson's teeth" which have a direct bearing upon malocclusion. In syphilitic children, the dental deformities in structure, shape and number and marked susceptibility to dental caries, malocclusion, prognathism, and cleft palate.

Rickets is the most important constitutional disease associated with the formation of Malocclusion in early childhood. It is primarily a disease of malnutrition, but which affects the entire body, although the notable signs are seen in the mouth and connected parts. The deciduous teeth erupt late and are lost very early because the roots of the deciduous teeth are absorbed before the time of normal absorption should take place, without any apparent reason. The permanent teeth erupt quite later than normally and they take extreme positions of malocclusion due to a general deformity of the skull and jaws in the more extreme cases of rickets. Enlarge tonsils, mouth breathers and disturbances of the endocrine system affect the teeth also.

In conclusion I can safely state there is no doubt that childhood maladies are potent factors in malocclusion. It is a sorry fact that the above diseases show their effect in most children when it is almost too late to treat the case.

Dear Mrs. Franklin: For the benefit of your readers I am beginning my Junior year of dentistry this fall. So many have inquired as to my present status in North Pacific Dental College.

Here's hoping you and your family have a very prosperous summer. May I remain,

Very respectfully yours,
Thornton Betts

"AS NOTED"



by Ralph C. Clyde
City Commissioner

Daylight Saving

Quite a heated discussion took place in the City Council over "Daylight Saving." City officials and "Daylighters" as well as those "formists" participated. This matter has been bubbling up every year for the past 14 years and has been turned down repeatedly, except at one time during the war.

In various eastern cities, the daylight saving plan has been put in effect, but out here on the Coast, such efforts have not met with success. The Mayor and Commissioners listened to a number of arguments, pro and con, and it was finally decided to have a special session of the City Council on Thursday morning May 26th at 10 A.M. to consider the matter. If you are at all interested, come up.

MISS THEO THOMAS I have noted with deep interest the survey by Miss Theo Thomas of the Bell Telephone Monopoly. Miss Thomas is an undergraduate of Smith College.

Miss Thomas notes that as an extension of the Bell Monopoly that it owns a note of \$15,000,000 on the Fox Film Corporation and has a representative on the board of trustees. Her investigation discloses, what oftentimes has been stated, that the telephone industry is controlled by one holding company; namely, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, with its 32 operating companies, covering the entire United States, and sections of Canada. Its manufacturing company is known as the "Gray Company." "The Bell Telephone Securities," is the designation of its financial institution. Then there is also the "Bell Telephone Laboratories," which occupies a valuable position in the make-up of the Telephone Trust.

The Bell Telephone Monopoly, Miss Thomas also finds, has strong interests in the Radio Corporation of America and the Fox Film Corporation, virtual control of all the talking apparatus in the moving pictures of America, and Europe, and extensive holdings in Mexico, South America, Spain and many other nations.

Apparently, the state of wrong thinking, induced by the Utilities in numerous educational institutions, seems to have come to naught. Miss Thomas' studies seem to mark the swing back to the Truth regarding industrial problems.

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JUDGMENT BEGINNING AT THE HOUSE OF GOD

(By Kelley Miller)

The drastic action of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in General Conference assembled at Cleveland, is epoch making. The hope of the Negro for self leadership was long centered in this great religious enterprise. This denomination was



founded by men who were pure in heart and consecrated in spirit and purpose. They were by no means men of great resources, but full of faith. It was dedicated to the proposition of the redemption of the Negro through sacrifice, faith and love. No selfish thought ever crossed their consecrated souls. To spend and to be spent was the consuming thought of their lives. Bishop Allen's name will go down to history among the great religious founders. He hoped to plant a church on the application of pure Christianity to and its consecration by a lowly race of simple mind and contrite heart. Bishop Payne took up the work where Allen laid it down. He added to the original foundation the necessary element of education and culture consecrated to the general cause. The A.M.E. Church stood out as it he hope of the race. Ambitious youth looked forward to a life of consecration and service as prelates in this great enterprise which stood out first and foremost among religious or secular agencies calling for consecrated talent.

About this time the minds of Negro youth was diverted to the field of politics under the corrupting influence of the reconstruction regime. Upon the breakdown of this short lived regime, many of the disillusioned ones returned to their first love—the A.M.E. Church. They brought back with them the vicious methods and tricky tactics which they had learned in politics. The moral and spiritual decline of the church dates from that period. The lamented Bishop Payne saw the evil and cried out aloud but was helpless against it. Ambitious men, without charter or consecrated purpose exploited the church as an agency to satisfy their selfish ambition for power and power. Instead of devoting themselves to the things which look Godward, the highest ecclesiastical leaders were trading their spiritual function for political

power. Priests and Bishops openly sought political office and boasted of their political influence with its filthy lucre. They had tasted of the flesh pots of power. Bishops became grafters and tyrants. They must live in fashionable residences and ride in Cadillac cars. They professed on God's poor which is like stealing milk from a sick babe. Corruption in high and low places became a byword and a snare. The Allenite, an official organ of the Church, became its greatest critic. If half the scandals in high places and low places which it exposed were true, they were enough to make the black race blush with shame. And yet the Allenite was continued by the support of the very denomination which it denounced. This was self-stultification without parallel. The bishops and pastors denounced should have been put out of the church or Bryant should have been put behind the bars. Bishops were openly charged with graft and adultery without denial or condemnation by the General Conference. Indeed a Bishop who died under indictment for corruption was not only uncondemned but lauded to the skies by those who stand in the high places of authority and power. Under those circumstances, no wonder the membership fell and contributions declined. The unsophisticated mind is basically honest. But the most serious loss was sustained when the membership and laymen began to lose confidence in the denomination as a moral and spiritual force. The high minded and honest preachers and laymen of the church, of whom there are scores of thousands, will sanction all I am saying. Their tongues are tied by fear and threats of reprisal.

But, alas, judgment has begun at the house of God. Three Bishops were under indictment for graft and two were actually suspended for four years. I knew both of the suspended bishops considerably. Their personal humiliation grieves me greatly. But think ye not that those on whom the tower of Silear fell were guilty before all those who dwell at Jerusalem. Only a beginning time since the death of Payne, the Church shows signs of self-purification. My father used to tell me that a running stream would purify itself every mile. Will this denomination now thoroughly purge itself? Will it return to the high moral and spiritual ideal of Daniel A. Payne? Will the young men now begin where Payne left off and restore African Methodism to its high place and prestige which it once held for the salvation of the race?

The A.M.E. Church has been placed on the spot by the white Christian world. Behold, they say. The utter moral and spiritual collapse of this vast religious estate which Negroes have engaged to man and manage! What need we of further proof that the Negro is incapable of managing his own affairs? This reproach, mind you, is not limited to the A.M.E. Church, but applies with greater or less emphasis to other religious estates which have fallen under Negro ecclesiastical control. If this rude shock shall be heeded, not only by the Church which Allen founded, but by all branches of Negro churches under self management, then the drastic humiliating action shall not have been in vain. We may yet build a monument to fra Bryant as the purifier of a great Church.

SHOWS RESULTS IN INTER-RACIAL ACTIVITY PLAN

(By Olive L. Jeter)

NEW YORK, May 25—Within thirty-two single column pages of modest but attractive folder, the Commission on Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches has released its story of "The Tenth Mile Toward Interracial Peace," an interesting account of large achievement during 1921 in the field for better race relations. It portrays results of a program of activity of varying interests and wide scope of national and local work of advantage to whites, Negroes, and Indians in America.

This report marks the tenth year of the work of the Commission which was organized in 1922 and has since been directed by Dr. Haynes as executive secretary. In its official personnel are Bishop George C. Clement, chairman; Mrs. Eva Hills Eastman, chairman Committee of Direction; Miss Caroline B. Chapin, chairman Church Women's Committee; Dr. Edward T. Devine, chairman Committee on Economic Life; Dr. Frederick K. Stamm, chairman Committee on Negro Achievement.

The Federal Council's Commission and the southern Interracial Commission share relationship in the field, with its director, Dr. Will W. Alexander, as a secretarial member of the staff of the Federal Council's Commission.

NO JIM-CROW AT CONVENTION

NEW YORK, May 23—Local conferences are being held this week in every section of the country, at which delegates will be elected to the national nominating convention. Many of these delegates will be Negroes, and in order that these delegates will not be Jim-crowed, the arrangements committee will quarter all delegates in the homes of sympathetic workers without regard to color, some Negro delegates being quartered in white homes and some white delegates in Negro homes.

A special train has been chartered to carry the delegates and visitors from the whole East Coast region, the anthracite coal mine area and the Ohio steel and coal territory to the convention in Chicago. The train, which will be known as the "Red special," will leave New York at noon on Friday, May 27th.

Reports received by the national campaign committee indicate that sentiment for the nomination of Foster and Ford is growing in all sections of the country.

LYNCHING MOBS REPUDIATED BY WOMEN OF MISS

Hundreds Pledge Efforts to End Mob Violence—Thousands Enrolled in Other States

JACKSON, Miss., May 25—More than a thousand Mississippi women in 454 different towns and cities have gone on record in a united protest against lynching and have signed a pledge to do everything possible to end mob violence, through the press, the pulpit, the schools, and the influence of the home.

Additional signers are being enrolled constantly through the efforts of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. The Mississippi branch of the Association is headed by Mrs. L. W. Alford of McComb, who is giving much time to the promotion of the movement throughout the state, visiting all the important meetings of women and laying before them the program of the Association.

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Helpful hints

By NANCY LEE

I hope everybody who has a plot of ground will dig it up and plant vegetables. To give growing children the right diet, they must have carrots, lettuce, beets, and tomatoes. For fifty cents enough seed can be bought to supply a family all summer with these vegetables. Thin the vegetables out and make greens of the tender young shoots. Put the children to weeding the garden instead of letting them waste their energy running around wild. These times demand the cooperation of the family to keep the wolf from the door, but some people would rather beg or starve than work. There is far too much uncultivated land in this fertile country. People want to dig for gold or drill for oil rather than dig potatoes. Get-rich quick is the motto of every citizen, but fortunes are built from small beginnings, and people from humble beginnings in life reach renown and achieve greatness. Our standard of living has been all wrong, and we had to be humbled. It is high time we awakened to this fact and changed our ideas. Let us get back to Mother Earth and earn a living from the productive soil.

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