



EDITORIALS



Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

DOCTORS WARN US AGAINST HARD WORK.

LOAF and grow fat" is the trite expression of an old truism supposed to have the backing of physiological research and medical experience. The farmer who wishes to fatten stock for the market does not permit it to roam the fields. He puts the stock in a pen, where it can get little exercise, and feeds it fattening material.

But it has never been supposed that loafing made a person healthy or strong. It favors an increase of adipose tissue, but no one ever contended that it made muscular tissue or improved the circulation or strengthened any of the organs of the body.

But now come certain members of the American Medical Association with the declaration that hard work is deadly, that the "strenuous life" is making the young men of the United States as decrepit as their grandfathers were at the age of 70 years. The introduction of the cinder path, football and other forms of outdoor athletics into college life, it is claimed, has resulted in the alarming growth of an incurable disease that is sapping the vitality of the young men. This disease, which the doctors have named "arteriosclerosis," is a stiffening and deterioration of the arteries, causing them to age prematurely and bringing about a serious affection of the heart.

It should not require the admonition of the learned doctors to impress young men with the danger and foolishness of "strenuous" athletics, or with the benefits to be derived from rational outdoor exercise. The loafing that permits an excessive accumulation of fat is dangerous. The work or the athletic exercise that does not respond to the rational needs of a particular body is also dangerous. Experience and common sense teach us this without the testimony of the doctors.

Loafing does not bring health. Nor does "strenuous" exercise necessarily bring strength.—Chicago Record-Herald.

PROSPERITY AND MONEY MADNESS.

THAT an ordinary shameless politician, who must live by his wits, should want to steal, or that a forlorn wretch who has little or nothing, not even the fag-end of a conscience, should be tempted to rob his neighbor, is comprehensible enough. But why should a man who has more millions than he can count, more income than he can spend, or even give away, a man who can satisfy every rational desire of a human being and yet have enough over to support 10,000 people in comfort—why should such a man be willing to commit crime to get more?

The answer is that he has lost his mental equilibrium; he has become money-mad. He is in precisely the same case as the man who, because of infatuation for a woman, gives up his wife and children, his home, his religion, his reputation and his money; and that kind of a performance is recorded in the newspapers nearly every day. An evil passion has got possession of the soul of the money-mad man, just as alcohol or opium gets possession of the body of a man who is a drinker or a doper. Why did Napoleon, having all the rest of the continent of Europe at his feet, and literally drunk with glory, want to conquer Russia and then Asia? Because he was ambition-mad. He had lost his balance. He had parted with his sense of the right proportion of things.

The money-mad man is similarly a victim, but of another mania. An insane person is one who is no longer able to perceive things as they are. Everything is distorted as he looks at it. Always he exaggerates his own importance; invariably he gives a false value to some other person or thing. The multi-millionaire who is so hot for more dollars that he will plunge into criminal

projects and cover his hands with filth and his name with ignominy to reap a harvest of money that he wants no more than he wants eleven toes, is a man who has lost his head. The police might fairly collar him; but his rightful guardian is an alienist.

If, indeed, it be a fact that he and his kind are multiplied, and their passion for spoil is made hotter by prosperity, may we not consider whether, as we look around upon the increase of graft and development of money-madness, this country could not obtain some benefit from a brief spell of hard times?—Philadelphia North American.

AGRICULTURE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE question of teaching agriculture in our public schools is being ventilated thoroughly by educational leaders. State Supt. Stetson, of Maine, has expressed the conviction that in some elementary form all the teachers of that State should be prepared to teach agriculture. He thinks that farm boys and farm girls should be so taught that when they are through with the common schools they will be qualified to make country homes, and not, by their very training, be biased toward town life. The fact is that the ordinary common school does comparatively exalt trade and manufacturing as compared with land culture. The children receive no information whatever concerning animals and plants, concerning soils and fertilizers, nor are they taught the relation that in country life should exist between the true, the beautiful and the useful.

Superintendent Joyner, of North Carolina, insists that agriculture should be taught just as history is taught. Assign a lesson in nature study, and see that the pupil masters it. He thinks the application will come later. Pupils will become keenly interested in matters that touch everyday home life. Then he would have supplied to the pupils small boxes, in which they are to place the requisite soil, and in each plant a given number of seeds. He would have them test seed to begin with—not go ahead blindly, but make sure at every point. For instance, he finds in his experiments that cabbage seed germinates at a 90 per cent ratio, clover at a 75 per cent ratio, while blue grass has a percentage of germination as low as 45. His object is to teach a child accuracy in all matters pertaining to agriculture; but accuracy is nothing more or less than science.

Elbert Hubbard emphasizes the necessity of a radical change in the division of school work. To teach agriculture wisely requires a good deal of outdoor application. Recently we showed what Iowa had undertaken with her normal schools—that is, a certain amount of garden work and field work for incipient teachers, so that they will be qualified to teach nature studies in the schools.

There is really no good reason why boys and girls should be shut up all day inside school rooms. It is unnatural, and it is a serious damage to their nerves and their muscles. There is no reason why half of this time should not be spent out of doors in the application of the lessons learned. These may be lessons in entomology or in ornithology, or in direct gardening. Mr. Hubbard adds: "Suppose we quit talking about war, and set ourselves to the problem of educating our boys and girls—that is, educate them to be useful; one session a day for books and the afternoon for hand work." He thinks this would end the era of overworked teachers and yellow, nervous pupils. At present we are giving twice as much to war as we are to our schools. We are glad to welcome the assistance of all thoughtful educators, editors and others in this campaign for common sense. Let us make our motto "Educate for the farm and not from the farm; educate for the country and not from the country."—New York Tribune.

Along One of Sandville's Roads.' You know that place where those ten pine trees grow? Well, sir, I'll range you and your family and the Todds and the Lamsons and—well, that's enough, anyway—I'll range you in your bugles, and so on, along in front of those pines, and I reckon it'll make a picture worth looking at.

"Then I'll have 'A Corner in One of Sandville's Gardens.' I'll squat down in front of those nasturtiums that Bud Lamson's managed to make grow, and I'll take 'em large. They'll look luxurious—that's the way they'll look!

"And as for the rest of the set"—Mr. Patterson snapped his fingers airily—"I reckon we can make out ten, between the postoffice and the grocery taken both ways, and a 'Group of Cats'—everybody knows cats like a good place to live. Why, I shouldn't wonder if our postal cards brought a regular boom right here to Sandville's doors!"

COLLIE WEIGHS SIX POUNDS.

Only Three of This Breed of Angora Dogs in America.

Although the dog aristocrats are supposed to have representation in the New York and Boston dog shows, there is one species which is never represented, because the species is so rare. This is the Angora collie, and there are only three of the dogs in this country. Dr. E. C. Switzer, of Springfield, Mass., owns one of the animals, and the other two are in Newburyport, Mass., says the New York Herald.

The peculiar characteristic of the dog is that while it has all the marks of a typical collie, it weighs about six pounds instead of the thirty or more which the collie ordinarily weighs. It has the feathering on the legs and in

the ears and its head is broad and intelligent, but here all resemblance to the well-known breed ends, for it is a dainty, graceful dog, with all the pretty ways of a small dog.

Dr. Switzer's dog is named Spider and her father and mother were brought to this country from Spain and taken to Newburyport, and now the mother and her two children, Toudie and Spider, are the only representatives of the breed in this country. Spider has an unusually broad head, big, intelligent eyes with spots of brown around them, brown markings on back and sides, slender, graceful legs, and a coat which is gleaming white except for the marks of brown.

The little dog is extremely affectionate, loves to be cuddled, and makes an excellent ladies' dog, but she is no toy, for she has dauntless courage and pluck and is always ready to defend her rights.

Although born in a warm country, she stands well the uncertainties of the New England climate and is perfectly well in the coldest weather. She is a small eater, and fresh tripe is a delicacy of which she is particularly fond. Jumping is her especial delight, and she will take leaps with the ease of a greyhound. She is an excellent watchdog and will bark uproariously at the slightest noise. She is sensitive to a degree and grieves sorely over a cross or rough word.

Modern Mathematics.

Teacher—What are the principal parts of mathematics?
Johnny—Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and restitution.—New York Sun.

What a man's wife thinks of him is not far from the truth.

Topic Times

John M. Gearin, recently appointed United States Senator from Oregon, will be the poorest man in that body.

The entire collection of the diplomatic letters of Pope Pius VII. has been stolen from the archives of the Vatican.

The old-style sharp-pointed shoe of Spanish origin has nearly disappeared in Mexico, having been replaced by the American lasts.

The Board of Trade of San Mateo, Cal., has named it "Floral City" and a committee has been appointed to see that it lives up to its name.

English educational and sanitary authorities are discussing the advisability of substituting cheap paper and pencils for slates in schools. The Lancet is strongly in favor of paper and pencils.

Experiments made with kites on the Mediterranean have shown that over a large surface of water the temperature and the rapidity of air movements decline steadily in proportion to the altitude.

The original proclamation for the capture of Prince Charles Edward (the Young Pretender), dated Whitehall, Aug. 21, 1745, has recently been discovered, and purchased by the British Museum.

A man in Portland, Ore., proposes to purchase fir logs which the sawmills of British Columbia will not use, build them into enormous rafts, and tow them to San Diego, to be there cut into firewood.

A bushel of bituminous coal is different in different States. In Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kentucky its weight is eight pounds; in Pennsylvania, seventy-six pounds, and in Indiana, seventy pounds.

Athens, Greece, has many fine buildings, but the provisions for fighting fires are most inadequate. The fire brigade consists of men detailed from the regular army, who, in addition to clothes and keep, get only 10 cents a week!

Quiaak, the oldest Indian in the Northwest, died recently at his home on Satsop River, Chehalis County, Washington. He was at least 120 years old, as he was old and gray-haired when the oldest settlers came to Gray's Harbor, fifty years ago.

It having been proved by experiment that fish can be brought in refrigerator in good condition from Africa to Paris, a regular steamship company is to be inaugurated for supplying the capital with fish, lobsters, etc., from the western African coast.

When the Prince and Princess of Wales desired to inspect the Golden Temple, at Amritsir, in the Punjab, the Sikhs declined to allow them to enter the main gate, because they were not Sikhs, but said they could enter by a side door. The offer was declined.

An outbreak of rinderpest has brought the German campaign against the Hottentots in southwest Africa to a standstill. The German government has asked the Reichstag to provide for the dispatch of 700 more men, 2,000 horses and 1,000 dromedaries to the scene of war.

Among the presents received by Bishop O'Connell, now in Japan, as the Papal envoy to the Mikado, is a deed of dedication for an eleven-acre tract of land to the Pope as a site for Catholic headquarters, at Oshide, seven miles from the well-known tourist resort at Kamizawa.

Switzerland has adopted mid-European time, the true local time for Bern being just half an hour later. The result of putting the working hours thirty minutes earlier in the day has had such an effect on the consumption of gas that the gas company has been demanding a return to the old system.

The British Early Closing Association admits that the early closing act, passed by Parliament after seventeen years of agitation, has proved a failure. It has been in force over sixteen months and is still practically inoperative. In no district can two-thirds of the shop-keepers be induced to adopt it.

An application has been made by the Japanese government to the British General Medical Council, asking it to recognize the degrees of Japanese medical practitioners in various parts of the British Empire. It is in the Straits Settlements that the Japanese doctors particularly wish leave to practice at present.

Seagulls invaded a boatful of herring at Nanaimo, Wash., while the fishermen were away. When the fishermen returned sixty had eaten so much that they could not fly away. The fishermen lifted them into the water and they just managed to swim to the shore, where they lay down to recover from their dinner.

Sir Henry Irving one day met a broken-down actor in the Strand, "I never see you at the theater now," said

Sir Henry. The other murmured something about his ill luck and shabbiness. "Oh, nonsense, you come tomorrow and give your name at the box office." He went, to find two tickets awaiting him, with a ten-pound note.

PEARLS IN LABRADOR.

A Little Known Source of Wealth in Streams of Northern District.

The deep sea fishermen and whale or seal hunters are about the only people who know much about the Northern Labrador coast, where it runs up into Hudson Bay territory. Barrenness and desolation, rocky shores, beaten by the icy Atlantic, long winters and short, inclement summers are its chief characteristics.

There are but few signs of human life; merely ancient rock-built shelters set up by whalers from Nantucket or Gloucester, when Greenland whales were hunted among the icebergs, or rude seal hunters' shanties, where observation parties land for a day or two at a time. But, curious as it appears, there is a little known source of wealth in that lone land.

It is found in the rushing rivers, which generally make their last leap into the ocean over a steep and high waterfall. The immense masses of fresh water mussels, which in many places actually choke the streams, first directed attention to it in late years.

Men wondered why the old-time whalers had collected such quantities of the shells as were to be seen piled about the camping places. Then a short search by a well-read ne'er-do-well a few years ago revealed a large, irregularly shaped pearl under a pile of old shells, and immediately a valuable secret was revealed to a few persons.

Since that time a certain number of men have become expert pearl fishers, and now shipments are periodically, and, in summer, regularly, made of pearls. These men make fair wages by their labors, though, of course, the returns vary according to the fortune, good or bad, which attends the individual.

Some of the pearls are large and of great value. Last year one was sold to a New Yorker of rare discrimination in the purchase of curios for upward of \$1,000. In appearance these fresh water pearls are not easily distinguished from those obtained in Southern seas, though unfortunately a certain percentage of them are irregular in shape.

Usually they are silver white in color, though a young man who has just returned from Labrador has a pair of rose pink pearls, perfectly matched, which weigh about twelve grains each, and are worth probably \$60 or \$70 apiece.

Strangely enough, this lucky one was not a pearl hunter, but took a clump of shells in his hand and sat down to open them with his pocketknife. He found the two pearls in one large shell. After that he spent a fortnight in searching for more, but only secured about half a dozen small ones, worth perhaps \$3 the lot.

As a rule the pearl hunting is gone about in a more scientific manner than that. The mussels are regularly stacked on flat rocks or sand bars, and are allowed to decompose, when the shells open naturally, and are easily examined for the pearls, which lie loosely imbedded in the flesh of the fish.

It appears that the Indians of that district have always known of these fresh water pearls, and that several of the rivers running north have been regularly fished for them for many generations. Most of the pearls collected by these people in olden times were ruined by being rudely bored, so that they might be strung for necklaces or for the adornment of wampum belts.

Nowadays, the wide-awake Hudson Bay Company traders pay a fair price for all the Indians can collect. Some of the Montreal houses have regular dealings with the pearl hunters of the coast, and have agents on the spot who secure shipments for them.—Washington Post.

In Dead Earnest.

A traveling man received the following telegram from his wife: "Twins arrived to-night. More by mail."

He went at once to the nearest office and sent the following reply:

"I leave for home to-night. If more come by mail send to dead letter office."—Lippincott's Magazine.

A Monologue.

Nell—I just met Miss Gabbie down the street.

Belle—Oh, you poor thing! Nell—She was telling me she had a long talk with you this morning.

Belle—That's not correct. What she had was a long talk "to" me.

Refused \$2,500 for Orchid. Two offers of \$2,500 were recently refused for a new variety of orchid shown in London.

You can't lift some politicians by offering them painted money.