

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Wage-Earning by Married Women.

The American prejudice against wage-earning by married women appears in the effort occasionally made to make the employment of teachers in the public schools terminate with marriage. But thousands of American married women do earn wages, thousands more would gladly do so if they could, and other thousands would be happier and better off if they did. The prejudice, at least it seems disadvantageous. American men, as a rule, prefer to support their wives if they can. If an American married woman works for pay, it is either because it gives her pleasure or because her husband's income is insufficient. She does not do it as a matter of course. How long can she keep it up depends upon what work is, and upon other circumstances. If she has children, that, of course, interferes with her wage-earning, but it does not stop it altogether, and general acceptance of custom which would restrict or discourage child-bearing is not to the public advantage. Marriage tends, and should tend, to withdraw women from wage-earning, but it need not stop it per se and abruptly. To make marriage a bar to future wage-earning by a woman operates in restriction of marriage, and that is at least as much against public policy as restriction of child-bearing. It will always depend on circumstances whether a young wage-earning woman who marries had better go on with her work, but Dr. Patten seems to be right in holding that it is often best that she should do so, and that it is often better that she should marry and still earn wages than not marry. Finance should not determine conduct in these matters. There should be a freer choice.—*Harper's Weekly*.

Waste Lands and Criminals.

MASSACHUSETTS is about to try a new experiment in the industrial management of its convicts. Instead of employing them in manufacturing goods to compete with the products of non-prison labor, it is proposed to establish industrial camps and set the convicts to reclaiming waste and worthless land, of which Bay State possesses enough to keep them at work for years.

The plan is a tentative one, the first camp having just been established near Rutland, but on the face of it it appears to possess two merits. It furnishes outdoor work for the convicts without subjecting them to the isolation of constant public observation, as would be the case if they were employed on the streets and highways, and the work performed will be useful work. If we are able to make two blades of grass grow where none grew before there is authority for the claim that they will be transformed from malefactors into benefactors.

The experiment will be watched with a good deal of interest for various reasons. While no sane person would locate the maintenance of criminals in idleness, no one as yet found a way of employing them that is entirely satisfactory. The farming out of convicts which has been practiced in some of the Southern States has been shown to be subject to glaring abuses. These abuses could be minimized if not entirely avoided if the State did the thing under wise and honest management. Every State has an abundance of waste lands, which would be worth reclamation, and which, if reclaimed, would add to the state wealth.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*.

Automobile Nuisances.

THE wife of a railway magnate in New York has been nearly killed by a stone thrown at her head while riding in an automobile. The Police Commissioner, discussing the event, says: "The automobile people must be protected. This matter of hatred that has been growing among the mob gangs of the lower and upper East Side got to stop if I have any power." Of course there is possible excuse for such an action as throwing a stone at a lady's head, but we wonder if it has occurred to Police Commissioner McAdoo that there are other people besides automobile people, who need protection; that there must be a cause for the hatred between the automobile people and the gangs. At the present time some of the

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The best year for steamboat business on the Mississippi is said to have been the one immediately before the outbreak of the Civil War, says Mr. Chittenden in the *World To-day*. During that conflict, until the North gained control of the river, commercial navigation below the mouth of the Ohio was broken up entirely. On the Missouri a new source of business sprang up in the early years of the war by the discovery of gold at the headwaters of that stream. Then began that most remarkable episode in the history of river navigation, the sending of cargoes from St. Louis to the base of the Rocky Mountains, more than 2,000 miles distant and half a mile vertically upward.

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streets of Montreal and the suburban roads are infested with automobilists, in the possession of a lot of howling Yahoos, who go out of their way to be offensive to people who do not happen to like the smell of gasoline. They deliberately try to frighten horses; to scare pedestrians, and to splash them with mud. It would be interesting to know how some of the cads come to be in even temporary possession of the machines. They certainly do not belong to the class that can afford to own or to hire such luxuries. It would be worth the while of all respectable people who are interested in automobiling to make a combined effort to suppress this nuisance. Anybody walking along a highway frequented by automobilists can readily understand why hatred has grown up between the East Side gangs and the New York automobilists.—*Montreal Star*.

The Insurance of a Man Hanged.

BY the ruling of a Pennsylvania court an insurance company has been freed from the necessity of paying the policy of a man hanged for crime. The man, of course, was beyond the possibility of having any concern in the matter. His heirs were not, and indeed they are the ones who must suffer. In China, not a highly civilized country, the relatives of an assassin are forced to share the penalty with him, or indeed to bear all of it, in case of the criminal's escape.

The courts of Pennsylvania may understand law and have the ability to construe it. To such credit as they are entitled for acumen, purity and fearlessness they are heartily welcome. And doubtless the court on the lofty plane which they operate in the interests of justice they are above feeling a pang of discomfort at the intimation that the Chinese theory, refined and modified and made presentable by a setting of words, appears in this decision. It would be unfair to hang the innocent wife of a murderer, or send his children to prison. It is not more dazzlingly fair to starve them or send them to the poor house.

Nobody desires the insurance company to be deprived of any legitimate protection. As a rule, it does not suffer much. Generally the rare swindler is caught and a heavy penalty exacted.

Policies carried for a certain time become "incontestable." That is to say, the company will not contest them unless through some circumstance, probably a technicality, it sees a reasonable chance of beating the claim of the heirs. If it has agreed to pay a certain sum upon the death of a certain man, and the man, having fulfilled his share of the contract, is dead, nothing remains but the payment of the sum or a dishonorable attempt at evasion.

In the instance under consideration the man had committed murder. This was the business of the company only as it was the concern of all law-abiding citizens. It is a folly to assume that he committed the murder with the purpose of getting himself hanged, and thus securing for his heirs a sum of money. The law prescribes the punishment for murder. It stipulates, in Pennsylvania, that the guilty shall be hanged. It does not add "and his heirs deprived of the insurance upon which he may have paid premiums."—*New York American*.

Educated Business Men.

STUDENTS of the history of education are familiar with the time when the object of the collegiate foundation was almost solely to train young men for the priesthood or the ministry. Then the desirability of general scholastic culture as a preparation for entry into the law was recognized, and lastly, as a preparation for entry into medicine. The ministry, the law and medicine—these almost up to our time have been the three learned professions. Except for the comparatively small number attracted by the notion that an academic education was fitting to gentility, the vast majority of academic pupils were destined, in the order named, for the surprise, the robe and the chalice. From the three typical American universities the greater number of graduates now look forward to business careers or to technical pursuits which are closely related to business. The business man of the future is plainly to be a man of scholastic education. This tendency is likely to have an effect on business as it already has an effect on our universities.—*New York Globe*.

LACKED JUST WHAT HE WANTED.

The agent for the "Inexhaustible Encyclopedia, in Twelve Parts," approached Mr. Ransom with a light and ringing step, and was greatly cheered when he received an invitation to "draw up an' show your wares," and the other rocking-chair on the shady porch was pushed towards him.

"You say there's everything anybody wants to know in it," said Mr. Ransom, finally, when the agent's flow of conversation had ceased for a moment and looked hopefully at his host. "Well, guess I shall have to buy it. Lawzee, I can see how easy the parents'll be. But now I just want to make sure o' one or two things before pay ye down the fust money."

"Le'see, what parts have ye got? Ye? 'Vol. One, A to Com,' that's bright. Now you find me the place where it tells about ant-hills, and the rest it way to rid your dooryard of 'em. I've tried more'n forty different ways ready."

Mr. Ransom leaned comfortably back in his chair and rocked with a nod and crease while the agent searched the pages of "Vol. One," with an anxious face.

"It doesn't tell about them," heammered at last. "You see—" But Mr. Ransom raised his hand in protest. "It's too bad," he said, "but probably that slipped their minds. Just turn over to the b's, and find 'butter.' Now see how you can make it come when contrary, same as it is sometimes when you're in a hurry to get through turnin'."

Again he regarded the agent's red-faced face with a calm and genial gaze.

"Not there!" he said, when the result of the search was reluctantly admitted. "That seems curious, don't it? But still I'll give 'em another chance. Now you turn over the c's till you

which were to accomplish its ruin had begun to operate. The beginning of practical railroading followed many years after that of steamboating, but when it once got well under way its progress and development rapidly outstripped those of its older rivals. Here was a steam engine that could go with its load anywhere. It did not have to follow water courses. It could climb mountains if they were in its way. It could serve the inland town as well as the river port. Its speed was four times or more than that of the steamboat. It was not put out of commission by the winter's ice, but served the public the year round. Clearly, the steamboat stood little show in its struggle with a rival like this.

For many years, from one cause and another, the boats held their own; but finally the railroads got the upper hand, and their vast development in the twenty-five years following the Civil War practically drove the steamboat business from the rivers.

The commercial interests of the country have always looked with regret upon the disappearance of the steamboat. There is a deep-rooted conviction that our rivers have some value in the commercial economy of the country, as regulators of freight rates if nothing more, and there has been a strenuous effort to maintain active navigation. There is a hopeful belief that the future will see the rivers again teeming with boats, as they do in Russia, Austria and France. But the logic of statistics is against it.

Traffic on the Suez Canal. In spite of the reduction of transportation charges of 10 cents a ton, the receipts from the traffic of the Suez canal for the year 1903 are only a little less than those of the previous year, so a further considerable increase of traffic can be stated. The receipts were \$20,700,000, or \$20,000 less than in 1902.

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Science AND Invention

A color scale prepared by J. F. T. Fisher, F. I. C., for classifying hair, represents 25 different colors of human hair.

To prevent train derailments a German railroad official, Herr Gehricke, has invented an adjustable rail, to be attached to the trucks of cars parallel with the axles, and carried about an inch above the track rails. If the wheels jump the track the cross rails just described will immediately rest upon the track rails and prevent the wheels from touching the ground, and the car will slide along, borne by the cross rails. To diminish the jar the cross rails are supplied with springs, and projections beneath them are calculated to prevent the derailed car from swinging aside from the track.

Not all fishes are dumb, but many species emit sounds and a few give remarkable concerts. Instances of the latter have been collected by Henri Coupin, a French author. On the western coast of Borneo, Prayer one night heard musical sounds varying from the resonance of an organ to the soft tones of an Aeolian harp; and in the China Sea, a United States naval officer was struck by an extraordinary blending of the low notes of an organ, the noise of bells and the sounds of a great harp. The intensity causing the vessel to quiver. The pogonias or tunnebs of the tropical western coast of the Atlantic sometimes congregate about vessels, producing a maddening chorus.

The destructive power of naval guns becomes every year more terrible. The latest type of gun introduced in the British navy is remarkable for its great length, over 37 feet, combined with its relatively small diameter, 36 inches at the breech and 18 inches at the muzzle, and its comparative lightness, 28 tons. Its bore is 9.2 inches, its projectile weighs 380 pounds, and at 3,000 yards this missile can be driven through 11 inches of Krupp steel. The barrel is made up of an inner tube, enclosed in a jacket of wound steel wire. This gun is reckoned equal in destructive power to the 13½-inch bore guns that preceded it, which have more than double its weight. The muzzle velocity of the projectile is 2,000 feet per second.

The success of the ostrich-farms in California has recently led to the establishment of a similar farm in Arizona and another in Florida. It is said that the feathers of these Americanized birds are actually of better quality and command higher prices than those of South African ostriches. The birds on the farms are larger than those seen in traveling menageries, their weight running from 200 to 450 pounds, and their full height, with head upraised, from 6 to 8 feet. A blow from an ostrich's foot is dangerous, but it may be avoided by stooping low, as the birds cannot deliver an effective kick under a height of three feet. For this reason they are easily driven by dogs. In Florida a team of ostriches, broken to harness, is said to have paced a mile in 2:30.

TO SAVE CHILDREN.

Physical Culture as a Means to Ward Off Tuberculosis.

An athletic club, which fixes its dues at the extortionate figure of one cent a week, suggests an unusual departure in the world of clubs. Moreover, for many other reasons, the Children's Athletic Club of Philadelphia, composed entirely of the children of the poor, organized to fight by physical training the ravages of tuberculosis, marks an important innovation in the charitable work of that city. Mrs. Florence L. Williams, the founder of the club, has certain definite objects to accomplish with the sixty little pupils under her charge. That she is able not merely to bring muscle and health in place of weakness and even disease through a careful system of physical culture, but also to develop a crack team capable of performing athletic feats of no little difficulty, proves the efficacy of her methods.

For her clientele Mrs. Williams depends entirely upon the children of the crowded quarters of the city, where poor food and unhealthy surroundings render child life unwholesome and make physical development impossible. From the children of these quarters of the city Mrs. Williams has organized her classes, the membership of which has grown from three to sixty. But even here the selection of members is made from the weaker and the more anaemic; from the children who already show signs of the invasion of the "great white plague," whose tiny arms and hollow chests indicate lack of vitality.

With such subjects it is natural that it the outset the exercises of the class should be of the mildest sort—five minute drills with the lightest of umbrellas, interspersed with frequent rests. Special breathing exercises are prescribed for the new members, and they are expected to continue this exercise at home. One of these exercises consists in the usual exhaling and inhaling, but the method of accomplishing it is novel. The children are ranged in rows, with their hands on their hips, and each child puts a quill toothpick in its mouth. Then, at a word of command, they inhale deeply through the nostrils and then exhale slowly through the toothpick, this device making the exhalation slow and avoiding all chance of strain.

The fire drill is another important exercise in the development of lung power. As the little arms and legs get hard and the chests are developed the more advanced pupils are taught to take the weaker ones across their shoulders and carry them out of the reach of the fancied flames. But the ideal of all the children who belong to these classes is to develop strength and skill enough to join the trick team, for when the danger of disease has been banished and the puny little figures with narrow chests and round shoulders have been developed into erect, sturdy bodies, then the gymnastic feats of the more pretentious athletes are attempted and achieved before admiring public audiences.

The development of muscle is attended with a similar stimulation of the moral side of the child, and it is to accomplish the latter that the penny weekly fee is charged, giving the children a sense of membership and rightful claim to the advantages of the club, which is lacking in the mere charitable work, which does not permit even the slight contribution of the children themselves. The results of this physical training are striking. Children who, when they joined the club, were too weak to endure even the least tiring of the exercises, under this regimen develop strong, healthy and even athletic frames. Moreover, the tendency to consumption is checked, and with the increase of physical strength there is a corresponding mental and moral development. Finally, the lessons of the gymnasium, the knowledge of the proper method of breathing and of walking, are remembered long after the actual class work has ended, and serve to keep the health the exercise has won.—*New York Tribune*.

THIS CAT IS A PARADOX.

Adopted Four Mice Instead of Making a Dinner of Them.

Busy Body, a big Maltese cat who makes her home at the Indianapolis Union Railway shops, is the pet of every one from the president down to the humble employee of the road, after establishing a record of killing more than 10,000 rats and mice, with charming feline inconsistency, adopted four tiny mice.

The case is one of the most remarkable on record and it is doubtful if scientists or menageries can point to a like one.

Three weeks ago Busy Body gave birth to four kittens and with them seemed in an element of happiness. But the little fellows required such a large amount of nourishment that she began to look emaciated and a good rat or mouse diet was suggested for her.

Thursday afternoon workmen about the shops discovered a nest of six mice in a sawdust pile, and, thinking of the faithful "tabby," caught them for her. They were alive and thrown into her box and the men expected to see an immediate slaughter.

Imagine their surprise when Busy Body merely looked up rather sleepily, took a look at the mice, carefully licked them over and then as they nestled beneath her, went back to sleep. Since then she has looked after them tenderly, as much as she has her kittens, and the kittens and mice take their nourishment side by side.

One of the mice died and another lost its life through an experiment. The men thought that if a cat would act so remarkably with a mouse that a dog would surely do likewise. One of them was carried to Fanny, a dog who is nursing a litter of pups, for her inspection. The inspection was a brief one, and before the men could prevent her Fanny had swallowed the mouse whole.

It has not been decided what will be done with the mice, should they grow up, nor are the men about the shop sure that Busy Body will not regain her old appetite for rodents and eat her adopted babies.

Busy Body belongs to Master Mechanic O. H. Jackson and is 6 years old. She was taken to the Union railway shops three years ago after she had lost an eye which disfigured her countenance. The shops were formerly overrun with rats and mice, but she has gained a remarkable record for killing them and it is asserted that no less than 10,000 is the number of her victims.—*Indianapolis Star*.

A Beautiful Custom.

In the mountains of Tyrol, it is the custom of the women and children