

PROSPERITY IN FREE LIBRARIES

Every Town Should Be In Possession of One.

CONDITIONS OF CARNEGIE.

Why Some People Are Against the Acceptance of Libraries From the Steel King—Most Cities Now Have Libraries—Majority Given as Gifts.

There is no doubt that where there is a free circulating library there is an intelligent community. Every town, whether it has 400 or 10,000 population, should furnish some sort of center where the inhabitants can procure an insight into the labors of the mighty and know what is going on in the world to increase knowledge.

The great majority of cities of 25,000 inhabitants and upward in the United States, says a New York educator, have a public library of some sort, and the same is true of many of the smaller cities and towns. But there are still quite a number of towns that are minus them, towns that really need them. A few public spirited citizens could easily advocate a library



MODEL LIBRARY BUILDINGS.

or reading room and get the support of the rest of the community if not of the town itself.

Books will always be forthcoming either from the shelves of individual libraries or from contributions solicited through various means. The newspapers will always help their town to gain the financial support of the citizens.

Many of the libraries already established have been founded on gifts of individuals, some have developed from subscription libraries, but the majority are now supported mainly or entirely by funds appropriated by the city government. A considerable number are still in the formative stage, this being true of those for which buildings are being erected from funds provided by Mr. Carnegie and for several hundred others for which he will probably provide buildings.

The conditions upon which he provides funds for the erection of municipal library buildings are simple. The city must provide a site, which it may obtain by gift if it can, and it must agree to provide annually for the maintenance of the library a sum equal to at least 10 per cent of the cost of the building. Practically this offer is open to any city or town which has no public library building.

Some good citizens think that the city should provide its own building and not ask for it as a gift.

The people who have no taxable property and who therefore often erroneously suppose that they contribute nothing toward the payment of the taxes are usually quite willing to have a higher tax rate imposed for the purpose of securing for themselves and their families free library facilities, although in exceptional cases religious or sociological opinions may lead them to oppose it.

A considerable number of taxpayers are more or less reluctant to have their assessments increased for this purpose. They say:

First.—That they should not be taxed for things they do not want and never use.

Second.—That the furnishing free books tends to pauperize the community and to discourage the purchase of books for home use.

Third.—That there is no evidence that free public libraries improve the community materially or morally.

Fourth.—That the greater part of the books used are works of fiction, and that these are injurious to the readers.

Fifth.—That most of the arguments used in favor of free public libraries are merely sentimental and emotional, and that those who urge them most strongly do so for advertising and political reasons or to make a place for themselves or some of their relatives.

While it is difficult to trace to either specific instances of material or moral improvement, it is certain that the general diffusion of intelligence which both certainly effect does result beneficially in these directions. Communities with flourishing free schools and libraries are usually more prosperous and better than those without such facilities, and while there is doubtless room here for a confusion of cause and effect it is probable that there is both action and reaction. Prosperity calls for increased facilities for education, and these in turn tend to make the community more prosperous.

ADVICE TO CLERKS.

By ELBERT HUBBARD.

To the clerk who would succeed I say, CULTIVATE CHARM OF MANNER.

Courteous manners in little things are an asset worth acquiring. When a customer approaches rise and offer a chair. Step aside and let the store's guest pass first into the elevator. These are little things, but they make you and your work finer.

To guy visitors or to give short, sharp, flippant answers even to stupid or impudent people is a great mistake. Meet rudeness with unflinching patience and politeness and see how much better you feel.

Most inaccuracies come from not really listening to what is said or



not really seeing what you put down. The chewing of gum, tobacco or paper as a jaw exercise should be eliminated. The world is now pro-

nouncing it vulgar, unbusiness-like, useless and silly. Keep ahead of your employer and of the board of health in this thing.

If your business is to wait on customers be careful of your dress and appearance. Do your manicuring before you reach the store. A toothbrush is a good investment. A salesman with a bad breath is dear at any price. Let your dress be quiet, neat and not too fashionable. To have a prosperous appearance helps you inwardly and helps the business.

Give each customer your whole attention, and give just as considerate attention to a little buyer as a big one.

If asked for information be sure you have it before you give it. Do not assume that the location or fact is so now because you once thought it so.

Don't misdirect. Make your directions so clear that they will be a real help.

WASTE CAN FOR USE ON STREET CORNER POLE.

Substantial Receptacle of Which Any Town Might Make Use.

The accompanying illustration shows a self closing can for receiving paper and other waste which has been in successful operation during the past four seasons, and any town that cares for the appearance of its streets might



WASTE RECEPTACLE.

adopt it with advisability. The can is semicircular in horizontal section, with a flat back, and is made to fit into the iron street railway poles used in most cities, being held in place by a hook which engages in the latticework of the pole. This permits easy removal for the purpose of emptying the can. The bottom of the can is perforated with half inch holes, allowing water from rains to drain off.

The top is a cover which is made somewhat smaller than the can itself, allowing about one inch play between the edge of the cover and the sides of the can. The cover is fastened to a horizontal rod which extends through holes in opposite sides of the can and serves as a swivel, allowing the cover to swing downward. This rod is fastened a short distance from the back of the cover, and at the back a weight is fastened to the underside of the cover sufficiently heavy to draw the latter back to place, thus making it self closing. The material used in the construction of the cans is heavy galvanized iron, painted. For guidance, the words "Push Down" are printed with stencil on top of the cover, and the request to "Put It In Here" is stenciled on the outside of the can.

Good News For Retailers.

It is reported that the mail order houses experienced a shrinkage in business during the past year, and the head of one of the biggest mail order houses states that this shrinkage is due to the retail merchants learning to advertise their prices in big figures.

A TEST FOR COWARDICE

By VERNON ARNOLD

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A number of army officers in a garison on the western frontier where they had nothing to do were discussing what constituted bravery. One declared that a brave man was born brave and a coward was born a coward; another that true bravery was resisting fear natural to all normal persons. One officer declared that bravery depended on the action of the heart, citing the case of Napoleon I., whose heartbeat even on the eve of battle was not over forty to the minute. A young lieutenant with a mild blue eye and soft voice remarked that Frederick the Great had said, "The man who has never felt fear has never snuffed a candle with his fingers."

The colonel looked at this speaker contemptuously and gave a grunt. Surgeon Bates observed the colonel's action, but went on smoking without expressing any opinion on the subject under discussion.

"What do you think about it, doctor?" asked the colonel.

"I think you are a coward, colonel."

If a bomb had come out of the doctor's mouth instead of words and exploded then and there it could not have produced more of a shock.

"Withdraw your charge, sir, at once or go to your quarters under arrest."

"I will only withdraw it after a failure to prove its truth."

"I have proved its falsity on many a battlefield."

"I will not deny that under excitement you have temporarily thrown off fear, but I deny that you can maintain your bravery while perfectly cool. If you will submit to a test I will prove what I say—that you are a coward."

"Proceed with your test. I have sat on my horse motionless while shell after shell burst over my head. There was no excitement in that. Members of my staff were so restive that they moved at every shot. Does not that prove I am no coward?"

"You may have stood that test so far as appearances were concerned—that is, you were able to control your fear. The test I refer to will eliminate everything except fear and show you what you are—a coward."

"Bring on your test, sir," cried the colonel angrily, "and if you fail to prove your charge be prepared to answer yourself the charge of conduct prejudicial to military discipline in this, that you have called your commanding officer a coward in presence of his subordinate officers."

Surgeon Bates while in the wild west had gathered a number of live specimens of animals of different varieties, one of them a rattlesnake that he kept in a five gallon demijohn divested of the wickerwork on the outside. The glass was transparent, so that the snake could see and be seen, air passed through wire gauze, used in place of a stopper. The doctor arose and, going into his office, returned with the captive, placing the demijohn on a table.

"Colonel," he said, "I have called you a coward. But, mind you, I have only applied the word to you in accordance with your own idea of what constitutes a coward. If you stand the test I am about to apply I will willingly submit to be tried by court martial for throwing discredit on my commanding officer. Step up to the table, colonel, and place your hand on the demijohn."

The colonel walked to the table and placed the palm of his hand on the glass. Quick as lightning the snake, vicious beyond measure, struck at the hand, and equally quick the colonel jerked his hand away. Mortified beyond measure, he put it back on the demijohn, and when the snake struck again he drew it away again.

"That will do, colonel," said the doctor. "You are welcome to prefer charges against me, but to substantiate your case you must be prepared to keep your hand on that glass while the snake strikes at you. But you are not the only man here who, according to your idea, is not brave. Not one of you can stand the test. Gentlemen, step up and try it. The snake can't hurt you; the glass is a perfect protection."

One after another of those present placed a hand on the demijohn, and at the snake's strike each and every man recoiled. Then Dr. Bates said: "No man can keep his hand on that glass where the snake strikes at it for the simple reason that the nerves that direct motion act independently of the will. In this case before the will can be brought to bear the muscles have done the work."

"Then what is bravery?" asked the colonel.

"A brave man is one whose bodily machine is so constructed and adjusted in its different parts as to enable him to be brave."

"But the will," asked the major—"what part does it play?"

"In reply to this question I give you only my own idea on the will's part in bravery. If it is strong enough and other faculties are not too weak it may enable the man to stand up in face of danger till he gets back near enough to his brute nature to fight. In other words, his fear becomes paralyzed, leaving him what we call brave."

The colonel soon after this, leading his men against the Indians, showed the white feather. The surgeon's test had destroyed his confidence in himself. The blue eyed lieutenant was promoted for bravery.

Temperance

NEW CURE FOR ALCOHOLISM

Surgeon of San Antonio, Texas, Removes Part of Stomach—Called Gastro-Jejunostomy.

One of the most recent contributions to medical literature deals with an original method of treating chronic alcoholism. The writer, Dr. J. W. Kenney of San Antonio, Tex., declares that the only means of curing alcoholics is by surgery. In proof of his contention he cites a series of cases so treated by him, asserting that in a majority of them a cure was effected. His article, entitled "The Alcohol Case and a Surgical Operation for the Cure of Chronic Alcoholism," appears in the current issue of the Texas Medical Journal.

Doctor Kenney's method is to make an artificial opening in the stomach loop up the jejunum (a part of the intestine), make an artificial opening in the jejunum, and unite the two artificial openings. The operation is called gastro-jejunosomy. Here are Doctor Kenney's reasons for resorting to this operation:

"1. Because medical treatment fails in a majority if not all cases, and must necessarily continue to fail because it does not remove the cause of the gnawing or craving for alcohol.

"2. Because the pathological condition caused by alcohol is almost identical with pathological conditions produced by other causes which are relieved by surgical treatment.

"The drunkard in giving a history of his case usually points to his stomach as the cause of his drinking. Very few claim that the taste for liquor has anything to do with it. In the stomach will also be found the first evidence that the physical basis of life—protoplasm—has been injured and the physical structure of that organ is the first to present pathological conditions.

"It has been proved that alcohol stimulates the action of the senses and organs of the body for a short time. This supranormal condition is quickly followed by the infra-normal, which indicates a partial paralysis of the nerve ends, and eventually of the nerve centers.

"Continued repetition of this process results in hardening and partial paralysis of the muscular coat of the stomach, and an inflamed or ulcerated condition of the mucous coat. Such a condition produces a vitiated appetite and impairs the action of the stomach, which is the most important of the digestive processes. To relieve this condition, when produced by any agent other than alcohol, surgical measures are demanded. Why not apply the same principle in the alcoholic case?

"Reasoning along this line convinced me that all hope of curing a case of chronic alcoholism lay in a surgical direction, and I resolved to try the operation that I had in mind upon the first case that would grant me the privilege. An ideal case soon presented itself—a young man of high degree, who had descended to the lowest depths of salubrom, and had floundered about in it for several years, presented himself with the request that I do something for him.

"After a two weeks' preparatory treatment, a posterior gastro-jejunosomy by simple suture was performed upon him. He left the hospital thirty days later. This patient was about thirty-five years old, and had been drinking for about ten years. During the last three years business had so interfered with his drinking that he quit business and drank day and night, consuming from one to two quarts of whiskey during the twenty-four hours. He was one of the best-known drunkards in the city, and no one could remember having seen him sober during the three years preceding this operation, and he was looked upon as past redemption and absolutely valueless, from a business standpoint. Today he is assistant manager of a large mercantile establishment in this city and a sober, respected citizen.

"Case No. 2 is that of a young dentist about thirty years of age. He stated that for several years he had consumed all the liquor he could get during the day and took a bottle to bed with him at night. His constant drinking had made a veritable neurasthenic of him. He consulted me regarding the operation, and was advised to have it performed.

"He finally came to the sanatorium and had the operation performed. From a vagabond dentist, bounded by dozens of people whose money he had taken during half-sober intervals as advance payments on work which he was never able to perform, he is now, and has been ever since the operation, a sober man, and no one hesitates to trust him with his work.

"Case No. 3 is that of a traveling man about thirty-five years of age. He had been drinking at irregular intervals for a number of years. The intervals had gradually grown closer together until life became just one long drunk. He entered the sanatorium and had the same operation performed.

"It is not my purpose to advocate so grave a surgical procedure in all cases of chronic alcoholism, but only in those apparently hopeless cases where everything else has failed, and the patient is still in fair mental and physical condition and wants to be cured. The result at my hands has thus far exceeded expectations."



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