



# THE COURIER

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**OBSERVATIONS.****American Educational Exhibit.**

The educational exhibit of the United States at the Paris Exposition was awarded by the international jury forty three Grands Prix, sixty-three gold medals, forty silver medals, eighteen bronze medals and nine honorable mentions. Only France itself made so fine a display. The space assigned was comparatively small, but the result was advantageous, as there was no room for repetition. The number of exhibitors was two hundred and fifty and their display covered the whole field of school and college education as it exists in this country. The effectiveness of the exhibit was greatly increased by a system of statistical charts, graphic diagrams and tables; by the use of photography, illustrating school and college architecture, and the methods employed in instruction and results obtained; by a display of students' work in all grades and by a series of monographs, freely circulated, and prepared by specialists under the general editorship of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University.

The effort put forth to make this educational exhibit of the United States a creditable representation of the work of the schools, colleges and universities of this country has been well rewarded, not only by medals but especially by the application of the technical instruction committee of the city council of Manchester to the Paris commission for the loan of the exhibit for a limited time. Alderman James Hoy, on opening the exhibit in Manchester, made very complimentary speeches in regard to the educational methods in the United States, believing them to be the cause of American force and individuality. Interest in the subject has

prevailed throughout England—and an American observer states that "no other incident in recent years has created in England so much interest in American civilization and American schools as this exhibition of school work in Manchester."

**Mr. Ernest Seton-Thompson.**

Mr. Seton-Thompson has the easy, confidential, story-telling manner. He deserved the largest audience of the season, but he spoke to a few a late Saturday afternoon in Lincoln and to fewer in the evening. In the afternoon Mr. Seton-Thompson spoke especially to the children. After the inimitable fashion of listening, credulous youth, the children watched him, as he stood within the rays of the lantern; his shaggy head and rugged features in alternate light and deep shadow. To his personal, confidential style, which possesses the fascination of a low-voiced recital to one selected, choice listener, the children were immediately responsive. To the habitually pleasant voice of a naturalist Mr. Seton-Thompson adds literary discrimination and artistic ability as well as a refreshing unconsciousness of the excellence of his performance. A more intimate and devoted friend of animals than Mr. Kipling, who knows them only in a literary way, by that mysterious certainty of intuition by which people who write know so many subjects they have not matriculated for, Mr. Seton-Thompson is reckoned first among the great interpreters between beast and man. The state university located at Lincoln is supposed to be teaching the choice flower of the youth the art and practice of literature. There are other universities here which advertise to do the same work. Mr. Seton-Thompson's English and his exposition of his intimacies with animals, as an example of how to speak the English language correctly, would be of more value to students than any number of perfunctory lectures. There are perhaps five or six thousand undergraduates in Lincoln or near it. Not more than five hundred people heard this specialist who is first in his profession. But at the university the sentimental Barrie is the idolized model.

Mr. Seton-Thompson's pictures and stories of the animals he had lain under a garbage-heap for a day to watch, were more interesting than the printed stories of the same beasts. When the middle-aged reflect upon the number of favorite authors, whose personal appearance has been a shock and an insult to the pre-existing image in the minds of admiring readers, the statement that an idolized author's figure, face, hair, voice, costume, and manner is satisfactory and beyond their wildest dreams of perfection for him, is sufficiently strong. Everyone knows who has investigated the character of animals even superficially, that they can not be studied in the mass. Each horse is different

not only in gait, color, height and shape from every other horse, but each horse has a character as positively ascertainable as his color, size, etc. Mr. Seton-Thompson has chosen to get acquainted with the psychological bear, wolf, mustang, fox or skunk. No disagreeable odors or undemonstrated tradition have been able to prejudice him against any wild animal, large or small, which chance or his everlasting search has brought into his neighborhood. His hopes and beliefs concerning animal ratiocination occasionally, (it seems to me, but not conclusively) lead him to ascribe a more elaborate intellect, to a bear, for instance, than something that goes on four legs, is all covered with fur and that can not talk, possesses. But he is more nearly right than those who think that instinct which acts automatically and has no connection with reason, or conscious deduction, and is given to every animal in like quantity and quality, is the only guide the beasts of the field and fowls of the air have to depend upon.

**The Annual Saloon Investigation.**

Every year at this season in Lincoln the saloon licenses are granted or withheld by the newly elected excise board. The members of the board investigate the record which each saloon has made during the year. Saloons like animals have each a separate and distinct character. The policemen are familiar with the peculiarities of each saloon and this year they have been induced to make, before the excise board an unusually frank analysis. The Klondike on East O street is the theatre for cutting and shooting frays. The Lindell saloon is said to open and shut with no regard to the opening and closing rules which the law establishes and to which most of the saloons conform. The Boyd saloon is also suspected of disregarding the clock, the sun and the law in opening and closing. Mayor Winnett, Dr. Finney and Mr. Woods believe they were elected by a law and order element and that they must do what they can to enforce the law limiting the evil of saloons.

For a number of years Mr. Wolfenbarger a temperance agitator has appeared before the board in the spring remonstrating against the issuance of any licenses. The peculiarity of his petitions and objections is, that every saloon is charged with the same sort of lawbreaking. The Hoover saloon, the Klondike and all the rest are charged with selling to minors, keeping open after hours, covering up the windows, etc. Doubtless Mr. Wolfenbarger years ago prepared mimeograph copies of his remonstrances and he has only to fill in every year the rather piquant names of the saloons, such as the Last Chance, the Little Gold Dust, the Alhambra, the Abbey, the Cathedral Close etc. By the same token the saloon-keepers have not lost all sense of humor. This year

emboldened by the attitude of the several members of the excise board which indicates that they really wish to know the truth and the whole truth, some of the saloon-keepers reported that in former years a contribution to the "Anti Saloon League," deposited on Mr. Wolfenbarger's desk had resulted in the immediate withdrawal of Mr. Wolfenbarger's objections to the saloon whose proprietors exhibited presence of mind enough to join the league against their own business. After a few saloon-keepers testified to having made these contributions to Wolfenbarger or the "Anti Saloon League" others remembered contributions which they had made to the reform and testified to the same. Messrs. Billingsley and Greene were also accused of stifling conscientious scruples against the issuance of license to a saloon for a consideration of seventy-five dollars.

The alleged conduct of Mr. Wolfenbarger has brought the local anti-saloon movement into ridicule, but of course there are honest and sincere temperance men and women who will eventually rehabilitate it. It is very difficult now to explain how saloon-keepers were induced to contribute to the Anti-saloon League. In a few months the incident will be buried out of sight and an explanation will be unnecessary. In the meantime as usual, after the spring excise-board scare licensed saloons are running on schedule time, and the proprietors are refusing all privileges to minors. The thousand dollars they have just paid to the city has demonstrated anew the value of a license and increased their unwillingness to break the laws the penalty for which is the forfeiture of the license.

**"The Master Knot of Human Fate."**

Novel readers do not willingly read a problem novel. A pill is occasionally a necessity; but for my own part I prefer to take it unconcealed by jelly or bread or cake. The bitter, hard, obstinate thing is there and in its passage through the throat the jelly or cake is squeezed off and the patient can follow the journey of the pill to the stomach with very little difficulty. The jelly coating is an aggravation and a concession to squeamishness which adults despise. When a pill is indicated it is better to bolt it with a swallow of water perhaps to smooth its passage. On the other hand there are people who have not learned the futility of disguising bitter pills or truths. In order to get the medicine into systems it has been compounded to cure, various social reformers wrap up their theories of how to make a wicked world better in a story of love and administer it to those who will not read lectures or essays.

The Master-Knot of Human Fate, by Ellis Meredith, an unknown author, (Little, Brown & Co. of Boston) is the story of a modern deluge. Instead of Noah and his wife and their son and his wife there is a man