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Parrot System And Thinking.

That the "lecture system is probably the worst scheme ever devised for imparting knowledge," is the conclusion reached by Dr. Hamilton Holt of Rollins college, who recently voiced this opinion in a speech before the Tennessee State Teachers association.

"It assumes that what one man has taken perhaps a lifetime to acquire by the most painstaking observation, hard thinking and long continued reflection can be relayed or spoon-fed to another man who has not gone through a like process," declared Dr. Holt.

Lectures with their subsequent recitations, in which the lecturer's statements are handed back to the lecturer by the students are opposed to true education and are entirely out of place in the modern picture and situation where thinking men and women are demanded, is the conclusion derived from a study of conditions by many educators of our day.

An opposite sort of educational method is that which can be best described as "discussion" or "conference plan" as Dr. Holt terms it.

It seems that the latter methods, if they could practically be applied in institutions of higher education, would be much more effective in carrying out the true functions of education than is the lecture-recitation system. University graduates who continue to think about problems of the day and therefore have a substantial basis for their opinions, testify to the fact that if one graduates with the ability to think he will have derived from his many years of schooling that element which should be derived.

How can the ability to think be best developed in a student by his professors?

At present we go through the machine in the following manner:

We attend classes, many of them consisting of lectures, listen to the professor expound his body of knowledge, accumulated over a period of years. We are told to purchase text-books, written by other professors who in turn have gathered their knowledge from their teachers and their text-books. Of course this system is more thoroughly applied in some courses than it is in others, and a little bit of original thinking does creep into many of the courses, although it is often condemned as being a nuisance and because it is a bit embarrassing to the professor. Such a system as that existing today makes for a near-stagnation, not resulting in a condition of complete standstill because it doesn't work to perfection and because many students don't obey to the letter the rule against new thought and in their disobedience voice new opinions and present new outlooks.

Some professors disapprove of this theory, because their minds tell them to revolt against it. They see and oppose the obvious defects inherent in the "parrot" system outlined above.

At Rollins college the conference plan is used. Students are assigned a certain amount of work to do and that is their classwork. They may consult their classmates or help each other. When that is completed they are through. After mastering a part of a subject they may pass on to the next without waiting for the rest of the class. There are no attendance records kept, but accomplishment records are compiled. Students get credit for what they learn, and not for their attendance and ability to remember facts long enough to return them to the original or at least the nearest owner, the professor.

There are professors on this campus who are clever and original enough to bring out the student mind and to exercise it. Socrates, considered to be one of the ablest teachers of all time, taught many young Greeks how to think by sitting down with them in the market place, talking over ethical, intellectual, and practical problems of his day, and by stages drawing out their opinions and thoughts until these opinions and thoughts were substantial and would stand up against pressure.

In a couple of years or so, after the military department has accumulated enough money from the Military ball to pay all basic students' expenses, we suggest that the department use the next year's proceeds to build a new Student Union building. After all, the money on the loans never leaves their hands, so they don't even lose the interest, and there is a limited number of sophomores and freshmen.

Campus Concert Season Opens.

Sunday afternoon in the Coliseum the thirtieth presentation of Handel's "The Messiah" will be offered by the University Choral union. As a traditional Christmas season event, this performance has taken root as one of the great musical affairs of the season in the state of Nebraska, and draws a huge crowd each year.

Last year Sunday afternoon musical concerts were established on the Nebraska campus as highly important and enjoyable factors in the cultural life of the city of Lincoln. The university administration inaugurated a commendable annual series of

concerts for the benefit of citizens of Lincoln and vicinity.

Presentation of "The Messiah" opens the winter concert season on the campus. If plans carry through as they did last winter, the university men's Glee club, the university ROTC band, and other musical groups will appear on the Coliseum stage. Such public programs give students interested in music opportunity for an outlet, advertise the university very favorably, and entertain several thousand people of this section of Nebraska.

In the eyes of many inhabitants and taxpayers of Nebraska the university is a place where the boys play football and the girls learn to smoke and to talk in harsh tones of voice. There is, however, as these cultural presentations indicate, the educational side of the institution.

It is hoped that this year a number of these Sunday afternoon concerts will be held, and that eminent speakers, such as those heard last year, will appear on the Coliseum stage during the winter and spring.

Where is the coed who attended the Mortar Board party, and as a result, would like to check the coats at every Coliseum dance?

University Y.W.C.A. Has Its Values.

Although most of us at various times caustically comment as to the political character of the Y. W. C. A. on the campus, how that organization exists for the purpose of manufacturing Mortar Boards, and declare that the association is useless, we forget to consider the good side of the Y. W.

With the Christmas season at hand leaders of the campus Y. W. C. A. are taking the leading part in conducting an old clothes-drive on the campus. Last year students connected with that organization co-operated with The Daily Nebraskan in carrying on a very successful charity campaign, thus aiding city and county relief organizations. Such enterprises carried on by students develop them into social-minded and altruistic citizens, desirous of working for the good of their fellow men.

Y. W. C. A. discussion groups play an important part in developing the adult mind of freshman women who are as yet unaccustomed to university ways, and are greatly influenced by upperclass leaders in forming their outlook toward life. A senior girl who idealizes the better things of life and attempts to transfer that attitude to the girl just entering the university is doing great service to the school and to numerous individuals. The freshman girl molds herself after the pattern of her senior class ideal, the "big shot."

Although the Y. W. C. A. has its shoddy and superficial side in the shape of the Ellen Smith hall political machine, that machine doesn't play as great a part in that organization as it does in other women's groups.

STUDENT PULSE

Brief, concise contributions pertinent to matters of student life and the university are welcomed by this department, under the usual restrictions of sound newspaper practice, which excludes all libelous matter and personal attacks. Letters must be signed, but names will be withheld from publication if so desired. Contributions should be limited to a maximum of five hundred words in length.

Y.W.C.A. Urges International Cooperation.

(This is the fourth in a series of religious group opinions in regard to war and peace to be published in the Daily Nebraskan.)

The Young Women's Christian Association, at its thirteenth national convention, May 2-8, 1934, took the following action:

"It is recommended that the national association adopt the following program in public affairs as an expression of its purpose to serve as a Christian social force in the life of the time.

International Relations: This program involves primarily a concern for the foreign policy of the United States, the domestic policy of the United States, where it impinges on international issues, the measures for a world-planned economy, and the outlawry of war. The following measures are advocated for study and active support:

- 1-Adherence to the world court; co-operation with and membership in the League of Nations. 2-Substantial progressive reduction of armaments; an embargo on the export of arms to warring nations; opposition to expansion of our military and naval establishments; opposition to compulsory military training in schools and colleges. 3-The reduction of tariffs by reciprocal agreements or in world conference; the definite settlement of the war debts; international planning for the control of access to markets and raw materials. 4-As a major emphasis for study, the manufacture of and traffic in arms, particularly in the United States.

This program was taken from page 28, Actions of the Thirteenth National Convention, Young Women's Christian Associations.

ELAINE FONTEIN, President, University Y. W. C. A.

Browsing Among The Books

By Maurice Johnson

Dear Stephen:

Yes, I would very much appreciate a book for Christmas; but Stephen, please let me suggest a list from which to choose. I simply didn't know what to do with "The Romance of French Weaving" you sent last year. I appreciated the book a lot, you understand, but I simply didn't know what to do with it.

I really wouldn't care about having Mary Pickford's little "Why Not Try God?" in which she tells of "the hardest years of my life," but German Thomas Mann's "Joseph and His Brethren" in my Christmas stocking would make me pleased as Punch.

Let me plead with you not to send me William Lyon Phelps' stuffy "What I Like in Poetry," but do consider George Soule's stimulating book, "The Coming American Revolution."

Don't bother about looking at Lida Larimore's happiness novel called "True by the Sun," but I would very much like to have the Rockwell Kent-illustrated "Canterbury Tales."

If you buy "My Own Story" by Marie Dressler you're welcome to keep it for your own library, but a splendid gift would be the new volume edition of Romain Rolland's "Jean Christophe."

Bronislaw Malinowski's great classic, "The Sexual Life of the Savages," may be a learned work,

but I'd a hundred times rather have Avraham Yarmolinsky's biography, "Dostoevsky."

Elizabeth's new novel, "The Jasmine Farm," doesn't raise a flicker of interest in me, but if you feel extravagant, send me the four volume edition of Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past," boxed in wood.

Forget about Faith Baldwin's "Honor Bound," but why not choose Jesse Stuart's remarkable and uneven sonnet sequence, "Man with a Bull-Tongue Flow," for my Christmas present?

Send me Cartoonist Soglow's "Wasn't the Depression Terrible?" and you'll get it back next year, but I could find chuckles all the way through Peggy Bacon's "Off With Their Heads" or even Robert Benchley's "From Bed to Worse."

Julep and magnolia and moonlight make Stark Young's "So Red the Rose" a little sticky, but if you want to buy the best of proletarian novels, send me Robert Cantwell's "Land of Plenty," Albert Halper's

Contemporary Comment

Males and Mistletoe.

Are college students as brazen or as promiscuous in their necking as they are supposed to be? Yesterday, a mistletoe experiment was given a trial in several cokes' smoke and in 50 percent of the cases the male welched!

Now we have been told in grandfather's time the young gallants never missed a chance to reap the pleasurable benefits of osculation under the green sprig of mistletoe.

Would grandfather have been acting in the same manner if he were going to college today? Perhaps the reason for the decline of necking in the open, as sometimes practiced by college men, can be found in the darkened parlors of the sorority houses. Once the males have become accustomed to a small amount of privacy he is wary about exposing himself to interested audiences.

However, regardless of what the experiment proved it was interesting to note the embarrassment of our sophisticated students when they were confronted with the enjoyable task of kissing one of the opposite sex.—The Daily Illini.

College Days And Indifference.

Too many of us slide gracefully along thru the collegiate world of ours with scarce a thought to the inevitable; the inevitable naturally being the time when we shall leave this cloistered place and attempt to adjust ourselves to an existence quite foreign to even our superior capacities. We frequently hear about various forms of self-application such as the belief that as soon as we have our degrees we shall fit ourselves automatically to an unknown world—we shall step from Pennsylvania without so much as a worry or care.

University life—regardless of the institution—definitely can and does mold a rut of indifference, sloth and complete lack of responsibility among a certain group of undergraduates. It is this minority upon whom most critics base their findings relative to the college man. They understand his failings and rightly enough can offer no sympathy. He can learn only by experience.

But we question seriously if this minority can learn by experience. College to them has meant nothing more than four years of pleasures, no cares—conquest over everything that is easy to conquer. Their four years have hardened them into believing that they are minute Gods. Unknown to themselves, their life is really over, for a man completely satisfied with himself at the age of maturity is a man completely immature.—The Daily Pennsylvanian.

The Only Hope For Peace.

The problem of peace is so old that many despair of solving it, yet so young that few, if any, have suggested any sort of fundamental solution. America wants peace. Everybody says so, and has said so for years, ever since it came to be realized that the great war might not have ended all war. But because everybody can so easily chant "Peace!", even as they carelessly talk about "freedom of the press" and many other things too unfortunate conditions have come about.

In the first place, the oft-expressed desire for peace has given many persons a false sense of security. They do not want to believe that war is inevitable, so they don't believe it. On the other hand, many who sincerely seek an answer and a program that every civilized adult may support with a firm conscience, find the only existing organizations dedicated to the task of making people about "Peace!"

The fallacy behind most pacifist movements is the belief that war can be done away with simply by wishing it did not exist, by getting enough people to abhor it and swear against it.

Some persons will always be willing to sign an Oxford pledge and believe in it sincerely. Some will always forcibly oppose conscription—even when war time activities make it most unpleasant. But the few who wholeheartedly join and fight for these groups are not likely to be enough to break the back of war as long as certain things are true about the world in which we live.

Going about stopping wars by treating the causes is a long, hard way to which it is well-nigh impossible to secure vociferous converts. It isn't dramatic in nature. And the work will drag on thru the years as peace fervor rises and wanes. Even if the actual research and study are left to trained individuals, an enlightened public opinion must be constantly alert to urge on the work and see it adopted by government authority.

At Minnesota a note of optimism is apparent as a campus-wide peace committee is organized, including present peace groups which have been warring among themselves and designed to be broad enough in purpose to include all shades of opinion. Its proponents hope that it will be able to "find the most effective means for

"The Foundry," and Waldo Frank's "Death and Birth of David Markand," dedicated to the "American worker who will understand."

Let Max Brand's vigorous novel about the Loomis gang, "Brothers on the Trail," remain on the book counter, but Stefan Zweig's "Erasmus of Rotterdam" sounds interesting to me.

You might send me Malcolm Cowley's important "Technics and Civilization" or Ruth Suckow's nostalgic novel, "The Folks," or "The Letters of Gamaliel Bradford" if you wish. I'd like to have John O'Hara's "Appointment in Samarra" or the dollar edition of Thomas Wolfe's "Look Homeward, Angel," or the new "Forty Days of Musa Dagh," by Franz Werfel.

But please, oh, please, don't send me anything by Walter B. Pitkin. I'd rather have "Aunt Harriet's Household Hints" by Allen Prescott (The Wife Saver), in which he tells how to freshen chiffon on page 156 and clean a fountain pen on 289.

FRENCH DEPARTMENT GIVES XMAS PROGRAM

Students to Hear Stories, Carols at Gathering Dec. 18.

A French Christmas program consisting of Christmas stories and carols will be presented by the French department to all interested students at 7 o'clock Tuesday evening, Dec. 18, in Morrill Hall auditorium.

First on the program is group singing of Christmas carols, which will be conducted by Russel Cummings. Following, Dr. Harry Kurz, chairman of the romance language department, will tell Christmas stories and Vera Mae Peterson will read the story of the first Christmas from the French Bible.

Russel Cummings will sing a solo entitled, "Cantique de Noel." Violet Vaughn will play Schumann's "Vienna Carnival Scene" in which the theme of the French national anthem is predominant.

The committee in charge of arrangements consists of Marjorie Smith, Evelyn Diamond, Joy Hale, Ruth Haggman and Lucille Hunter.

Never Take a Job, But Create One, Is Earnest Advice of Dorothy Thompson Lewis, Town Hall Lecturer Last Week.

(Continued from Page 1.) of the year, she had an opportunity to appear and the ingenuity to offer something that couldn't be turned down. I wanted to write for a Vienna newspaper at space rates, but with the assurance that I would be the only correspondent hired. Within eight months, they were printing so much of my copy that they were paying me much more than they had intended, and so I was reduced to a salary.

For four years she held this position and became chief of a foreign bureau in central Europe for the New York Evening Post and Philadelphia Public Ledger. Another four years at this and she found that she was tiring of daily journalism, that she was more interested in what was behind the news than in the facts themselves. That was 1928, and in May of that year she was married to Mr. Lewis and came to this country.

"I tried to be a lady of leisure those next two years, but I detested it. I found what I had started to seek two years before, in free-lancing." She had this to say about journalism in general, "Journalism is a marvelous profession, and it is improving. A better type of person is employed, and he is less interested in scoops than he is in giving an intelligent interpretation of the news."

While in Germany, like all journalists, Mrs. Lewis endeavored to know the country. But unlike most of them, she succeeded very well. She immersed herself in German literature and history—found out what Germans have been thinking for the last three or four hundred years—besides examining their modern modes. As a result, her judgment of the present order is, "I am convinced that this is not the final front of Germany. No race can get away from its heritage."

Concerning the movement to place the woman in the home again, Mrs. Lewis believes that on the whole it will be unsuccessful, for as she says, "There are two kinds of women: the free, if you want to use that word, and wives. And you cannot make one type into the other. Such a plan cannot succeed for it is contrary to nature." She was exiled from Germany last August because of publication of her opinions on Hitlerism, thus being distinguished as the only woman correspondent to be so condemned.

Dorothy Thompson Lewis is within herself the symbol of alert and intelligent journalism—the way she talks, the way she thinks. She has been on a five-week speaking tour since Nov. 10, having lectured every day for thirty consecutive days. She has written several books, one on Russia, and has lectured on the latter topic, but much prefers to discuss Germany at the present time.

College World

Approximately three-fourths of the college women in the United States attend educational colleges.

More students are registered for the commerce degree at the University of Georgia than for any other undergraduate honor, a recent survey revealed.

"Working my way thru college" is not a gag at Commercial college of Boston university. Almost half a million dollars was earned by students there last year.

Harvard was the first school to play the modern game of football. The Harvard University graduate school of business administration has opened a course which is designed to train students for "brain trust" careers.

FRESH COMMISSIONS TO GIVE XMAS DINNER

Banquet for Y.W. Freshmen To Follow Vespers On Dec. 18.

Christmas vespers, which will be sponsored by freshman cabinet and freshman commission groups, Tuesday, Dec. 18, will be followed by a dinner for all freshman commission members and all interested freshman members of Y. W. C. A., it was announced at cabinet meeting Thursday evening, Dec. 13.

Tickets for the dinner should be bought by noon Monday, according to statement of Helen Nolte, chairman of committee in charge of ticket sales. Tickets are available from freshman cabinet members or at the Y. W. C. A. office.

"The response to the Christmas-giving campaign has been very good," Kathryn Winquist, chairman of the campaign reported.

Each commission group has visited a family and is planning to care for the needs of its family this Christmas. Some groups are planning to take the mother of the family shopping so that she can select the things her family especially needs.

All freshman commission girls are asked to come to Ellen Smith hall some hour Monday afternoon to help fix things for the families.

Committees are, vespers, Marie Katouc, chairman, Betty Cherny, Jean Pennington, and Barbara Jeary; dinner, Agnes Novacek, Helen Nolte, Iva Miller, Mary Stewart, and Elinor Kelly; Christmas-giving, Kathryn Winquist, Doris Burnett, Mildred Holland, and Virginia McAdams.

Ladies, Gentlemen Requested Not to Wear Hoops, Swords to Presentation of Handel's "Messiah," April 13, 1942.

(Continued from Page 1.) in the room, and the sum collected for that noble and pious charity amounted to about 400 pounds.

The story is told that the people in that first audience became excited and aroused as "The Messiah" was sung toward its climax. Finally as the singers began the incomparable "Hallelujah" chorus the king and all the other listeners stood, and this custom is still followed today.

On that day a Mrs. Cibber sang the solo "He Was Despised." Although her voice was weak, she so touched her hearers that it is said Mr. Selwyn, friend of Swift, exclaimed from the boxes, "Woman, for this be all thy sins forgiven."

Oratorio Written in 24 Days. Handel composed "The Messiah" in less than twenty-four days between Aug. 22 and Sept. 14 of 1741. He placed in it a message for everyone of all classes and ages. Beside music of such power and sublimity that it goes beyond the understanding of ordinary mortals are passages so simple and direct that anyone may comprehend. Thomas Jefferson composed the text, and from the prophetic language of the Old Testament he has selected words of tenderness that are almost poetry.

"The Messiah" tells the story of man's redemption. It is divided into three parts. The first sets forth the promise of the Redeemer, the birth of Christ and His mission of healing and comfort. The second is devoted to His passion, resurrection, and ascension, the preaching of the gospel, the discomfiture of the heathen, and the establishment of the kingdom of God upon earth. The third part deals with the Christian belief in the resurrection of the body, and ends with the triumph of the redeemed and the glory of heaven.

World of Sin Presented First. Beginning with an overture which gloomily presents a world of sin, suddenly the voice of the Comforter comes like magic with the recitative "Comfort ye my people." By contrasts Handel makes his work impressive, and reaches a climax with the chorus "For unto us a child is born."

In the pastoral symphony and the following numbers Handel presents drama which tells of the shepherds in the fields and the angels singing to them. It grows more and more exciting until the angelic choir bursts in with its cry of "Glory to God."

The second part of "The Messiah" opens with a solemn chorus of tragic loneliness and leads into the famous "He was despised." Handel traces the spread of the gospel, then pictures the wrath of the heathen in the bass solo "Why do the nations so furiously rage together?" and the chorus "Let us break their bonds asunder. The heathen are crushed, and all the earth joins in a song of triumph—the majestic "Hallelujah" chorus.

After the thunders of the "Hallelujah" Handel makes another contrast by his simplicity of "I know that my Redeemer liveth," the soprano solo which opens the third part of "The Messiah." This last part tells of resurrection and life of the world to come. "Behold I tell you a mystery" sounds the trumpet-call of doom. There follows "The Trumpet shall sound" and the duet "O death, where is thy sting?" Then in its final chorus "Worthy is the Lamb" sound the voices of the redeemed.

Dr. G. E. Condra Spends Several Days in Texas

Dr. G. E. Condra, chairman of the department of industry and survey at the university, left this week for Austin, Tex. He spoke on Saturday at the quarter century celebration of the natural resource survey department of the University of Texas. For several days Dr. Condra will study in the field as the guest of Dr. Sellers, Texas state director of survey.

135 of 283 Cornell University freshman women included in a recent survey have parents who are college graduates.

At Northwestern University, the men have just organized a knitting club.