

TRAINING TODAY'S BOYS AND GIRLS

Secret Ambitions of Parents for Their Children.

HOPE AIDS IN DEVELOPMENT

It Is Well to Realize That Backwardness or Precocity Does Not Determine a Child's Possibilities.

By SIDONIE M. GRUENBERG.

ALICE, almost three years old, was very busy scribbling forest and cloud effects on the back of a circular letter; and she was quite oblivious to the presence and conversation of her mother and a visitor. "Can she write yet?" asked the visitor. "Oh, no," beamed the mother, "we do not wish to hurry her. But she does love to play with pencils and paper, and I think she is going to be an author." The visitor smiled indulgently. But this is what she thought: "She is just as likely to become a cheap clerk or a fourth-rate stenographer." Which is quite true; only there is no use discouraging parents too early in the game.

Parents naturally harbor secret ambitions as to the future of the children; we know that, because they sometimes let the secret out. And it is quite natural that they should, because they transfer to their children the hopes of their own childhood, the hopes that never crystallized into reality. We can therefore understand why the scribbles of Alice should suggest fine writing to the mother, or why Tommy's tinkering with the decrepit alarm clock should remind the father of that other Thomas, the great inventor.

Not only is it easy to understand why parents do such things—which must appear rather stupid or conceited to the parents of other children—but it is very desirable that they should continue to do more and more of the same. For entertaining hopes about children is about the surest way of guiding our plans and bringing unity into our treatment of the developing personality. The hopes can certainly do no harm—unless they blind us. But there is the real danger. For if we have nothing to go by except our hopes, we are just as likely to be moved or paralyzed by our fears. It is natural for parents to translate the random activities of their children

gust, only to emerge later into men and women of distinction and high social value. The timid youth, backward in school and slow to give any sign of internal fires, develops into a leader in thought or in action. This should not make us translate timidity and backwardness into signs of leadership. Henry Ward Beecher was so bashful and reticent as a boy that he gave the impression, according to his sister, of "stolid stupidity." In addition to this he was a poor writer and speller, and had a "thick utterance." No one would have guessed that this ten-year-old boy was to become a brilliant orator, especially since the other children of the family memorized their lessons readily and recited them with grace and elegance, in marked contrast to the confused and stammering Henry.

John Adams gave no sign of abilities beyond the ordinary until well along in years, and but for the circumstances of the Civil War Ulysses S. Grant would have remained an obscure, uninteresting and "unsuccessful" drifter. On the other hand, many a precocious child seems to stop short in its development long before there is the maturity or the opportunity to begin to accomplish things of importance. We are not to suppose that

every brilliant child will necessarily become a mediocre adult, nor that every backward child is to develop into a genius.

The fact is that the "abilities" of a child are in a state of constant change. At no time may we say of the child that it has exhibited a final manifestation of its possibilities or of its limitations. The "inattentive" Isaac Newton, the "dullard" Robert Fulton, the "indolent" James Russell Lowell, the "weak-minded" David Hume and hundreds of others make us challenge our methods of estimating the powers and characters of children. These, more than the disappointments we feel in the failure of children to develop into a realization of our great expectations, make us question our standards and systems and signs.

In view of the common failure to anticipate the ultimate achievements of children, it would seem much wiser to draw all the possible encouragement and stimulus from the positive manifestations, to watch constantly for the best, than to fear and despair for the weaknesses.

India's Jewels.

Though India exports \$5,500,000 worth of jewels annually, she is still supreme in the world as the jewel storehouse for all nations. Diamonds, rubies, sapphires, tourmaline, garnet and many kinds of rare chalcidony are mined throughout her many provinces. Rubies are principally mined in Upper Burma.

One ruby of 75 carats, taken out a few years ago, was valued at \$100,000, sapphires are mined in Kashmir, but the mines, after having been worked for over 900 years, are now said to be giving out, though the yellow, white, blue, and green varieties are extensively found in the ruby-bearing gravels in Burma. Garnets form a valuable trade in Krishnagar, while large quantities of turquoise come from Sikkim and Tibet, those from the latter country being harder and of darker and more liquid luster, and having greater value.

Women Can't Take a Joke.

Tommy was listening to his "high-brow" sister discourse on the political issues of the day to callers at their home, and, as was his wont, attentively awaited an opportunity to twit her as a matter of pure mischief.

"Though I am in sympathy with the feminist movement," his sister was telling the callers, "yet, like father, at heart I am a Democrat and—"

"Oh-h-h, sis," Tommy interrupted, "how changeable you are. You told us yesterday that you are an aristocrat. How fickle!"

"What could the poor girl do? Nothing more than pull Tommy's ears when the callers had gone, which elicited the remonstrance: "Women what can't take a joke ain't got no business in politics."

all the shops. The bright pictures attracted the child's attention, and he would sit for hours looking at them and picking at them. A baby fence around the rug completed the outfit.

Third Man Needed.

Brewer was fond of quizzing his friend Johnson. So one day, while out walking together, he began his usual practice by remarking: "I say, Johnson, I believe if I had you tied to a piece of string and paraded you round the town, I should make money out of you." "Yes," remarked Johnson, "but you would have to have a man to shout at which end of the string the monkey was tied to."

Sure Scheme.

Young Wife—I am determined to learn at what hour my husband comes home at night. Yet, do what I will, I cannot keep awake, and he is always careful not to make a particle of noise. Is there any drug which produces wakefulness?

Old Wife—No need to buy drugs. Sprinkle the floor with tacks.—Rome Sentinel.

HAPPENINGS in the CITIES

Tons of Paper Left in New York Subway Daily

NEW YORK.—Until recently the destination of the newspapers left in the subway and elevated trains was supposed variously to have been "Davy Jones' locker" or the place where bad little boys go to. But an announcement made by T. P. Shonts, president of the Interborough Rapid Transit company, knocks all those theories in the head.

To show that efficiency is not confined to Germany, Mr. Shonts explains that discarded newspapers picked up by the train guards are converted into real money and used to defray the expense of keeping the trains and stations tidy. So, if anybody wishes to cheat the common carrier of New York city, he may carry out his newspaper with him and throw it into the street—thus adding the city by paying a fine for musing up the city's thoroughfares.

During the last six months, says the announcement from 15 Broadway, the passengers in the subway left more than 900 tons of newspapers behind them when they left the trains, an average of five tons a day. These papers, sold at the prevailing rate for waste paper, net the Interborough about \$8,000—not a large sum when it comes to financing a subway system, but one which can help to pay the 100 porters needed to keep the stations clean. These figures do not include the papers from the elevated lines.

While the Interborough is able to get a return from the piles of newspapers which are left in the trains there is no revenue to be derived from the mountains of dirt which also are carried into the stations on the feet of the passengers. Between the first of January and the first of July 728,000,000 human feet each carried into the stations their contribution to 1,500 tons of dirt—almost enough to build an island for a garbage plant—which were removed from the stations.



Clancy Prevented Theft of Queensboro Bridge

NEW YORK.—Persons who have been accustomed to waking up every morning and finding the Queensboro bridge in its usual place will be pleased to hear that an attempt to steal that \$20,000,000 structure piece by piece has been frustrated. Just as in other days, the man who had reached the summit of high finance was described as one who would sell the Brooklyn bridge if he could find a purchaser, so henceforth the superlative criminal will doubtless be described as he who would steal the Queensboro bridge—if Clancy were not on the job.

Clancy is a policeman. He is an eagle-eyed policeman. "Curiosity" is his middle name. He is attached to Hunter's Point police station. His "beat" the other day was the Queensboro bridge. About four o'clock in the afternoon Clancy saw four men in an automobile drive on the bridge and stop near a big copper feed cable for electricity belonging to the city. The men, all in overalls, got out their tools and began to work with the cable.

Clancy stood at a distance and looked. He also did a little thinking. "Faith," said he to himself, "a fine time of day for men to be a-working."

The more Clancy thought about this situation the more he was convinced that it was an extraordinary thing for persons seemingly employed by the city to be doing any work on a Saturday afternoon.

"Something must have happened," he muttered, as he cogitated this strange situation and meandered slowly in the direction of the laborers. But the laborers saw him coming. Three of them jumped into the automobile and escaped, while the fourth attempted unsuccessfully to outrun the wily policeman.

When Clancy went back to the place where the men had been working he found that the big cable had been cut in two places. It's worth \$1.25 a foot.

"Faith," said Clancy, "that is the very worst thing I ever heard of—trying to steal the bridge from under my feet."

Chicagoan Makes Costly Experiment in Honesty

CHICAGO.—Time was when A. W. Kaney was a trusting, confiding person who believed that in every human heart there is a pay-streak of honesty. Mr. Kaney lost his wallet. In it were papers and some \$125. So he inserted an advertisement in the newspapers, as follows:

"A TEST OF HUMAN NATURE—The writer of this believes in the basic honesty of humanity. Sometime Tuesday night he lost a billfold containing about \$125. He does not need the money, does not want it, but desires above all things to have it returned to stop the jeers of scoffing friends who do not hold his opinion. If the finder will return the purse to room 328 Hotel Sherman, he will not only save my peace of mind but will be rewarded beyond every expectation."

A few nights later, Mr. Kaney was dressing in his room at the Sherman preparatory to going out. There came a rap on the door. Opening it, Mr. Kaney found there a blond youth of cherubic countenance and confiding mien.

"He asked me," said Mr. Kaney, "if I would give him a description of the billfold and its contents, which I did minutely. He said: 'I've found your wallet. It's at home. At first I was going to keep it, but after seeing your ad in the paper I just couldn't. And, God knows, I need it, too. But I am going to give it back to you.'"

"Fine! Fine!" I shouted, patting him on the back. "That's fine. Not only have you proved yourself an honest youth, but you have restored me something more than the mere money—my belief in the basic honesty of mankind. And you have also enabled me to give the laugh to a lot of my Doubting Thomas friends. For that, I am going to give you \$50."

The youth with a lump in his throat thanked his benefactor and departed, saying he would go home, get the purse and return with it.

Overjoyed at the proof of his convictions, Mr. Kaney went over to his dresser to finish dressing.

"And I couldn't find my scarf pin, a diamond ring and a watch," ruefully confided Mr. Kaney later.

The youth with the cherubic countenance and the confiding mien has not showed up. Neither has the purse.



Millions Will Be Spent on Defense at Norfolk

NORFOLK, VA.—Many millions of dollars will be spent on coast defenses at this point to protect the entrance to Chesapeake bay as a result of legislation passed by the present congress.

In addition the navy yard here will be enlarged so that it will be able to build the greatest warship. This city will show a substantial increase in population as a result of preparedness activity.

At Cape Henry and Fort Monroe many new giant rifles and great mortars will be cunningly placed behind concrete, steel and sand in such a way that no warship can reach them. Guns and mortars at Cape Henry alone will cost \$1,500,000. The emplacements and the plant, including a wharf for landing supplies, a connecting railway, an electric system and the submarine defenses other than materials, will cost nearly three millions more; while quarters for officers, barracks for men, a machine shop and its equipment will altogether run over a million and a half.

A million dollars will be spent ultimately in the improvement of a tract acquired a few years ago as an annex to the yard, equipping it with water, light, power and rail systems, giving it a wet basin and a sea wall which, when finished, will provide the yard with eight miles of waterfront. Norfolk will also have a thousand-foot dry dock.

POSTSCRIPTS

Work has been begun in Egypt upon a project for draining and reclaiming 1,000,000 acres of land, one of the greatest and costliest tasks of the kind ever attempted.

The world's largest artificial harbor, 768 acres in area and 28 feet deep, is planned for Rotterdam.

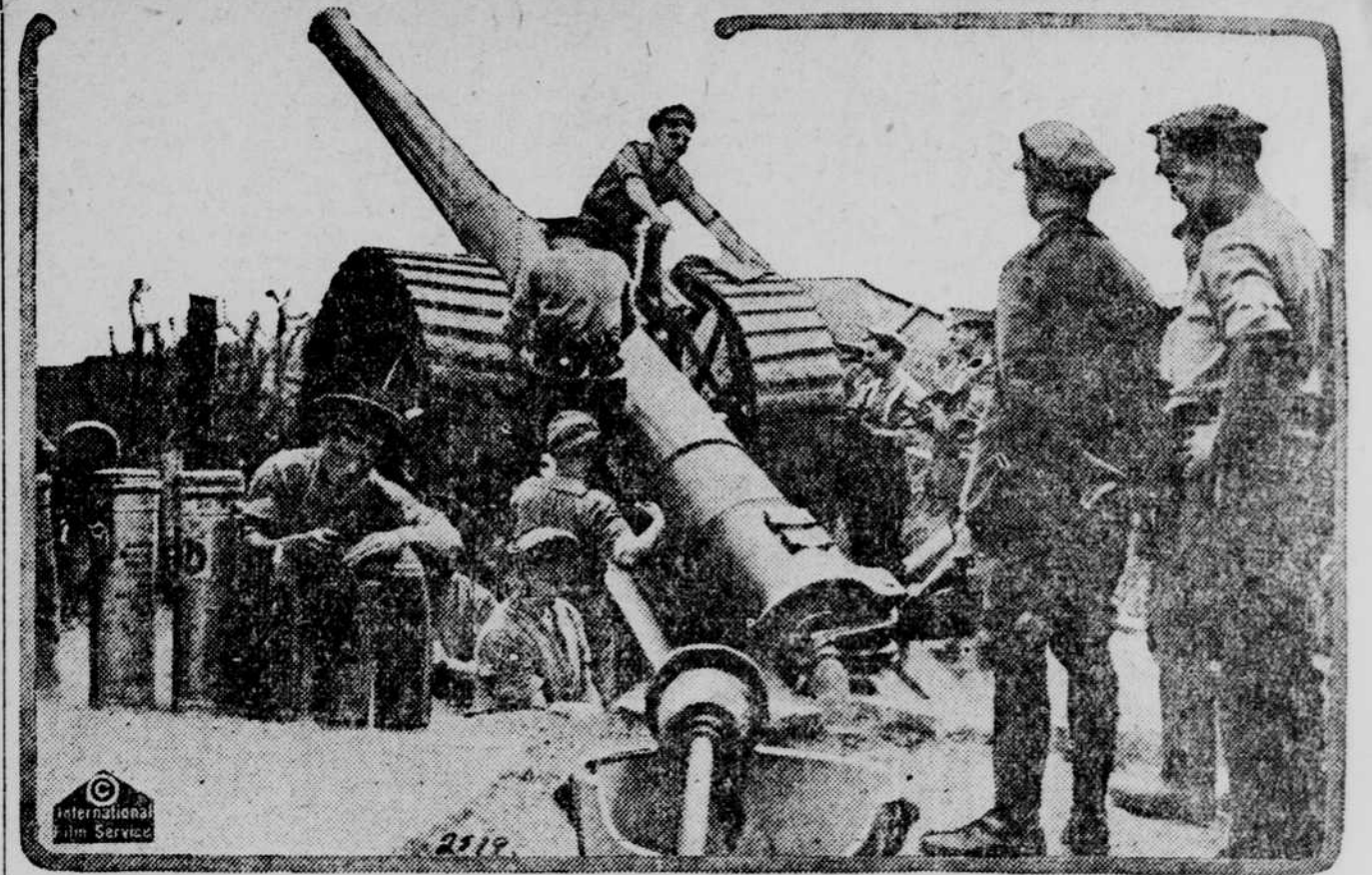
Adjustable pontoons, intended to make any small boat unsinkable, have been patented in England by an Australian.

The French wine harvest of 1915 amounted to 18,100,790 hectoliters, compared with 56,134,159 hectoliters in 1914.

A new hand operated pump for the use of glaziers applies putty to both sides of a sash partition at once, thereby saving nearly one-half the labor in mounting glass.

A Washington inventor has patented a machine for numbering photographic plates and films by the transmission of light through transparent figures arranged on opaque strips.

GUNS THAT ARE BATTERING THE GERMANS



This is one of the heavy British guns in action on the west front, where such cannon have smashed the German trenches for many miles.

AUSTRIAN TROOPS IN THE TYROL ALPS



This remarkable photograph just received, shows the Austrian troops on the peaks of the great range of mountains where the Italians and Austrian troops are engaged. It is reported that in many places the ice and snow are beginning to melt and great holes are encountered everywhere. Blocks of snow and ice are sliding down the mountains, impeding the progress of the Alpine fighters of both countries.

HUGHES' SUCCESSOR ON SUPREME BENCH



John Hessin Clarke of Cleveland, O., nominated by President Wilson to be associate justice of the United States Supreme court, has been federal judge for the northern district of Ohio since 1914.

MINE USED AS A BUOY



This German mine, intercepted on the Tigris river, is being used as a buoy by the British.

Unique Document.

In the "American Magazine" Prof. Charles Downer Hazen tells some ludicrous incidents of the Franco-Prussian war, describing a document that is a modern curiosity:

"Cohesion was lacking, as were numbers," he says. "Many generals were sent to command troops with which they were entirely unacquainted."

"Not only soldiers, but sometimes generals went astray, unable to find their places. 'Have arrived at Belfort,' telegraphed General Hichel on July 21, 'can't find my brigade; can't find the general of the division. What shall I do? Don't know where my regiments are.' This document is probably unique in military records. Another general hunted for his artillery staff; another for a cavalry corps which did not exist."

Whiskers and Corsets.

Patience—I see that the first baby born in Lorraine, O., will receive from merchants of the town gifts including a theater pass for life and corsets or barber service for life, as the case may be.

Patrice—It would be awful if the baby should cling to the corsets and decide to let the whiskers grow.

In These Days.

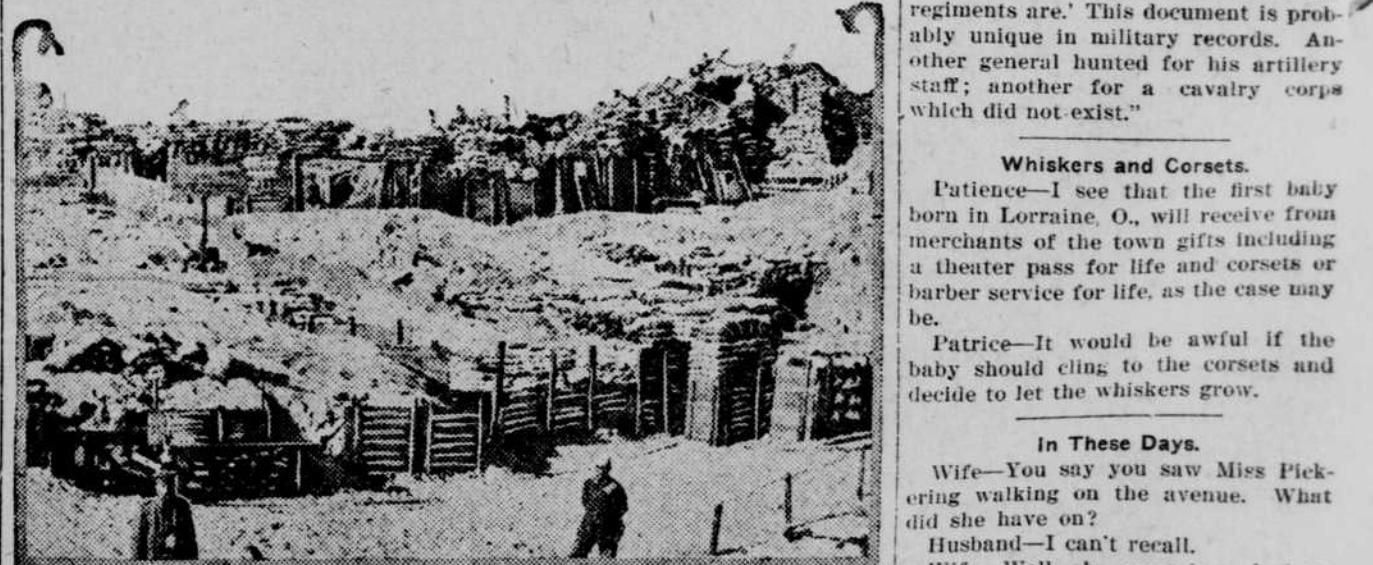
Wife—You say you saw Miss Pickering walking on the avenue. What did she have on?

Husband—I can't recall.

Wife—Well, she must have had on something.

Husband—Quite possible, my dear; I probably overlooked it.—Life.

SEACOAST TRENCHES IN FLANDERS



Photograph shows the remarkable construction of German trenches on the sands of a beach on the extreme seacoast of Flanders. Boom-roof shelters have also been built out of timber work, and sand and sand bags.

Simple Remedy.

"Look at the last lightning-change Chinese emperor. I tell you, it is hard for a dictator to decide on a policy that will make him stick in his place these times."

"Why doesn't one who wants to stick try a little piece of fly paper?"

The Kind.

"Elks have big horns, haven't they, pa?"

"Yes, son, and while they are in Baltimore you can bet there will be horns of plenty."

BITS OF INFORMATION

The world's supply of black opals is practically exhausted, in the opinion of a London gem expert.

A woman is the inventor of a suit case that can be folded flat and carried under one arm when empty.

Platinum deposits rich enough for their operation to be profitable have been discovered in Germany.

Pressing a lever projects a slide down the tines of a new cold meat fork to remove its contents neatly.

France is stimulating attention to gardening.

Sheep dogs are free from tax in the United Kingdom.

Nigeria has been added to the lands in which valuable deposits of coal have been discovered in recent years.

Harvey Hoffman of Everett, Mass., fined \$5 the other day for violating auto laws, paid in buffalo nickels.

J. C. Donovan of Concord, N. H., studies law in Boston and has traveled daily between the two cities for three years, about 75,000 miles.