

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

The Relative Intellectual Power of the Sexes.

MOST discussion of the relative intellectual power of the two sexes is based on prejudice, or at best on chance observation. It is of exceptional interest, therefore, to obtain the results of an elaborate statistical investigation bearing upon the subject. Such an investigation of the school work of boys and girls has been made by Dr. J. de Korosy, who has reported his results in a paper read at the recent meeting of the British Association.

Dr. de Korosy is director of municipal statistics in Budapest, Hungary. To his office have come for twenty-seven years full reports of the progress of the school pupils of the city. The total number of cases he has analyzed is 808,350. They come in part from the elementary schools, which receive pupils of from 6 to 12 years, in part from the higher elementary schools (10 to 16 years), and in part from the grammar schools, though the records for the two higher kinds of schools do not run back for full twenty-seven years.

It appears that in the elementary schools out of 412,758 boys and 359,382 girls 69,422 boys and 54,391 girls failed to pass their yearly examinations and were compelled to repeat their work. This figures out 16.8 per cent of the boys and 15.8 per cent of the girls, giving the girls a distinct advantage. In the lowest grade of these elementary schools the girls had but a trifling superiority over the boys, but the higher the grade considered the more favorably the girls appeared. In the fourth grade the percentage of those failing to pass were 12.2 for the boys and 9.2 for the girls. In the sixth grade, 4.7 for boys and 2.7 for girls.

In the higher elementary schools the percentage of boys failing to pass was 6.2 and of girls 2.2. In the grammar schools the girls made a still more favorable showing.

Another form of test was as to the percentage of honor marks, or "high standings," received by the two sexes. Here the girls were uniformly ahead. For instance, in the fourth grade elementary schools the percentage of high marks for boys and girls respectively was, in mother tongue 23.6 and 32.3; in arithmetic, 28 and 37.3; in geography, 29.2 and 34.9. In the higher elementary schools the girls did still better, and for one grade Dr. de Korosy showed their percentages of honors to be from three to four times as great as the percentage for the boys.

It is not necessarily safe to argue from Hungary to America, nor even from children to adults, but such a showing as this cannot fail to shake the convictions of many old-fashioned believers in the mental superiority of the male sex.—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Common Language.

IN an account of the session of the international congress of miners, at Paris, John Mitchell says that Englishmen, Frenchmen and Germans took part and each spoke his own language. The result was that every speech had to be repeated twice in translations and the sessions were three times as long as they otherwise would have been. Manifestly there is a limit, human endurance has to be taken into account, and here is where the universal language may hope to have its chance, but it is no easy question. In diplomatic circles and what might be called polite society a knowledge of French is assumed and there is little trouble in the medium of communication. But in recent times the number of congresses has grown enormously—this miners' congress is an illustration. Progress points to their increase and the lack of a general language will be felt more and more.

None of the artificial languages has made any headway. For what reason wise men must say, but probably because there is back of none of them a party or body or race that is using the language to begin with, and affording a standing example and living school. If this be true it might indicate that some living language would finally be adopted, as French was practically for diplomacy. Why French will not do for the purpose in hand is that it is not the property of a fast-growing race, and that it never was a proselyting language. German is ruled out because of the mysteries of the article—the complex declensions—

the obscure verbs and complicated sentence structure. English might seem to have many of the elements necessary—in its widespread use to begin with, its simple grammar and its direct construction; but its spelling is the despair of foreigners, being so largely arbitrary. Perhaps a reform in English spelling, like that in Spanish, might solve the problem.

In this connection it is worthy of note that the German Government has decided that English is the most useful language that Germans can study. The decision was based on a petition from the Dresden Teachers' Association. This document recited that—

"English is the most widely used civilized language in the world; that it is the most important for Germany's international trade relations; that English literature is superior to French on artistic and moral grounds, and that it is not inferior to French in educative value as an exercise, and that it is easier to learn to speak and write the English language than the French, because the French grammar is very difficult."

The Government's decision was rendered so quickly that it is plain the subject had already been carefully considered. It has been ordered that the study of the English language and literature should be optional in all the schools of the Empire. Incidentally this will be of benefit to the Germans who, in their pursuit of world trade, will be greatly helped by a knowledge of English. And in course of time it may be a help toward something nearer a common language than any that the world yet has.—Indianapolis News.

Respect for Old Age.

WE are on the rush in this country, and we are inclined to brush the old to one side. It has been said that old age does not make a foolish man reverend, nor do gray hairs entitle the frivolous to respect; but there is, nevertheless, a respect and a deference which all right-thinking people will pay to the aged. The mere fact that they are aged will excite in the breast of the right kind of man a feeling of thoughtfulness for their comfort. Deference for the aged is the mark of good breeding the world over, and contemptuous or rude or flippant behavior toward the old is the sure sign of the blackguard where it is studied and deliberate, and of a light mind and bad training where it proceeds from thoughtlessness.

The fact that a man or woman has lived long in the world raises a presumption, at least, that he or she knows more of life than the strutting and so should command some respect; and how much greater are the respect and reverence which are due as sacred obligations to parents. One of the most inspiring and beautiful aspects of American life is the wonderful devotion of parents for their children. No foreign observer who has written of American life has failed to note that wonderful self-abnegation of the father and the mother in this country; how they give up everything to their children; how they plot and plan that the young shall be happy and fortunate; how they step into the background, and deny themselves of not only luxuries and comforts, but of the necessities of life, in order that their children shall be blessed with all the opportunities and advantages which perhaps were denied to them in their youth.

It has been said that, in general, those "parents have the most reverence who most deserve it," but that may well be doubted. The total sacrifice which parents make often inculcates an absorbing selfishness in the children, who take the homage and love and devotion of their parents quite as a matter of course, forgetting or omitting to render the slight return which would bring comfort and joy to those whose happiness is centered in the happiness of their children. Often, through mere forgetfulness or procrastination, the young who are sound at heart defer too late the rendering of that affection and homage which the parents have a right to expect.

"And that which should accompany old age,
As honor, love, obedience."
—Philadelphia Ledger.

OLD FAVORITES

A Canadian Boat Song.

Faintly as tolls the evening chime,
Our voices keep tune and our oars keep time.

Soon as the woods on shore look dim,
We'll sing at St. Ann's our parting hymn.

Row, brothers, row! the stream runs fast.

The rapids are near, and the daylight's past.

Why should we yet our sail unfurl?
There is not a breath the blue wave to curl.

But, when the wind blows off the shore,
Oh, sweetly we'll rest our weary oar!

Blow, breezes, blow! the stream runs fast.

The rapids are near, and the daylight's past.

Utawa's tide! this trembling moon
Shall see us float over thy surges soon.

Saint of this green lake, hear our prayers—
Oh, grant us cool heavens and favoring airs!

Blow, breezes, blow! the stream runs fast.

The rapids are near, and the daylight's past.

—Thomas Moore.

The Arrow and the Song.

I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak
I found the arrow, still unbroke;
And the song, from beginning to end,
I found again in the heart of a friend.
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Where Are You Going, My Pretty Maid?

"Where are you going, my pretty maid?"
"I am going a-milking, sir," she said.
"May I go with you, my pretty maid?"
"You're kindly welcome, sir," she said.
"What is your fortune, my pretty maid?"
"My face is my fortune, sir," she said.
"Then I won't marry you, my pretty maid."
"Nobody asked you, sir," she said.

NAVAL TRAVEL AND MILEAGE.

Secretary Morton Establishes Rules Governing Such Expenses.

Secretary Morton's familiarity with railways and travel has promptly resulted in the establishment of a standard of allowances for expenses of naval officers traveling on official business, says the New York Tribune. In an order he has fixed limits which officers will not be allowed to exceed. In addition to paying their actual cost of transportation, including Pullman fare, the rates are as follows:

Meals on train, \$1 each.

Hotel bills, \$5 per day.

Single meals not on train, \$1.50 each.

Tips on train, 50c per diem.

Tips at hotels, 50c per diem.

Transfer of baggage allowed by the regulations and charged for at regular rates.

Carriage hire when necessary for such expense is clearly shown.

Subsistence to officers on inspection duty will not be allowed in places adjacent to the headquarters or to the officers' domiciles.

Assistant inspectors, \$3 per diem for hotel bills; other expenses as above set forth.

For journeys outside the United States, the order is as follows:

Officers performing travel under orders to a foreign station should, on arrival, present their claims for traveling expenses and submit same to the pay officer having their accounts, who will, after verifying the claims, make reimbursements to the claimants upon public bills, indorsing the amount paid upon the original orders and filing the claim, together with a certified copy of the original orders as sub-vouchers.

There is no authority to exceed the allowance herein set forth; and in the event of a question arising as to the correctness of any item in a claim, the pay officer should forward the claim to the bureau of supplies and accounts for audit.

The following maximum allowances are hereby established for officers performing under orders outside the continental limits of the United States:

Hotel bills, \$5 per diem; necessity for incurring such bills to be clearly shown.

Single meals, \$1.50.

Tips at hotels, \$1 per diem.

Steamer chair, \$1.

Transfer of baggage, \$1.50.

Actual cost of transportation when not furnished by the government.

Mess bills on board government vessel if officers is traveling as a passenger.

Other incidental expenses incurred on account of travel and shown to be reasonable.

Pirate Among Plants.

Among all the forms of vegetable life in the Mexican tropics the wild fig trees are the most remarkable, says the Geographic Magazine. Some

of them show such apparent intelligence in their readiness to meet emergencies that it is difficult not to credit them with powers of volition.

In the tropics where the wild fig 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, cornlike 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.

RECKLESS INVESTMENTS.

A Fool and His Money Soon Parted by Means of Unreliable Schemes.

H. P. Wright, the senior member of the old established Kansas City firm of H. P. Wright & Co., bankers, in speaking of the many traps open to the unwary moneyed man, says:

"The reason that a fool and his money are soon parted is that cent and sense have a close affinity, and the former does not long abide where the latter is a stranger.

"The profession of handling funds and investments, which, unfortunately has never been sufficiently defined to even give it a comprehensive name belongs to the very learned arts and demands the very highest order of intelligence, the clearest heads and the best judgment of the many professions practiced. The surgeon examining his patient to decide whether an operation is necessary to prolong the life of the sufferer requires no better judgment than the banker who is called upon to diagnose and analyze the financial condition of a business which is continually being brought to him. A physician or an attorney after a certain period of study receives a diploma, and perhaps two or three years later a master's degree. In that length of time the prospective handler of investments is still licking postage stamps, or at best working on the books. No profession calls for so many years of hard and constant work in preparation as the investment banker, and in no profession is proficiency so poorly recognized.

"If the ordinary person required the services of a physician, he inquires as to the probable ability of a certain doctor and immediately places himself in communication with the master of medicine. Not for one moment would that individual interrogate the reputable physician as to what enters into the composition of the little pills which he prescribes. They are taken without a question, even when, as a matter of fact, they may contain the most deadly of poisons in suitable quantities.

"The same person, having financial matters which need the consideration and judgment of an expert, instead of finding a capable and honest practitioner in these lines, will more than likely be caught by a flashy sign or some get-rich-quick advertisement, and after allowing some unprincipled or incompetent promoter or trader to tell him all about it, will act as he sees fit, guided by his greed for high interest or any other motive except intelligence of the matter involved, which he has not.

"Perhaps, after all, it is a good thing for society at large that human nature is this way, for otherwise the wealth of the world might go out of circulation too easily and the development of civilization stop. We pity the fool as an individual and sympathize with him in his mistakes, but I would like to suggest for serious thought the question of what this business world would be if the genus fools were eliminated."—Financial, New York.

Dishonoring His Craft.

Fellaire, formerly Rusty Rufus, attracted in an expensive suit of the latest cut, was picking his way gingerly over the muddy crossings.

"Say, mister," began Rufus Wratz, stepping in front of him, "can you spare a pore man a dime? I hain't had nothin' to—"

"Look here," interrupted Fellaire, "if I give you the price of a drink will you agree never to bother me again?"

"Sure!" said Rufus Wratz. "I will never—"

Back into Fellaire's pocket went the silver dollar he was going to give him for the sake of old times.

"You worthless hound!" he exclaimed. "Have you no pride in your calling, no ambition beyond the mere gratification of the moment? Get out of my sight!"

Helping him along with a kick he resumed his walk.—Chicago Tribune.

No painless dentist can fool us.

PAY FOR TREE DESTRUCTION.

Important Precedent Established by a Massachusetts Court.

A Springfield, Mass., jury gave a property owner a verdict of \$234 damages against a trolley company for the loss of a tree cut down by the employees of the latter. A fine shade tree is worth more money than that, but the principle established by the verdict is that electric companies which destroy trees must pay the owner their valuation as fixed by a jury.

There are more ways of destroying trees than by cutting them down. An electric company which places its wires through or close above the branches of a tree does them an injury, checks their growth and in the end destroys them. An electric current, such as a trolley line or an arc light wire carries, is not favorable to the health of trees with which it comes into frequent contact. Ditches dug for underground wires close to the trunks of trees usually injure and often kill the trees. It is doubtless necessary to sacrifice trees in order to extend electric wires. This is inevitable, but the principle which ought to be understood and enforced is that the electric company should pay for their destruction and not sacrifice private property for their own benefit without making full compensation.

The rights of tree owners in their trees are imperfectly understood and inadequately enforced. A corporation given the use of a street for any purpose usually regards trees as an obstruction to be removed as soon as possible. If they are made to pay in every case they will avoid tree destruction when they can and the owner will get some compensation if the

IN THE HANDS OF HIS ENEMIES.



The wounded Russian soldier, as shown in the picture, made from a photograph, has fallen into the hands of good Samaritans. The intelligent young Japanese surgeon and his assistant are as tender and painstaking in making the diagnosis as though the sufferer were of their own race, and the gentle and sympathetic looking nurses are ready to begin their ministrations. The stricken moujik, who had been led to believe that to fall into the hands of the yellow heathen was equivalent to worse than death, will learn more of the inherent humanity which actuates his little enemies than he could have been taught in any other way.

or operation of their work.—Philadelphia Press.

We can't really say which looks the more playful: pups or widowers.

Asked and Answered.

"Say, pa," queried small Tommy Toddles, "why do cows give milk?"
"Why—er—because they can't sell it, I suppose," replied the old man.