

DE-BUNKING TEXT-BOOKS

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas J. Dickson, senior chaplain of the A. E. F. in France, recently inspected 52 American text-books containing accounts of the World War, practically all of which he denounces as giving "distorted, ridiculous, absurd and stupid" ideas of our part in that struggle.

In these books our children are taught that the United States soldiers won the war, and the impression is given that they were superior to all other fighting men engaged. Such pretensions, he says, unless corrected, doom us to become the laughing stock of the world.

"We have a record any nation can be proud of," Colonel Dickson says, "and we don't need to exaggerate what we did or belittle the others—not even the Germans."

Unfortunately, writers of history text-books write them primarily to sell, and they appear to think, perhaps correctly, that the greater the appeal to national vanity the better the chance the books will have to be adopted for school use. Hence many of these text-books give the impression that every American general was a modern Alexander and every soldier another Arnold Winkelried.

The truth is that while American soldiers have always given a good account of themselves in battle they have not been greatly different from other soldiers, all circumstances considered. When properly trained and equipped, the American soldier is the equal of any in the world, and superior to many. Without such training and equipment he is at a decided disadvantage, as our own officers freely admit.

Much that passes for American history is as apocryphal as the story of Washington and the cherry tree. Chaplain Dickson has performed a patriotic service in pointing out some of the bunk that is being taught under the guise of historical fact.

HOW MANY SOULS?

Prof. Frederick H. Sears, eminent astronomer of Mt. Wilson observatory, has been making some interesting estimates concerning the inhabitants of the universe, which run into big figures.

First, he notes that there are about 30 billion suns, many of them immensely larger than our own, each of which has at least one world spinning around it, while many have several, like our own solar system.

The earth has an estimated population of about two billion people, so if each of these suns has only one inhabited planet and these planets average as many inhabitants as the earth, it would mean that there are 60 quintillions of living people. To write this in figures you have only to put down a 6 with 19 ciphers after it.

This estimate or guess, assumes only the possible number of people inhabiting the now visible universe. How many more suns there may be no one knows, and it is not likely that a telescope will ever be made powerful enough to discover them all.

But, taking the estimate as it stands, it refers only to people now living. The number that have lived and died, and those who are yet to live and die are left entirely to the imagination. Supposing that all have or will have immortal souls, it appears that there is little likelihood of anyone's getting lonesome in the hereafter, whatever his destination.

TRIBUTES TO AKELEY

To the great mass of his fellow-Americans the name of Carl Ethan Akeley was unknown, yet his recent death as a result of hardships endured in African exploration has called forth press tributes unsurpassed by those accorded any man of his generation.

He was an intrepid explorer and big game hunter, an earnest scientist, an accomplished artist, and probably the greatest taxidermist in the world. His best specimens of wild animals are preserved in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, mute testimonials to his daring and skill.

At the age of 62 he was on his fifth trip into the wilds of Africa when death overtook him in the Belgian Congo. His thrilling experiences and escapes had been many. He had survived the terrible African "black watee fever;" he had recovered after being trampled by an elephant; he had killed a wounded leopard with his bare hands.

As the Arkansas Democrat so well says, "through the efforts of such men as Akeley, millions of school children, to say nothing of millions of parents, each day learn more of life among the so-called lower animals, and by that learning are better fitted to live their own lives."

SCARING US TO DEATH

Clever advertising of intiseptics and other preparations reputed to save us from all the ills to which the flesh is heir has done a lot of harm, according to Dr. Shaw, professor of philosophy at the New York University.

While real science is relieving the human mind of many former bugaboos, modern "fear factories" are manufacturing new horrors to alarm the gullible and shorten their lives through sheer fright.

Just as we have been reassured by scientific control of yellow fever, small-pox, malaria and a host of oldtime dangers, along comes the killjoy tribe warning us of the menace of dandruff, pyorrhea and halitosis. Quoting the good doctor:

"Man is tormented with an array of drug-filled remedies which are supposed to act as antiseptics. The bathroom becomes a clinic, and every man a doctor in spite of himself. Now, dread in the heart is worse than dandruff in the hair, and fear in the soul is more unsightly than film on the teeth."

To which we may only add, as the high school girl would say, "Ain't it the truth?"

The average man who receives an income tax blank is in much the same position as the fellow who when asked if he could change a two dollar bill replied, "No, but thanks for the compliment."—Baker Herald.

GOOD POSTURE

One of the simplest and most effective methods of bettering one's health is by maintaining an erect posture. Posture is an expression of the mental and physical state; also posture may modify and control mental states. The cultivation of a happy, cheerful, optimistic nature more readily achieves results when efforts are also made to walk with an elastic, springy step, to hold the head erect, and the abdomen flat.

In an erect posture body muscles tend to remain taut, and afford a proper support or pressure to the body including the circulation of large blood vessels. In a habitual slouching posture the blood of the abdomen tends to stagnate in the liver and the splanchnic circulation causing a feeling of despondency and mental confusion, headache, coldness of hands and feet, and chronic fatigue or neurasthenia, and often constipation.

A good posture can not be maintained unless the muscles are kept strong by exercising. If the shoulder muscles are too weak to hold the shoulders in their normal position the chest tends to drop in. If the muscles of the back and abdomen are not strong the body slouches forward.

It is not enough to have an erect carriage and a well-poised head. We must also have well directed feet. The foot in action should be placed on the ground with the line of direction parallel to the line of movement. The toes should point forward and neither be turned outward or inward.

Good posture pays because it improves the health, increases your economic value, gives you social standing, and inspires you with the spirit that wins.

Therefore, be it resolved that in 1927 I will establish the habit of maintaining a good posture.—Oregon State Board of Health.

FARMING BY THE MOON

Sowing, reaping, breeding, butchering, shearing, and other farm activities are regulated by many according to the "light" or "dark" of the moon. Such practices are foolish and only relics of the Dark Ages, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Farming according to the moon has no support from any scientific point of view, as the moon has no influence on animals, the weather or the soil, though many old sayings have led people into superstitious beliefs regarding it. In France, before the revolution there was a law forbidding the cutting of trees between the new moon and full moon.

Like many other fallacies which have gained wide currency among various peoples, these fanciful ideas are giving way before the investigations of science, but ages must yet elapse, perhaps, before superstition shall be entirely eradicated from the minds of men.

We are not agitated over that new method of squaring the circle, but an easy means of squaring debts would interest us mightily.

A big male deer met and charged a Ford car on a Pennsylvania road, wrecking the machine in spite of the driver's attempt to pass the buck.

Vale Brevities

Glenn Pounds, who recently completed training in Seattle, is the new barber in Carey's shop.

H. R. Dunlap Away—

H. R. Dunlap, of the Vale Trading company, left here Friday on his way to San Francisco, where he will spend the next month or so with his wife and daughter.

In Highway Office—

C. H. Millering of LaGrande is working in the highway office at the courthouse with J. E. Peck, state engineer. Until this week he has been working on the John Day in Cow Valley.

Final Proof—

Vilas Walker of Pendleton made final proof on his homestead in this locality at the land office Wednesday. His witnesses were O. E. Carman and John Morgan of Vale.

Supt. Crail Away—

Mrs. E. M. Crail, county school superintendent, is in Salem attending the state convention of county school heads. She is expected home within a day or so. Charles accompanied her to Portland.

On Central Oregon Survey—

J. E. Peck, state engineer, made a trip to Harney valley last week to look over the ground between the Drewsey market road and Harney valley, which will be surveyed soon as a part of the Central Oregon highway. The survey will be started as soon as the weather moderates.

J. D. Fairman Here—

J. D. Fairman, prominent banker and merchant of Harper, attended the meeting of the county court Wednesday. The following day he returned home. While in the city Mr. Fairman told of receiving around \$17,000 worth of turkeys from the Westfall-Harper section for the Thanksgiving and Christmas markets. The interior farmers are also realizing the value of poultry raising as a side issue to farming.

At Hot Springs San—

Joseph T. Barnes of Drewsey, is a newcomer at the Vale Hot Springs sanitarium. He is recuperating from a general breakdown. After a few days at the sanitarium, Mr. Barnes says he is already feeling much better. He praises highly the hot mineral water, for which the institution is fast gaining an enviable reputation.

IS OUR DOOM PATERNALISM

Paternalism is a python skinning and swallowing our free institutions in the shining jaws of officialism.

State, federal, city and county now maintain official bureaus to merely record the birth of a child, and draw salaries for doing it. The latest wrinkle is a birth certificate mailed from the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census. The citizen is warned of its great importance in all future affairs of life.

We are following in the wake of the most highly paternalistic country in the world. Germany was backed by militarism and officialism that kept a record of the individual from the cradle to the grave.

How far the Children's Bureau of the Census under the Department of Commerce will carry its supervision of the family no one knows.

The history of nations shows that the python of self-extending officialism grows by what it feeds on. Is it crushing the free, independent citizenship of Our Country in its shining folds?

A suitor, also, occasionally has a third party scare. All the freaks are not on exhibition in side-shows. A friend in need is a fellow who always has matches. Some husbands don't even dare to make a minority report.

A Nebraska man stood his wife on her head and she kicked.

Anyway, Czar Landis couldn't send Cobb and Speaker to Siberia.

A Chicago woman sued for divorce because she was tired of living alone.

The surest road to a good federal job is to fail of reelection to Congress.

Judgment day will be a sad occasion for reformers, with all their jobs gone.

A pessimist is disagreeable, but he gives less foolish advice than an optimist.

Where there is a will there are always lawyers willing to find a way to break it.

A committee of judges, evidently not gentlemen, selected a brunette as Toledo's prize beauty.

Jurors are bound by oath to decide in favor of the side producing the most convincing liars.

Imagine the stunts Frank and Jesse James might have pulled off with good roads and a high-powered car.

Mussolini wants to visit America, but we warn him that our gunmen are better shots than the lady who pinked his nose.

Mathematics professor committed suicide in Louisville with \$29,000 in his pocket. Probably went crazy trying to count it.

BOOSTERS

What Are Boosters?

BOOSTERS are the Public Spirited men who are always ready to stand back of the town in which they live, whether he is a merchant, resident or a farmer who calls that town home. A booster is a man who wants to see his home town go ahead and is putting his shoulder to the wheel in an effort to make it go ahead.

Boosters Are Those Who Advertise

The newspaper in your community is the biggest booster of them all. When some public enterprise is set afloat, the chances are ten to one that the local paper was the biggest factor in the lot in bringing about its accomplishment, so why not patronize the merchants that are boosting your town and thereby become a booster yourself?

Check over the paper this week and see just who the boosters in Nyssa are—and they want your trade too because they are asking you for it—THERE BOOSTERS.

Trade With Merchants Who Want
Your Trade

The Gate City Journal

NYSSA, OREGON