

GERMANY'S SCHOOLS.

THE GRADES IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF THE EMPIRE.

Social and Scholastic Distinctions Rigidly Enforced - Vigorous Discipline Maintained - Politeness Toward Teachers. The Switch as an Assistant - Bad Marks.

Private schools are but few in Germany compared to their number in this country, and most parents send their children to the government schools. These are divided into various kinds, according to the studies and to the social conditions of the students - gymnasia, attended by boys who propose pursuing classic studies; real schools, devoted to mathematics and economical studies rather than to classics (the word "real studies" means essential, economical or polytechnical studies); higher burger schools (citizens' schools), where the prices for attendance are even smaller than the very modest ones paid in the two first named; lower burger schools, for sons of still less wealthy people; and, at last, free schools, whose students pay nothing. The girls have higher daughter schools, where the instruction and prices are highest, though the latter are very moderate, indeed. Next in rank are the plain daughter schools; while such young ladies as cannot pay any school money at all attend, like their brothers, those anomalously called free schools.

SOCIAL DISTINCTIONS.

You see, there is a most orthodox distinction between "higher daughters" and the girls who must be satisfied with being "daughters" without the adjective. There being but a slight difference between the extent and number of studies taught in either kind of school, it is plain that the distinction made is caused by social prejudice. The students of the gymnasia are never at peace with those of the real schools, but admit them to be their equals. They treat the boys of the burger schools with contempt, and this without going into the details of higher or lower. But for a gymnasiast to walk with or talk to a boy of a free school, or to have anything to do with him, except fighting, would be considered by parents, teachers and companions as unbecoming and offensively low conduct. The girls, too, have pronounced opinions as to the proper sphere for a "higher daughter" or for a "lower" one, or for one who is neither higher nor lower, but so exceedingly proud as to be called "free." Free from pride and prejudice, I suppose.

A German boy enters the lowest class of the gymnasium, called "Sexta," when he is about 8 years of age. The next class is called "Quinta," then "Quarta," "Tertia," "Secunda" and "Prima." When he has toiled through all of these he tries to pass the very difficult "Abiturienten examina." He has now an exclusive and thorough education, and may enter a university. If he has successfully passed the examination he is then allowed to become a soldier. That is to say, he would have to join the army anyway, but when he has attended the gymnasium or real school up to "Secunda," he enters the ranks as a "volunteer," being only compelled to serve during one year, and in Germany to be forced to be a soldier for no longer than one year may be considered equal to volunteering in any other country.

DISCIPLINE

I have mentioned the rigorous discipline of German schools. This discipline can be maintained only by the co-operation of the parents with the teachers. A well regulated system of reward and punishment, with a careful surveillance, holds the boys under control. If a parent does not agree with some of the severe penalties inflicted upon the boy his son is apt to be expelled for fear of his undermining the discipline. School begins about 7 a. m. At five minutes past that hour the doors are closed and those who are late are not admitted, but punished the next day. The boys await their teachers in their respective class rooms. When the teacher enters they all rise as one boy and never think of sitting down before the teacher motions them to do so. When he leaves they go through the same ceremony. When a boy is asked a question he rises and remains standing until he is through. No student dare to omit lifting his cap when meeting any teacher of the school on the street. The teachers of all classes up to "Tertia" are furnished with a rod or switch, which is a cheap and ever ready assistant. A refractory boy is ordered to stretch his hand out, the palm upward, and before he knows it he has got such a whack as will beat an entire Latin grammar at once into his head.

It is not invariably through the hand, however, that science and literature are made to enter a boy's brain. Some teachers consider the ears to be the best medium, while others give preference to the boys' backs as presenting the broadest surface. Bad marks are given as the lightest punishment, with the silent understanding that two of them be equal to one thrashing. When a boy is kept in after school his parents are at once notified of the fact. Not infrequently a parent gets a notice that his son is to stay at school, not for a certain number of hours, but of days. Every school has a jail, called "Carcer." From one to eight or more days of school prison is a punishment for graver offenses. If incurred repeatedly, the boy is expelled. This punishment deprives him from being admitted to any other public school throughout the country. While in the school jail the boy has to pay for his board. He is then in charge of the porter or "custos" of the school. - Philadelphia Times.

Women Who Sell Newspapers.

The number of grown women who sell newspapers on the streets is constantly increasing, and today there are eight of them, between 30 and 50 years of age, reading papers at the big bridge entrance and the immediate neighborhood. Some of them are assisted by little sons and daughters, and one has a boxon girl of 17 or 18, whose raven hair and ruddy cheeks attract a great deal of not always respectful attention. There is not much chivalry in the newboys who do not hesitate to mob a man or haze a boy who intrudes on their posts; but they do not interfere with these women, no matter how many cut up their business. - New York Sun.

Churns and Churning.

Churning is a process that, almost more than any other in butter making, depends for being well done on the implement used. Points of merit in a churn are: First, The agitation should be of such a character that the cream is churned by concussion rather than friction. One would suppose that the fat globule, protected for the time being in a liquid, would stand agitation of any sort; but when we remember that one churn will bring the butter in five minutes, which would not come to thirty minutes in another churn, we can conceive of it being possible to over agitate cream in churning. Whatever may be the effect at the beginning of churning, it is without question that when cream begins to "break" and butter to "form," the character of the agitation may be such as to injure the grain of the butter. It is the experience of butter makers that some churns destroy the grain and make the butter greasy. Another question is settled. It is not the slow churns which injure the grain of butter, but the quick churns. The slow churns are the churns without inside fixtures; the quick churns are the churns with dashers.

Second. A churn should give its contents uniform agitation. The cream should be churned all alike and the butter come as near as possible at the same time. This is important for quantity as well as quality of butter. When all the cream is agitated alike, more of the cream is churned without some of it being over churned. When butter all comes at the same time there is less waste of butter in buttermilk in draining or washing. The churn which meets this condition, is, in the opinion of many, a churn without dashers.

Ease of working is a very important essential in a churn. It was the hard work of churning that brought into favor the quick churns that have spoiled so much butter. The movable body churns are doubtless the easier churns to work of the two classes. Among these the revolving churn, if rightly constructed, is easier than the oscillating churn, especially for large quantities.

Ventilation is essential in a churn. When cream is first subjected to agitation, especially if it be at all sour, it evolves gas. This gas should be allowed to escape, both for sake of easy churning and quality of butter. With the old dash churn the ventilation was easy - through a hose and open cover. The revolving churn, which bears off the palm in perhaps all other respects, is the weakest of all at this point. To prevent loss of cream it must needs be well closed up. It is necessary, when using a revolving churn, when not otherwise provided for, to stop occasionally, pull out the stopper or plug and let the gas escape. This is done frequently in the beginning of the process. Afterward it is not so necessary. Some churns have patented arrangements for this purpose.

Children in a Hotel.

Children in hotel or boarding house are like wild birds in a cage, deprived of their right to fly and swoop and skim the air and to swell their throats almost to bursting with unchecked song. The wild bird droops and mopes and mournfully twitters, instead of singing, and grows disheveled and dirty and unlovely, and the caged child grows weedy and pallid and constrained in its movements and pert and assured in its manners, and before it is adolescent it is a little world weary nasal kin, blasé of all amusements, supercilious to those not so wealthy or so well dressed or so fashionable as its parents and their friends, cynical and agnostic in all its views. - Mrs. Frank Leslie in Philadelphia Times.

German Universities.

Twenty-six thousand nine hundred and forty-five students have attended the twenty universities of Germany during the winter session which has just closed. At Berlin there were 5,478, at Munich 3,414, and at Leipzig 3,282. Bonn is seventh, with 1,119 students, and Heidelberg is only thirteenth, with 892. Rostock comes last, with 340. Only 1,644 of the students were foreigners. Of the whole, 8,735 students belong to the philosophical faculty, 6,650 to the medical, 5,791 to the theological, and 5,769 to the juristic.

A Novel Scarf Pin.

A novel design was shown to a reporter by a manufacturer, which took the form of a skull mounted upon the top of a stout pin and connected therewith by a fine gold chain. The wearer, by gently pulling the chain, causes the lower jaw of the skull to drop, while two small diamond eyes fall into the sockets, thus giving the oblong an inclination to feel uneasy by its ghastly appearance. These pins are expensive, the price depending entirely upon the size of the diamond used. - New York Mail and Express.

Washington Correspondents.

The correspondents, as a rule, are high toned gentlemen, and a cynic might say would sooner think of approaching a congressman with bribes than them. Many of them receive salaries as large as those of the congressmen, and the only great difference in the two positions is that the correspondent is here as long as he does good work, and the congressman's head goes off, as a rule, at the end of two or four years.

The trade in birds for women's hats was so enormous last year that a single London dealer admitted that he sold 2,000,000 of small birds of every kind and color. At one auction in one week there were sold 6,000 birds of paradise, 5,000 Impeyan pheasants, 400,000 humming birds, and other birds from North and South America, and 300,000 feathered skins from India.

You will sometimes see a man planting trees around his place for the shade; and, at the same time, you will see another cutting down all the trees around his house because they produce too much moisture.

A little boy was told that there were no politics in heaven. He thought for a moment, and then said: "I guess that's because there are no politicians there." - Harper's Bazar.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR EYES

GOOD ADVICE GIVEN BY A NEW YORK OCULIST.

It is Rare That a Specialist Finds a Perfect Eye - How the Eyes Should Be Looked After - Bathing the Eyes - Contagious Diseases.

It seldom happens that a New York street car makes a trip from its stable to the terminus of its route without carrying at least one person under 40 years of age who wears glasses at least when he reads. This will give the uninitiated some idea of the prevalence of impaired eyesight. In a cafe near Madison square the other evening a reporter counted eight spectacled young men out of twelve sitting at five tables in one end of the room. With a view of learning the cause of this widespread weakness in the visual organs of the young men of this generation, the reporter sought Dr. George S. Norton, of the New York Ophthalmic college, a well known authority upon that subject of medical practice.

"It is rare that a specialist finds a perfect eye," he said. "In nearly every instance some defect is found. The most common complaints are myopia and hypermyopia, or near and far sightedness, as they are commonly called. The former is increasing, but the latter is not, although the latter is far more prevalent just at present. The care of the eyes is far more important than most men realize. The improper use of eyes which are weak results in a variety of complaints. It often causes headaches, depression and sometimes nervous prostration. These can generally be remedied if not cured by the use of glasses. In the purchase of glasses the sufferer cannot be too careful. The use of glasses that are improperly adjusted to the eye is oftentimes more injurious than helpful. Another common complaint is called astigmatism, which consists of the irregular curvature of the cornea. In such cases one part of the eye may be myopic while the other is hypermyopic. To avoid this, glasses must be used with lenses specially ground for the purpose."

TIPS OF GOOD ADVICE.

"How should the eyes be taken care of?" "That depends entirely upon circumstances. Each man's eyes differ from those of his fellow. No two pairs are alike. Here are a few simple directions in cases of accident which would be well followed. When a cinder or any foreign substance gets into the eye, never rub the eye. Wait a moment, then gently open and close the lid, the tears which follow this operation will usually wash out the intruding substance. However, should it refuse to go, turn up the lid under which the substance is and remove it with a soft handkerchief. If the substance becomes imbedded in the corner, or eyeball, go to a physician immediately. In bathing the eyes it makes no material difference, as has been alleged, whether they are rubbed toward the nose or from it. It is injudicious, however, to allow water to enter the eye, as this act may engender disease. It should never be allowed except under skilled advice. Do not use the eyes after they are tired. They should be rested, if only for a moment. Avoid the use of the eyes while traveling in a railway carriage or in a poor light. Do not work with the head bent low. Use a sloping desk when writing. Never allow the light to shine in your eyes while working; let it come over the left shoulder, if possible. If this cannot be accomplished wear a shade.

Avoid the use of colored glasses unless under competent advice, except when exposed to bright light, such as the glare of the sun upon snow or water. Then they may be used with great benefit. London smoked glasses, or tinted, are the only colors that should be worn under these circumstances. Avoid holding a book when reading, too near the eye, as the nearer it is held the greater the strain. On the other hand do not hold it far away, as then the strain is even greater. Contagion is the most fertile cause of the spread of external diseases, especially granular lids. This is most generally the case in public institutions, where children live and sleep together, and often wash themselves in the same water. Isolation is the only known method for preventing the spread of this disease. A normal eye should be perfectly strong and not become easily tired. It should not require the use of glasses until the age of 40 or 45 has been reached. By the use of proper glasses they should remain strong indefinitely. A far sighted man requires glasses for reading much earlier than a man who is near sighted. When a person does not need glasses for reading at 50 years of age it proves conclusively that he must have been near sighted in his youth. - New York Mail and Express.

An Ancient Mariner.

British residents in Japan are subscribing for the repair of the grave of Will Adams, a British sailor, who was shipwrecked in Japan in the reign of James I, and who lived for many years at the Court of Yedo, where he obtained extraordinary influence. His grave was discovered some years ago on the summit of one of the hills overlooking the government arsenal at Yokosuka, near Yokohama.

Rosa Bonheur.

Rosa Bonheur in the streets of Paris is a large, elderly lady. Her hair is plainly dressed in black, her gray hair tucked under a close bonnet. Years ago she dressed as a boy so as to attract less attention from the hangers on of the stables, cattle yards and menageries, which were visited chiefly by men, and she still wears male attire at home when at work.

Domestic Affairs.

Robinson - You seem troubled this morning, Brown, and out of sorts. Brown - Yes, domestic affairs. Robinson - How much do you owe her? Brown - Owe her, owe who? Robinson - Your cook. - New York Sun.

Good people die and bad people live. The man who is fat with health can't get employment, and the man who is making money hand over fist has to give up business on account of ill health.

THE HEAD STEWARD'S FIGURES.

What It Takes to Satisfy the Appetites of Ocean Steamship Passengers.

"There came in over that gangplank last year," said the steward of one of the popular big transatlantic steamships the other day, "4,656 sheep, 2,474 oxen, 1,800 lambs, 4,230 ducks, 2,200 turkeys, 2,000 geese, and a good many hundred calves, quail, chicken and grouse."

"What did you do with them - throw them overboard?" "Ate 'em," was the reply. "My language is a little figurative, perhaps, but come and look at my books and be convinced. I tell you people who go down to the sea in ships, or those of them at least who travel by the big transatlantic liners, accept with complacency and as a matter of course the refinements, conveniences and luxuries found on board from day to day, and fail to grasp, in most cases, the extent of the advance which has been made in the last twenty-five years in catering to their wants, as well as overlook the intricate machinery which is required to be constantly and quietly in motion for the maintenance of order and regularity. They have little idea of the vastness and variety of the stores necessary for the ship herself and her crew, and also of that more varied and quite as astonishingly big supply of fish, flesh, fowl, vegetables, fruit and liquor, now considered indispensable for the crowd of passengers the good ship carries, whose insatiable sea appetites are at once the tourists' joy and the steward's despair.

"That sad procession of slaughtered animals I pictured to you, did not really come aboard in the flesh - that is to say - I mean - alive, nor all at once, but we consumed here over 2,000,000 pounds of meat in the last twelve months, which represents, as you will see by looking at these columns, the number of carcasses I mentioned. Meat is the chief item, of course, but man does not live by meat alone, and last year our passengers ate a ton of mustard, three-quarters of a ton of pepper, 7,314 bottles of pickles, about 500 tons of flour, about 900 tons of potatoes, more than 50,000 loaves of bread and twenty tons of biscuits.

"These are the necessities of life, now for the luxuries - they make a pretty good showing, too. Look here: 5,000 jars jams of all kinds, a dozen tons of marmalade - the latter taste of marmalade is never so well appreciated as on recovery from seasickness - twenty tons raisins, currants, figs, dates, etc.; thousands of crates of grapes, peaches, apples, oranges, bananas and other fresh fruits. That's a pretty good list of solids, isn't it? Everybody takes, of course, while everybody doesn't drink or smoke, yet the drinkers keep their end of the balance sheet fairly well. See this:

"In one year they drank 15,000 quarts of champagne, the same of claret and other light wines, 175,000 bottles mineral waters, 35,000 bottles of spirits, and the whopping total of half a million bottles of ale, beer and porter. While all this is going down, 50,000 cigars and 50,000 cigarettes are going up, besides what the gentlemen bring with them. We also consume about 75,000 pounds of chewing tobacco, of which the crew and the steerage use the greater part. Then here is 21,000 pounds tea, and 75,000 pounds coffee, with no end of condensed milk and almost 300,000 pounds of sugar to sweeten it. Fresh fish in shoals, sardines in banks, and more than three-quarters of a million of eggs, cooked in every conceivable style, round the list out in a satisfactory manner and give you some idea of the duties and responsibilities of the head steward of a ship like this." - New York Tribune.

Wretched English in Newspapers.

"Such wretched English as we get in our newspapers!" exclaimed a certain Chicago clergyman not long since. "There is no polish in the work. It is clumsily done. Words are badly chosen, shades of meaning are lost in bungling composition, and sometimes there are grammatical errors. I don't see why our newspapers cannot be better written." One night last week this clergyman happened to be in a newspaper office. Near where he stood talking with one of the editors of the papers was a reporter writing. On the desk in front of him lay his watch open. With one hand the young man was moving a pencil at an amazing speed, and with the other was manipulating a cigarette with that skill and ease which only come of long experience.

The clergyman's curiosity was roused. "Why the watch?" he inquired. "Oh," replied the editor, "the young man has just come in from his assignments. He has been busy all afternoon and early in the evening gathering information concerning a matter of considerable public interest. He has been doing some lively hustling, and is probably tired. He is also hungry, but his superior has told him that he is to have his copy finished at a certain hour. In two hours he must write a column and a half. That is why he has his watch out. He is timing himself. If he finds he is falling behind he will work all the harder to catch up. That is the way newspapers are made. Would you like to write your sermons in that fashion, and then have somebody go over your work at his leisure and criticize your style and your choice of words?" - Chicago Tribune.

Dwelling Houses in Japan.

Japanese houses are low in size and toys in construction, resting on corner posts set on large rocks, that they may give and sway with earthquakes, and held in place and made stable by the heavy roofs of mud and tiles. The only way of stemming a fire is to tear down the houses in advance of the flames, and it is done as easily as a child knocks over a house of blocks or cards. A rope is fastened to one of the upright corner posts, the crowd gives one pull, and there is a crash and a cloud of dust as the shell of mud and tiles falls upon the ruins of the flimsy dwelling. A thatched roof or a shingle roof drops quite as easily. The ordinary house or shop in the town seldom exceeds twelve feet in frontage, and if there is a second story it is quite as much in miniature and the roof not more than fifteen feet from the ground. It sounds frightful to hear of 500 or 1,000 houses being burned in a night, but with these flimsy dwellings and their microscopic landscape gardens back of them, the area need not be more than that of two or four small city blocks. - Yokohama Cor. Globe-Democrat.

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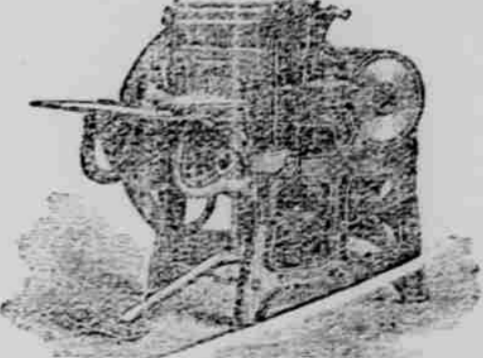
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