

THAT "an administration constantly eulogizing war is bound to regard conquest as a legitimate adjunct of strife" is one of the strong points made in this textbook. The following extracts will be interesting: "The conflict in the east between Russia and Japan has a pregnant bearing upon America's future, in the spectacle which it has offered of a great power reduced to pitiful straits through need for defending an isolated position, removed thousands of miles from its base of supplies. Russia's home strength could not be transmitted to Port Arthur—and hence the spectacle of a giant bleeding to death at an extremity. In the event of America being forced into a foreign war, the difficulty that would attend the defense of a scattered archipelago in the Orient is only too obvious. It will not do to say, as Mr. Roosevelt does, that it would be 'unwise' for him to inform the American public what is the next thing he intends to do in the Philippine islands. If he were dealing only with the Filipinos, he might contemptuously tell them that it is none of their business what he proposed to do; but as the American people are interested in this question, they are entitled to know for what purpose and with what object, and for what probable length of time, this administration is spending its money by the hundreds of millions. The democratic party declares plainly and unequivocally what it intends to do. President Roosevelt simply tells the American people that it would be unwise to tell them what 'his next step will be.'"

THE visiting Filipinos now in this country have declared for either statehood or independence and on this point the textbook says: "We know that the leading Filipinos, and those most friendly to and most trusted by our own representatives in the Philippines demand statehood in the American union, and the only permanent alternative to that is absolute independence. The federal party in the Philippines, which has been the friend of the United States from its formation, and from whose membership nearly all the native officers are drawn, declared for statehood, was submitted in its first platform, and that platform, before its adoption, was submitted to and revised by Governor Taft and the American members of the commission. How soon we have forgotten the principles upon which we were going to act when we took possession of the Philippine islands! Then we were to have the 'open door.' That was distinctly proclaimed in annex to protocol No. 15 in the treaty of peace—'It being the policy of the United States to maintain in the Philippines an open door to the world's commerce.' Yet, when certain interests demanded it, we promptly imposed an export duty on all hemp going from the Philippines to any other country except the United States. Protests are now on file in the state department from nearly every country in Europe against this violation of our specific promise to maintain the 'open door' to the commerce of the world."

ON THE subject of railroad employes the textbook has this to say: "Every railway corporation in the United States is compelled by law to report to the interstate commerce commission at Washington the aggregate number of days worked during the year by all its employes, and all those belonging to each class, and the precise sums paid in wages to all employes and to each class. From these data the commission's statistician figures averages of daily wages, which represent every workman employed during the year, and every dollar paid in wages. Railroad labor affords the most accurate barometer of wages. A large proportion of its employes are union men, whose wages are comparatively steady. Now, the wages of railroad employes, as shown by the interstate commerce commission, averaged nearly the same in 1901 as they did nine years before, in 1892.—In 1902 they were 1 1-4 per cent higher than in 1901 and 5 per cent higher than in 1897."

IN THE same publication a table is given from the interstate commerce commission report, which table gives in detail the number of earners in each class of railway labor with their average daily labors for specified years. It is further said: "From the above table it will be seen that the greatest increase in wages, excluding general officers, from 1897 to 1903, was only 14 per cent, or less than the increased cost of living during the same period, according to Commissioner Wright's own table of retail prices; it is only about one-half of the increase in prices, according to Com-

missioner Wright's table of wholesale prices, and only one-third of the increased cost of living, according to the honest and scientifically constructed table of Dun. Since 1903, there has not been even a 2 per cent increase in railway wages. On the contrary, as is well known, there have been material cuts in the wages paid railway labor, especially to such employes as are not members of labor unions. At a conservative estimate, 200,000 men have been laid off with no wages at all, and the wages of many classes of labor that were retained have been reduced since 1903 by an average of 10 per cent. And this, in spite of the fact that the cost of living has continued to advance, and on March 1, 1904, was 43 per cent higher than on July 1, 1897." The figures given are supported by tables from authentic reports.

THE strenuousness shown in "class rushes" is now attracting general public attention. A writer in the New York World says: "In Springfield, O., five men have been seriously injured, one perhaps fatally, in a 'rush.' The nominally non-combatant girls 'became excited.' While busy in the merciful errand of carrying water to the warriors they freed those who were bound on the field—'prisoners of rope,' as it were—so that they might resume the battle. In Senator Beveridge's old college in Indiana the sophomores painted a freshman black and threw him into the river, where they kept him until he laid the foundation for a possibly fatal attack of pneumonia." These practices are vigorously condemned by the World editor and he calls upon the officers of the law in all college towns to 'punish severely every criminal act of hazers and rushers.'

WILD fig trees are referred to by a writer in the Geographical Magazine as "a pirate among plants." This writer says that among all the forms of vegetable life in the Mexican tropics, these trees are remarkable and that some of them show such apparent intelligence in their readiness to meet emergencies that it is difficult not to credit them with powers of cognition. This writer adds: "In the tropics, where the wild figs flourish, there is a constant struggle for life among numberless species of plants. Certain of the wild figs appear to have learned this and provide a fruit which is a favorite food for many birds; then an occasional seed is dropped by a bird where it finds lodgment in the axil of a palm frond high in the air. There the seed takes root and is nourished by the little accumulation of dust and vegetable matter. It sends forth an aerial root, which creeps down the palm, sometimes coiling about the trunk on its way. When this slender, cord-like rootlet reaches the ground it secures foothold and becomes the future trunk of the fig tree. After the descending rootlet has secured itself in the ground a branch bearing a few leaves springs from the seed in the palm top and a vigorous growth begins. Then the fig gradually enlarges and incloses the supporting palm trunk until the latter is completely shut in the heart of its foster child and eventually strangled."

IN JAPAN, there is no such thing as disrespect from youth to age. A writer in Leslie's Weekly says: "No Japanese boy or girl could ever think in a light or disrespectful manner of his or her superiors or teachers, and this may account for the earnestness so unusual among young children. When a student enters a master's presence in Japan he bows to the floor, and when the lesson is finished he bows again, with expressions of the deepest gratitude as he takes his departure. The teacher, sitting in most cases upon his feet on the floor, gravely returns each salutation, then lights his little pipe at the inevitable bit of a smoking-box and waits for his next class. There is no hurrying of masters from room to room, as in some of the schools in our enlightened land. Great imitators as they are, the Japanese are remarkable for knowing instinctively those 'foreign' customs which would not coincide with their national characteristics."

FROM the Idaville, Ind., Observer a New York World writer has selected a number of interesting news items and has compiled the same under the headline, "A town with millions in it," as follows: "Floyd Million and wife attended Rebecca lodge at Logansport Friday night. F. M. Million and wife of Lake Cicott were among friends here Saturday evening. Mrs. Bert Goslee of near Delphi visited her mother, Mrs. Emma Million, last Friday. Robert Million and family were the Sunday guests of William Allison south of town.

Grace and Effie Million entertained Riley McClintic and Essie Edgerly Sunday. The ladies of the M. E. church gave a supper and ice cream social at the Million building last Saturday evening."

THE announcement that Joseph Jefferson, the veteran actor, would retire from the stage was made September 18. The Boston correspondent for the New York World says: "Joseph Jefferson has been at the Hotel Touraine in this city for several days, a voluntary prisoner, by the advice of his physicians, who have urged him to keep to his room until he departs for a stay at Palm Beach, Fla., within a few days. Mr. Jefferson's condition is not regarded as serious, but, he, his family and his physicians agree that he should take no chances. For some days he suffered severely from indigestion at his summer home at Buzzard's Bay, but he had partially recovered before he came to Boston early last week. The change to this city was advised by his physicians. He and his family secured apartments at the Touraine, where he has since immured himself, denying himself to the few callers who learned of his presence in the city, and being accessible only to his physicians. No new stomach trouble or new illness of any kind has developed, but it was feared that, with Mr. Jefferson's age and enfeebled condition as a result of his recent attack, any attempt at activity on the stage might result in a recurrence of the malady in an aggravated form, and that a complete suspension of work, mental and physical, was absolutely necessary. To this Mr. Jefferson very reluctantly agreed, and the fall tour was abandoned."

REFERRING to his father's retirement from the stage, William Winter Jefferson, in an interview with the World reporter said: "My father is simply resting. He is suffering from no new illness, but has made up his mind that in his present state of health it would not be safe for him or fair to the public to risk breaking down on a tour which he feels might be too much for him. Since he broke down in the middle of a tour some years ago father has been very careful not to run the risk of a repetition, as he is very sensitive about disappointing the public. We shall go ahead and play 'The Rivals' for the three weeks' tour we were to make before my father should join us. We may book some further engagements at the close of that tour, but things are so upset now that nothing can be said definitely. I believe, however, that the present situation will not affect my father's tour next spring, although it all depends upon his health at that time."

ON AUGUST 17, Judge Parker sent to George F. Parker, chairman of the democratic committee, the following letter: "Rosemount, Esopus, N. Y., August 17, 1904.—Mr. George F. Parker.—My Dear Mr. Parker: The Times of this morning says that the party textbook is about prepared, and that it will go to the printer in a few days. Therefore, I hasten to beg you to see to it that there is no word in it that reflects upon the personal honor and integrity of President Roosevelt. An Evening Post editorial indicates that but little care was taken in that direction toward myself by the compiler of the republican textbook, but let there be no rejoinder in kind or otherwise. I feel confident that you need no reminder, still my anxiety impels me to send this caution. Very truly yours, Alton B. Parker."

IN THE opinion of "The World Today," stripped of all technicalities, the question at issue is whether under the conditions prevailing in the Illinois river, the typhoid bacillus is able to pass from Chicago to St. Louis, a distance of some 350 miles, and demanding a mean average flow of eighteen days. "The World Today" says: "It is generally known that typhoid fever is at present practically the only water-borne disease that causes great concern in this country. While there are other infections that are occasionally caused by polluted drinking water, there is strong reason for believing that the specific pathogenic microbes concerned in producing them closely resemble the typhoid bacillus in their life history. It follows that what applies to the water carriage of typhoid fever applies also to these less common infections. In the actual conduct of the case the battle has centered around the question as to whether typhoid bacilli introduced into the sewers of Chicago can and do travel in a living and virulent condition to the intake of the St. Louis water works."