

America's Most Serious Problem

(Editorial from the Etude.)

In the quaint and picturesque Quaker county seat, West Chester, Pennsylvania, a bronze tablet has just been placed upon the front of the fine new Court House building. The tablet reveals the Ten Commandments of Moses. This is a splendid thing for the few, who stopping to read, need such a reminder in that God-fearing community. At the same time it is typical of the historic blunder of our Solons in beginning ethical training at the wrong end. Long before the time the offender reaches the Court House he has forsaken his need for the Ten Commandments. What is the result?

America is now confronting a menace which thinking men and women witness with the greatest gravity. Whether it is known as graft, profiteering, "taking a chance and getting away with it," embezzlement, homicide, or by the real names, stealing, lying, banditry, murder or treason, makes little difference. America is undergoing an era of criminal deeds altogether unparalleled. In the city of Chicago last year, for instance, there were more homicides than in all England and Wales, including London, which has three times the population of Chicago. Our cataract of crime, from petty bribing to the most horrible and brutal offenses, has astounded the country.

It is very easy to attribute this to the "war," to the "times," to "prohibition," to "undesirable aliens," etc. We Americans have a very comfortable way of excusing our own shortcomings. However much other factors may have contributed, the truth remains that our menace is largely of home manufacture. We are responsible, and we must realize that responsibility if we are to provide a remedy for future generations.

The public school-system of America is unquestionably weakest in the most significant of all factors in education—Character Building.

While music in itself does not build character, its stimulating, ennobling influence, its power to serve as a unifying force in all assemblies, its effect in training the mind to exceedingly rapid and accurate action, make it an indispensable background for the more direct character-forming activities. Let us consider the very serious problem and perhaps suggest what part music shall play in its solution.

No fault can be found with the thoroughness with which "Readin', 'Ritin' and 'Rithmetic'" have been taught in American public schools. Yet the great fact that truth, honor and honesty first, and truth, honor and honesty always, must rise supreme in the conscience of man with his contact with all his fellow men, is the outstanding essential in any system of human education. Unless the child is taught this fact, so that it remains as a lifetime guide, not only is all his other schooling worthless, but other knowledge may actually be dangerous to the state that educates him.

Mr. Ponzi, late of Boston, now of the state penitentiary, was exceedingly good at figures (or shall we call it higher mathematics?) The jails are liberally supplied with some of the most expert penmen of the times. There are thousands of criminals who are able to read remarkably well, some in several languages. "Readin', 'Ritin' and 'Rithmetic'" are and always will be essentials; but they will never take the place of ethical training and aesthetic, inspirational development, especially in these days when countless families have severed their relations with the church.

Obviously, ethical training is the solemn duty of all religions. But what religious, moral and ethical training does the child receive in this day, either in the home or in the church?

The Methodist Protestant Church reports that there are now 58,000,000 persons in the boundaries of the United States who are not in any church, Protestant, Catholic or Jewish. The process of evangelizing such a multitude would take a lifetime. Meanwhile, what is happening in the way of building up a proper conception of right or wrong, justice or injustice, service or injury, among the children of such a group?

With the flickering of the spiritual candles the world is but a step from moral chaos. In Russia it exists of this moment.

Yet, no matter how ugly the reports of ethical paralysis, there are in America today an enormous number of splendid, upright, square, clean-

Cartoons of the Day



Give Him Time to Digest What He Has.



Another "Vicious Circle."



Junked!

—From the Chicago Tribune.

minded constructive people who will, at the right time, see to it that the high ideals which we love to call AMERICAN will reach out to those who do not at present understand or appreciate them.

A SORRY SPECTACLE

By no stretch of imagination can one understand why women should like to attend a prizefight. New York society women suddenly have become patrons of the art of fisticuffs. Miss Anne Morgan, daughter of the late financier, was at the ringside last Friday night when Messrs. Leonard and Mitchell fought to a knockout in the sixth round.

The sprawling, spewing Mitchell, for it was he who was knocked out, must have been an elevating sight to Miss Morgan, whose life has been that of culture and devotion to the elevating elements of life. The fact that the proceeds of the fight are intended for the war-stricken folk in France cannot be offered as a satisfactory excuse for women attending the affair.

Prizefighting is the most brutal occupation of civilized man. The physical development and cleverness which goes with it can have no elevating effect upon the minds of those engaged in it or for those who see it.

The Herald, as its thousands of readers know, is an extremely liberal newspaper, granting to everyone the right of freedom of thought and the pursuit of happiness in the individual's chosen manner, but it would feel that it had neglected its duty to the morals of the nation did it not condemn the presence of women at fighting exhibitions.

There are millions of refined, home-loving women in America who are giving long hours of their time to properly instructing sons and daughters as to right living. When women of the prominence of Miss Morgan and those of her class attend a prizefight the news is spread broadcast. What are the sons and daughters in our homes to think when they read of "society women in evening gowns" seeing Mitchell go

down to the mat, into unconsciousness, under the brutal blows of Leonard?

Miss Morgan is a charming woman, who has used her great fortune to alleviate in many lands. She has contributed liberally to the arts and sciences. She certainly has not contributed to the morals of her country by going to a prizefight. In apology for her, it is fair to presume that she was over-persuaded through her benevolent activities to take part in the exhibition. —Miami Herald.

PRESIDENT-ELECT AT MIAMI

Miami skies smiled on Warren G. Harding yesterday.

A delightful day it was, filled with charm for the distinguished visitor and those whom he met. From the hour he arose until evening, when he sailed away for a fishing trip, the day was filled with pleasant incidents for Mr. Harding.

The president-elect had luncheon at the Flamingo hotel and later in the afternoon made a return call at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Jennings Bryan, where a very interesting and enjoyable hour was spent.

Mr. Harding's party consisted of Senator Frelinghuysen, his physician, Dr. Ely; his secretary, George B. Christian, and Frank B. Shuts.

During their rambles through Mr. Bryan's estate at Villa Serena the cameramen to their great delight, were permitted to make free with the distinguished party.

At 5 o'clock Mr. Harding and his party went abroad Carl G. Fisher's speed boat, Shadow VI, en route to Colcolobo Cay club, where they will spend several days on a fishing trip. Mr. Fisher is acting as host on this trip and Capt. H. Thompson will be chief guide.—Miami, Fla., Herald.

If these February half off sales are genuine, they ought to result in bringing a great many of the women to believe in the doctrines of collective bargaining.