

The Commoner.

The Education of Women.

Clark University at Worcester has a summer school, before which, on July 25, President G. Stanley Hall made an interesting discourse about the education of woman. Dr. Hall is in the business of education, and believes in it thoroughly. He believes heartily in educating girls, but has his doubts, as many others have, whether the sort of education which is now lavished on American girls is doing them good, and benefiting the race and the nation. He is not sure that it is the right sort of education for girls; nor must any one blame him for his misgivings, for the education of women on modern lines is still in the experimental stage, and many, even of those who work hardest at it, are not sure yet whether they are doing good or harm.

Dr. Hall especially concerns himself about the education that girls get in colleges. He has studied statistics in the effort to find out about the health of the college women, and what percentage of them marry; and though the statistics he quoted are not conclusive nor especially convincing as far as they go they make somewhat for disquietude. Dr. Hall himself did not seem to trust them, but the gist of the figures he quoted was that less than half of the college women had good health; that less than a third of them married; that those who married married late and had too few children, and of those few lost far too many in infancy. Statistics, or observation, or something had led him to conclude that the current higher education was of little use in training mothers. "Woman's colleges," he said, "have done little or nothing for the proper education of women. While I sympathize with the claims of women, and yield to no one in admiration of their work in the colleges, it looks as if the colleges were training for independence and support and celibacy—motherhood to take care of itself."

He doesn't believe in that. Bookishness, he says, is a bad sign in a girl. "We must educate chiefly for motherhood. Coeducation should cease at dawn of adolescence. The present civilization is harder on woman, who is less adapted to the world, than on men. We must also recognize that riches are harder on her than poverty." Such things he asserts, and goes on to give his ideas about what a college for girls ought to be; how its first aim should be health; how it should be a place of cottage homes, not too far from a city, with pets, gardening, plenty of out-door exercise, and plenty of time for it; a place where "regularity should be exercised, idleness cultivated, and rev-

ery provided for in every way." And he would have the students learn religion, rudimentary mathematics and physics, a little chemistry, and a good deal of botany, but would take care not to have them oppressed by books. Think of a college president writing such a prescription as that! After all, though, it has been related that President Eliot once wanted to know why a woman who could have a musical education should want any other kind. Men whose estimate of women is based on other facts than what the said women may have learned out of books in their girlhood, seem not always to be less wise than other men, nor are the women whom they admire apt to be inferior women.—E. S. Martin, in Harper's Weekly.

Sonnet.

When from the vaulted wonder of the sky
The curtain of the light is drawn aside,
And I behold the stars in all their wide
Significance and glorious mystery.
Assured that those more distant orbs are suns
Round which innumerable worlds revolve,
My faith grows strong, my day-born doubts dissolve,
And death, that dread annulment which life shuns,
Or fain would shun, becomes to life the way,
The thoroughfare to greater worlds on high,
The bridge from star to star. Seek how we may,
There is no other road across the sky;
And, looking up, I hear star-voices say:
"You could not reach us if you did not die."

—Henry Abbey.

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The Cost of Britain's War.

The London Statist, a sound and conservative journal of finance and economics, has calculated the cost of another year's warfare at the present rate of expenditure at \$390,000,000. There is nothing in present conditions that presages an early conclusion of the conflict. The Boers, having all to lose and absolutely nothing to gain by a cessation of hostilities, inspired by a deadly hate and endowed with a bulldog tenacity, seem determined to fight to the last extremity. Such being true it would require far greater ability than the English army has yet displayed to force the end. In fact it would seem from their attitude that the most sanguine of the war statesmen do not permit themselves to hope for a speedy conclusion.

This conclusion is creating deep uneasiness in ministerial circles. The common people will rebel against a further imposition of war taxation. The wealthy, who have contributed their full share through the income tax, will hardly consent to an increased burden. And so the war continues, the debt increases, and the question of ways and means becomes darker and more portentous to those who are presumed to solve the problem.

To the American imperialist who would plunge the country into similar difficulties, the predicament of the English should be an object lesson. We have no income tax to fall back upon, thanks to the supreme court decision, and the common people would have to bear the burden of the imperialistic career. England is no exceptional case. Italy and Spain attest as much. "The wages of sin is death." —Indianapolis Sentinel.

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Desirability of Cheapening Useful Books.

With the exception of novels, the English speaking race is for the most part without cheap books, a recent British writer, Mr. William Laird Clowes, points out. We have a few cheay reprints of classics, such as Cassell's Library edited by Prof. Henry Morley; but all or nearly all of these, if not Bowdlerized, are at least "Cassellized" or abbreviated to meet special exigencies of sizes or paging; and, moreover, in the case at least of the British editions, they are without index or notes. Still more do we lack cheap editions of useful books—books of reference such as encyclopedias and dictionaries. Why is this? asks Mr. Clowes (in the Fortnightly Review, July) and he answers:

"It is, I think, because we are not yet a great reading nation, except of novels. We produce and consume more novels than any other people has an appetite for. There are certainly three times as many English reading people as there are German reading people in the world, yet Germany publishes annually many more books on education, art and science, law, theology, medicine, and travel than Great Britain produces; and France is a long way ahead of England in the number of her new books on historical subjects. On the other hand England is a long way ahead of any other country in her annual production of new novels; although as regards the total annual production of books of all kinds, Great Britain ranks only third among the nations, being exceeded by Italy, as well as by France and Germany; nor, indeed, does the entire production of the whole English-speaking world, including the United States and the British dependencies, equal more than about two-thirds that of Germany.

"We are not yet a great reading nation, but we are on the point of becoming one. The Elementary Education Act dates from 1870. The effect of that measure was to call into being, after the lapse of about fifteen years, the large class of periodical literature of which Tid-Bits and Answers are the best known examples; and, after a further lapse of about ten years, to create the half penny morning newspaper. Tid-Bits and the Daily Mail, are signs of the times which cannot be misinterpreted. The people who, fifteen years ago, wanted Tid-Bits, and who, five years ago, demanded the Daily Mail, are now upon the point of clamoring for cheap good books; not merely the cheap books of Mr. Dicks and Messrs. Cassell, but cheap books of the best and most useful classes in every branch of literature, using that word in its very widest sense. They will no longer be satisfied with tid-bits and snippets, even though the snippets be reprinted in transatlantic spelling, bound up into twenty volumes in full morocco at sixteen and a half guineas and labeled 'The Library of Famous Literature.' Why, as I will demonstrate ere I have done, the people may

have, if they only want them, not twenty volumes of snippets and clippings, but two hundred and fifty or more entire standard works, un-Cassellized, un-Bowdlerized, indexed and serviceably bound at a cost less than that asked for the much advertised patchwork which has been dry nursed in England by the excellent journal personified in some of Tenniel's earlier cartoons as Mrs. Gamp.

"The extraordinary success of the scheme whereby people were induced by tens of thousands to purchase a reprint of the last edition of 'The Encyclopedia Britannica,' which was offered to them on the instalment plan is another portent. . . . I believe

that, astonishing though the sales have been, they convey no idea of the much more astonishing hordes of men and women who are waiting to respond to an offer of really good and cheap books on all kinds of subjects which, at present, they can become acquainted with only at considerable cost. A few cheap books will not meet the craving. There must be hundreds; and they must be on every variety of topic. What I desire to see in every book shop in the English speaking world is a series of shelves from which, no matter what his tastes may be, the prowling student can carry away the best books of the universe—not "the hundred best books," but all the best books save a few of the most recent—at a cost per volume not much more

KNOWLEDGE OF FOOD.

Proper Selection of Great Importance in Summer.

The feeding of infants is a very serious proposition, as all mothers know. Food must be used that will easily digest, or the undigested parts will be thrown into the intestines and cause sickness.

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