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REVOLUTIONIZING ENGLISH EDUCATION

The Education bill is the biggest piece of domestic legislation a British ministry has undertaken for a long time past. It is essentially an English measure and does not apply in any particular to either Scotland or England, where the existing systems are supposed to work fairly well. Wales is included, but London is omitted; the metropolis, it is claimed, presenting special characteristics requiring special treatment, so a separate bill is promised for it next year, and inasmuch as Wales already has a distinct act there will eventually be more systems of education in the United Kingdom than there are countries composing it.

With the conclusion of the war, education has become to Englishmen a burning question, and not before the necessity for it arose either. It is clearly recognized that the country has been falling seriously behind its industrial rivals, more particularly the United States and Germany, mainly on account of the inferior training afforded to the rising generation, and a serious attempt is now being made to remedy this state of affairs. But there always existed in England the initial difficulty of religious beliefs, and these have become inextricably mixed up with school instructions to an extent unknown in any other country, simply because there are so many of them. In the Catholic countries of Europe, the solution of the problem is only one creed professed, and even in France, it is Catholicism or nothing. But in England where there are almost as many sects as days in the year, the conflict is terrible, and has done more than anything else in the past to hinder educational progress.

A serious attempt is now being made to separate the secular from the religious department of instruction, not to divorce them, so to speak, but, while imparting both daily in the same buildings, to render one a national, the other a voluntary duty. The real difficulty arises from the fact that so many of the elementary schools outside the towns are in the hands of the Church of England, many of whose clergy have hitherto regarded them more as nurseries for their churches than training grounds for the conflicts of the world, and they are making a determined stand against foregoing any advantages they possess. They have powerful friends in the present administration, but even it has been unable to withstand the popular demand, and while it was prepared to withdraw the secular branch from

clerical control, it did not bargain for being compelled to place some restraint on it in the religious domain as well. But in the public schools, managed by popularly elected boards, religious, as well as secular, instruction has always been given by the duly appointed and paid teaching staff, without any such scandals ever arising as are frequently heard of in the denominational establishments, and it is hardly to be wondered at that public opinion demands a change. The struggle of the inferior schools to maintain an existence will now be ended, because they will be entitled to participate in the taxes raised for educational purposes equally with the others. But in exchange they will have to forego some of the privileges they formerly enjoyed, and among them the right to enforce objectionable doctrines into the minds of the children, often in spite of the protests of their parents.

NO HARM IN KISSING.

(New Hampshire Daily Patriot.)

A New York justice of the peace has decided that there is no harm in kissing. When this item of news appeared in print we heaved a sigh of relief; and countless thousands sighed with us; it was another case of one sighed, the other sighed, and all sighed together.

The same news medium informed the world that a bill had been introduced in the Virginia Legislature providing, that before a man can kiss even his wife, he will have to secure a certificate of all freedom from bacteria and microbes, from the Board of Health and the penalty is dire and continuing.

Imagine yourself about to attempt a change of occupation with an attractive representative of the other sex, and he or she, as the case might be, would rise and say, have you your certificate with you, an abstract of title, so to speak? One would hesitate, put his hand in his inside pocket, or she would rummage in the folds of her Boston bag to produce the document. By the time the formalities had been gone through with the chances are that all desires for holding a kissing bee would have passed also perchance the opportunity.

We would not care to live in that State. We are a member of the New York Four Hundred in this.

Doubtless the decree issued in Virginia finds justification in the fact that certain doctors have proclaimed that in kissing, microbes—disease creating microbes, are transmitted from one to the other, and in view of this opinion by professional gentlemen, with several letters before and after their names, the plain and simple statement of the New York justice of the peace "There is no harm in kissing" dispels the gloom and drives the clouds away.

The Virginia law against kissing without a certificate from the Board of Health, will prove like unto the prohibitory law in New Hampshire,—both will be disregarded by the people.

..Our Weekly Book Reviews..

NOTICES OF THE MAGAZINES FOR THE CURRENT MONTH

All books and periodicals mentioned in this department can be obtained from Patton Bros., Booksellers and Stationers, Salem, Oregon.

Book of Oregon Literature.

The J. K. Gill Company of Portland which makes a specialty of books about Oregon and the Northwest, has just published "Oregon Literature," by Prof. J. B. Horner Dean of the Department of Literature of the State Agricultural College at Corvallis. It is illustrated with numerous photo-engravings and has a rare collection of the best poems and prose selections by Oregon writers. It is a handsome volume of over 250 pages and comprises a rare collection of the older and better Oregon literature, most of it produced by a pioneer generation now passing away. The compilation and introductory remarks have been executed with rare good taste by Prof. Horner who is a native of this state. It has been a labor of love and he has probably the largest collection extant of the literary remains of several generations of writers. This is a volume that will in time find its way into every Oregon home and Prof. Horner and the publishers are to be congratulated on their adding to the library a treasure like this. The work has been beautifully printed from the presses of the Statesman Publishing Company, of Salem. Price \$1.00.

Sorrows of Cupid.

Under this euphemistic title Dr. Elia K. Dearborn discusses the philosophy that is supposed to lie hidden behind

the mythical conception of the mischievous little love-god of the ancients who remains a part of the poetic equipment and principal stock in trade of persons writing amorous verse. But Dr. Dearborn who is a Portland woman, has quite another use for her Cupid and draws many a moral lesson and punctures many a society sham with his arrows as directed by her. Her "verses de societe" are charming in every way and will please all readers who have a particle of sentiment in their composition. Especially beautiful are her elegant transcripts from nature, as "The Hummingbird." It were hard to tell whether the verse was made for the subject or the subject for the verse. The artistic volume is printed and illustrated by Portland talent—Mrs. Eva Ford Cline, an East Portland artist making the drawings and they are very appropriate. The J. K. Gill Company, Publishers. Sold at Salem by Patton Brothers, booksellers. Price \$1.00.

Whimlets.

This is a comely, cocky little publication, with whimsical verselets by S. Scott Stinson and pictured whimsicalities by Clara Victor Dwiggins, names that deserve immortality as fun-makers, and funny fun, too, without bitterness or anything epicurean about it. They treat with sly suggestion and tactful humor of the little intricacies of life and society, and those

who love jests that linger, and yet seem fresh and original every time you turn to them will prize having Whimlets lying around handy for respite from an occasional dull moment. There is real attic wit about many of the shorter turns. Henry T. Coates & Co. on plate paper with enameled covers.

Baby Roland Booklets.

Elder and Shepard, San Francisco, announce number four of the above series and they will interest all lovers of children. Each booklet is a beautiful gift in itself and the entire series a treasure of photographic art.

A Bird Authority.

Bird lovers will find an authority on bird-lore in the monthly magazine "American Ornithology," published by Chas. K. Reed, Worcester, Mass. It is richly illustrated and price only \$1.00 a year. The magazine has some colored plates and each number has an identification chart of great value. Any family will get more than a dollar's worth of benefit out of each number.

The Webster Centennial.

The proceeding of the Webster Centennial as conducted by his alma mater Dartmouth college, forms a very substantial volume, with an engraving of the immortal Daniel from the portrait by Ames. The exercises held on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of his graduation were very impressive and worthy to be commemorated in durable form. It was for this college he rendered his great service in establishing its chartered rights in the famous Dartmouth college cases before the Supreme court of the United States. Dartmouth Press, Hanover, N. H.

A War Story for the Boys.

"The Flag on the Hilltop" by Mary Tracy Earle takes us back to the times of the Civil War in the border states, and the adventures of a boy from Massachusetts who went down to stay with his uncle after his father died. The descriptions are realistic, the scenes exciting and the illustrations good. The publishers, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., can be relied on for good juvenile stories that are interesting and still a literary quality that is important in selecting reading for the young.

Current History Magazine.

"Current History" for December gives its usual comprehensive and exact survey of mankind "from China to Peru." No great nation is overlooked, and all important on-goings, even in comparatively obscure corners, get chronicled in this busy man's record of the world's events. The



"Is your mamma cross? Mine is awful cross! Does your mamma say 'Hush!' when you laugh or make a little bit of a noise? My mamma does. She has nerves, papa says." The mother who overheard this account of herself would feel heart-broken to think of the shallow cast by her misery on those she loved. Yet her condition is real. Her nerves are strained to the point of torture. Lack of appetite and loss of sleep increase her weakness.

Such a condition may, in general be traced to disease of the delicate womanly organism, a cure for which is found in the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It establishes regularity, heals inflammation and ulceration and cures female weakness. It tranquilizes the nerves, encourages the appetite and induces refreshing sleep.

"I had been a constant sufferer from uterine disease for five years," writes Mrs. J. A. Stearns of Yankee Dam, Clay Co., West Virginia, "and for six months previous to taking your medicine I was not out of my room. Could not walk or stand, as there was such pain in back, shoulders, arms and chest; and could not sleep nor lie down. When I had taken three bottles of the medicine the periods were regulated. I was not so nervous, could sleep well, and the pain in side and bearing down had vanished. My health is better at this time than it has been in five years."

Dr. Pierce's Pellets stimulate the liver.

number is completed by valuable supplementary departments on science, education, sociology, art, literature, etc., which are devoted to topics of the times. Sample copy free on application. Address Current History Co., Boston, Mass.

Great American Quarterly.

The December issue of the International Quarterly, Burlington, Vt., sustains the position of this review as the most important organ of contemporary thought that this country now has. In this number there are fourteen valuable articles representing many important interests, and the list of contents includes the works of distinguished writers of France, England, Italy, Russia, as well as of our own country.

To all readers the essay on Emile Zola by Gustave Geffroy of Paris will come with special interest and force. M. Geffroy has been an associate of Zola, Edmund Goncourt, and Daudet, and in his appreciation of Zola gives an estimate of the man as well as of the artist.

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The finishing touches are being put on our new location at No. 269 Liberty St. And so long as we remain in our present location all prices in effect during our great and successful Holiday sale will prevail.

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