

Better School Equipment

By SUPT. S. H. WOOD.

There are few people in any community not interested in the public schools. The school is the chief concern of most parents and children for nine months of the year. No other institution, unless the churches collectively, touches so many lives. It is the institution of the people, where the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the exalted and the lowly, meet on equal terms. No qualification of rank or influence, not even citizenship is required; only residence, that is all that is necessary for admittance to the public school.

As ordinarily considered, good teachers are the first requisite of good schools. Garfield said that the University for him consisted of a log with Mark Hopkins on one end and himself on the other, the inference being that the most essential characteristic of a school is the personal contact of teacher and pupil. There is no greater truth than this. And this fact implies the ability to instruct properly. And this ability depends upon natural fitness and motive and training and experience. Adaptability and preparation are indeed essential, but without a real desire to do the work, they are availing. No good teacher gets paid in coin for her work. To be able to meet the demands made upon her strength, patience and judgment, and skill, she must see a recompense in service for others far surpassing in value the pittance she receives for an immeasurable contribution to society. She must be alert to minister to many different needs, a friend to the discouraged, a check to the wilful, kind in the asking, firm in requiring, a guide and an inspiration to the seeker after knowledge.

But while we still recognize the paramount importance of the teacher, we are coming more and more to understand the need of efficient tools in the teacher's hands. These tools consist of the material equipment of the schools. There was a time when children were herded with a rod on backless benches, around a fireplace or red hot stove, their faces baking and their backs freezing. It is impossible to believe that they really studied; they could only appear to study, afraid to do anything else. Experience has taught us the scientific study of the child's mind, has revealed to us that education can be the result only of a willing activity of the child's mind. It is a leading out process, not a forcing in process. In no field of endeavor is the spirit of the old saying, "You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink," more applicable than in education. Knowledge of this fact has caused a continuous improvement in the conditions pertaining to the pupil's comfort and health and pleasure.

We commonly assert that it is the purpose of the school to develop boys and girls into men and women, clean in body and mind, broad and generous in spirit, and industrious and intelligent in action. Those results cannot be as accurately measured as can the merchant's profits, and for this reason the waste cannot be so easily detected. But if we spend money to teach pupils hygiene and force them to violate the very laws they are trying to learn by requiring them to sit in seats not at all suited to their size, the investment is not bringing its adequate return. There are few school rooms in which there are not many pupils in unsuitable seats. Not only is there an injury to the health but there is loss of accomplishment in many subjects, penmanship especially suffering because of improper position. Again, we require the pupils to breathe over again the air which their playmates have once breathed. Every parent and every child would revolt against the requirement to drink water in which others had washed, but if we could only SEE, breathing second air would be much more revolting, and it is known to be infinitely more injurious. Few school rooms without a means of forcing air in or out get a sufficient change. Foul air very soon causes stupidity, inattention again is a loss; first, in pupils health, a decreased vitality caused by inhaling poisonous gases, and in increased tendency to catch cold; secondly, there is a loss in accomplishment.

Not only does the pupil not gain much while inattentive, but he forms the very opposite habit to that which the school tries to cultivate. These are illustrations of ways in which a part of the purpose of schools is being defeated.

There are other losses which the best school systems are seeking to eliminate. It is well established that it is good policy as well as a duty of the state to educate all its citizens. But there is a surprisingly large percentage of children unable wholly or in part to take advantage of the opportunity that the schools offer, because of physical defects. That this percentage is surprisingly large has been demonstrated wherever medical inspection of schools has been practiced. Time and again it has been shown that the failure of certain pupils was due to weak eyes or ears. Many pupils suffer from insufficient oxygen, the cause being growths in the throat which restrict breathing. These are but a few of the ills which have been found to prevent successful work in school; and it is very common for both parents and teachers to be ignorant of the real difficulty. Some may think that it is the duty of parents to look after their own children in these respects, but most parents as well as most teachers, are not experts in detecting these ailments, and few parents will call a physician until a real need is apparent. Medical inspection helps to save much time of pupils by preventing the spread of contagious and infectious diseases. And in many other ways does it improve the sanitary conditions of the schools. The practical question then arises; is it not the duty of the state, in order to accomplish without waste the purpose of the schools, to provide that all its future citizens, not a part, may receive the full benefits of instruction?

Another way to improve the character of the work in our schools is to adapt the instruction more closely to the needs of every one. We all deplore the tendency to drop out of school before the high school is finished, and so often before it is even begun. Many of those who leave school only do so on account of failure to pass their grades. And much of the failure is due to lack of interest in the work they are doing. There are few pupils so stupid that they cannot do creditable work if their interest can be maintained sufficient to induce full exertion. For this class of pupils in particular, and for all in general, manual training and industrial education have a distinct value. Many pupils who do poor work in reading and history do excellent work with their hands. It is a distinct revelation to many children that they can do something well. But besides its value in arousing interest, industrial education has many distinct educational values which cannot be enlarged upon here.

It has been a source of pleasure to me to find so much interest in these means of improving our schools. I am glad that patrons and patrons' organizations are discussing the improvement of sanitary conditions in the home and school. I have been gratified to learn that manual and industrial training were looked upon with such favor. What people want for their children they will within reasonable limits procure. Men and communities have sometimes been charged with giving more attention to the culture of fine stock than to the training of children. If there is any truth in such an assertion it is not due to the greater difficulty of appreciating the needs of the latter? Large cities are in advance of small cities in these matters, not so much because they have more money or a greater need, but because they have more opportunities to become informed as to needs and means of supplying them. I am confident that as we become better acquainted with the importance of improved physical conditions, and the need of improved methods and courses, we will have them. And we shall be proud to have the reputation, not of keeping our school levies as low as other cities of our class, but rather of spending economically a relatively greater amount than cities of any class in the training of our boys and girls.—Orange and Black.

Cheap and Safe.
The small sum of \$2 will buy a \$5,000 policy, good for five years from the Richardson County Farm Mutual Insurance Co., provided the building has good lightning rods. Then these policies can be renewed another five years for the still smaller fee of fifty cents. Smaller policies cost the same amount.

The last 22 years this company has been thoroughly tried and found reliable. We have over two million insurance in force, and constantly gaining new members. All the farm property of the county ought to be insured with us. It is folly to keep on sending money out of the county for good safe protection. School boards and country churches can save money by insuring with us. Call, write or phone to me, over Dittmar's store, Falls City, Nebraska.

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UNHAPPY HOMES OF AUTHORS

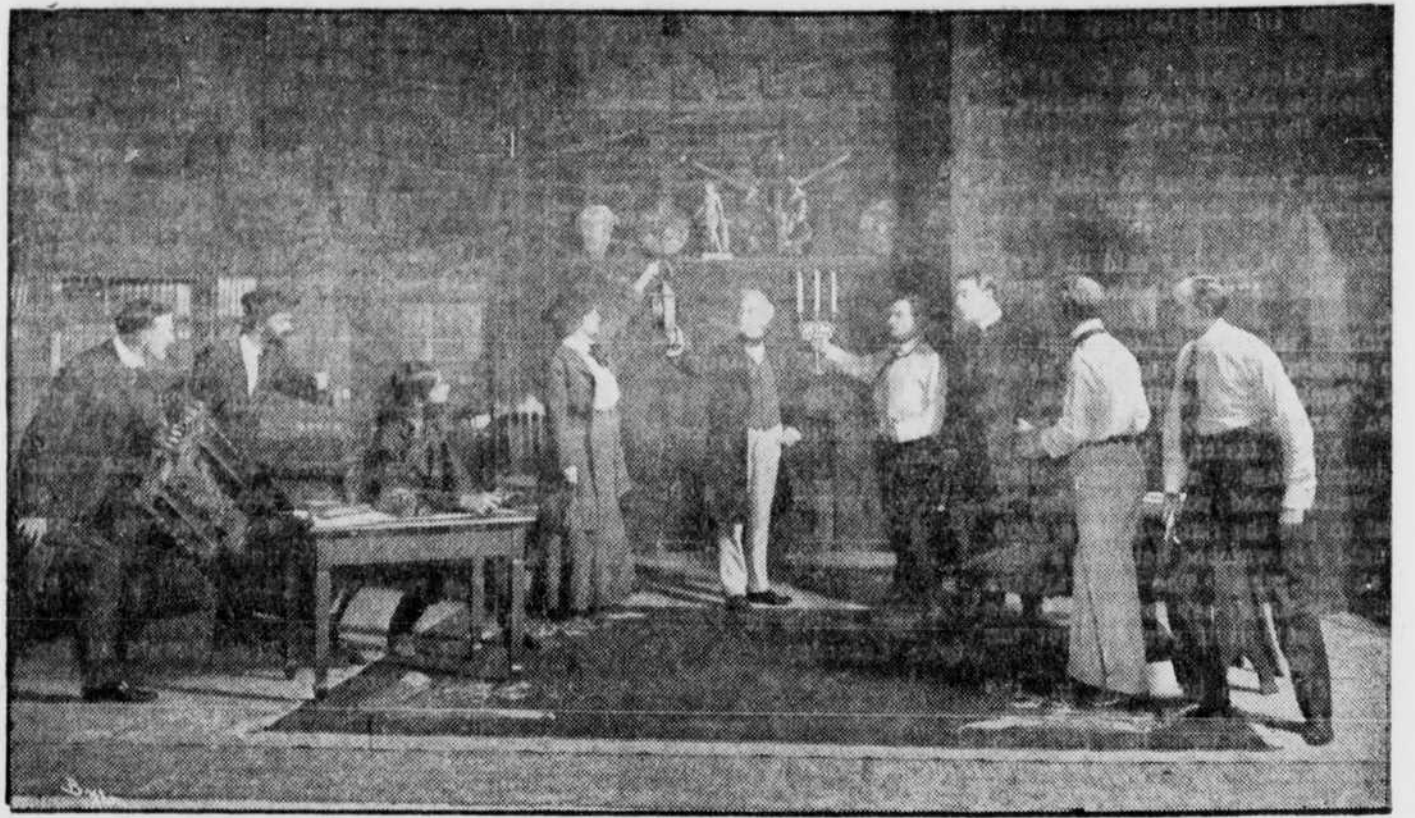
Large Proportion of British Writers Have Been Unfortunate in Domestic Life.

Someone with a passion for genuine antique scandals has been poking into the private lives of classical English writers and finds among them a distressing proportion of celibates and of unhappily mated persons, says a writer in Success Magazine. For the benefit of bookloving gossips he has prepared a list of the foremost British authors with a short description of their domestic relations. The list is so full of matrimonial wrecks that the compiler is forced to wonder whether cheesemongers, stock brokers and the rest of us have as poor a chance at domestic happiness as poets and playwrights.

No fewer than 25 out of 68 well-known authors never were married at all. A number, including Milton, Bunyan, Southey and Hazlitt, made several matrimonial ventures. Of the rest, Shakespeare, Dryden, Addison, Coleridge, Carlyle, Ruskin and Dickens are the most notable of a long list of those who were unhappily married.

Why should the production of literature be apparently so incompatible with a happy domestic life? Are literary men less capable than lawyers and plumbers of choosing congenial mates? The truth seems to be that the writer husband is at home so much of the time that he becomes as familiar an object there as the old cane-bottomed chair. Two persons who can survive 24 hours of each other's society per day without jars are happily married indeed.

"I have only one thing to ask you," said a wise young bride-to-be to the prospective husband, "and that is that you will promise not to be in to lunch."



Scene from 'The House of a Thousand Candles'—Gehling, Thursday, Feb. 17.

Salesmen Wanted.

The sales of our products for which there is general demand, among merchants, farmers, schools, etc., now greatly increased by state laws recently passed, necessitates opening a distributing office in this territory. We desire resident sales manager, well acquainted, of good character, who can superintend sales, deliveries, advertising, collections, etc., with \$900 to \$1,000 to carry enough stock to

fill orders, salary \$1,200 to \$1,800 annually, extra commission, office and other expenses; no canvassing; position permanent. Address Advertising Manager, "Liberty" Mfr. Association, St. Joseph, Mo. 6-31

For Sale.

300 bushels of White seed oats. One team geldings, 3 years old, and one span of mules, coming yearlings. —Long Bros., Reserve, Kansas, Falls City Phone No. 40 O.

TRADE MORAL—The quality of what you have to sell is known to some people all of the time and all of the people some of the time. But advertise regularly what you have to sell all of the time, all of the people all of the time.

STOCK SALE

AT PRESTON, NEBR.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Commencing at Noon, the following described property to wit:

38 Head Horses 38

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| <p>1 sorrel mare 6 years old, weight 1650, safe in foal.</p> <p>1 bay mare 6 years old, weight 1700.</p> <p>1 black mare 5 years old, bred to Jack, weight 1750, broke.</p> <p>1 black mare coming 5 years old, weight 1360, in foal to Percheron horse; this mare is family broke.</p> <p>1 black mare coming four years old, weight 1400; gentle and been hitched a few times.</p> <p>1 gray mare coming 8 years old, bred to Percheron horse, weight 1160. This pair has always been worked together, but broke single, and are not afraid of steam or auto.</p> <p>1 black mare coming 3 years old, green broke weight 1070.</p> <p>2 matched black mares coming 4 year old, well broke single and double, weight 2300.</p> <p>1 chestnut sorrel mare 8 years old, weight 1200, family and city broke. This is a mare I have used for a year.</p> <p>1 bay mare coming 8 years old, weight 1210, broke to all harness; a good single driver.</p> <p>1 brown mare coming 3 year old, weight 1100, green broke.</p> | <p>1 brown mare coming 4 year old; weight 1300, in foal to Percheron horse, broke to all harness.</p> <p>1 sorrel mare coming 4 year old, bred to Belgian horse, weight 1330.</p> <p>1 bay mare 5 year old, well broke to work, weight 1230.</p> <p>1 bay mare coming 8 years old, in foal to Percheron horse, weight 1280; good worker.</p> <p>1 bay mare coming 8 year old, in foal to Percheron horse, weight 1250.</p> <p>1 brown mare 7 year old, weight 1100. This mare I have used for nearly a year and is alright single and double.</p> <p>1 brown mare coming 4 year old, weight 1100, green broke.</p> <p>1 brown mare 7 year old, weight 1100, well broke to all harness.</p> <p>1 bay mare coming 5 year old, weight 1200, broke double.</p> <p>1 buckskin mare weight 1200, work anywhere, smooth mouth.</p> <p>1 Percheron Stallion 11 year old, a good breeder and a good work horse; will weigh 1700 in good flesh.</p> <p>1 buckskin Indian pony, broke to everything, gentle for children, 8 year old, weight 960.</p> | <p>1 bay mare weight 1200, smooth mouth.</p> <p>1 bay mare 11 year old, broke to all harness in foal to Belgian horse, weight 1200.</p> <p>1 bay horse coming 11 year old, weight 1100, good work horse. The last two mentioned have always been a team together and will make some man a good team.</p> <p>1 brown saddle horse 5 year old, weight 1250. Some one that wants a gaited saddle horse, come and investigate.</p> <p>1 span of blacks coming 3 year old geldings, weight 2500, well matched, gentle, halter broke.</p> <p>1 sorrel horse 5 year old, weight 1250, broke to all harness.</p> <p>1 bay stallion coming 5 year old, weight 1450, a good breeder and broke to all harness.</p> <p>1 gray mule, 16 hands, 5 year old, a good one.</p> <p>1 bay saddle mare 6 years old, and weight 900.</p> <p>1 pair mules 7 years old good workers.</p> <p>1 gray smooth mouth horse, a good worker.</p> <p>1 brown smooth mouth, a good worker.</p> <p>These horses are all clean, no distemper or stable disease.</p> |
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70 Head Cattle

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| <p>1 Jersey Cow 5 years old, a good milker, will be fresh by day of sale.</p> <p>1 half-breed Jersey Heifer, coming 2 years old, will be fresh by day of sale.</p> | <p>1 Thoroughbred Shorthorn Bull, 7 months old, can be pedigreed.</p> <p>40 head coming 2 and 3-year old Heifers, good color and well bred. 25 head Yearling Steers.</p> |
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1 New Century Hay Baler in good running order; 1 buggy; 1 set double driving harness; 2 sets single harness; 1 good set 1-2 inch work harness; 1 good set 1-4 inch work harness; 22 stands bees, some empty hives, a yard swing, a lawn mower, some chairs and numerous other articles.

TERMS MADE KNOWN DAY OF SALE

DINNER BY LADIES AID SOCIETY OF PRESTON

C. H. MARION, Auct.
ED. YOSEL, Clerk.

E. HOSELTON