

CURTIS BOOSTS PLAYGROUNDS

Tells State Teachers that Organized Play is Great Institution.

PREVENTS DREAD TUBERCULOSIS

Playground Helps Form Better Habits, Develops Group Consciousness and Loyalty and Makes for Physical Health.

The third and last day of the Nebraska State Teachers' association convention began with the general session program at the Auditorium, where 2,500 teachers assembled. Henry S. Curtis, Ph. D., was the principal speaker and declared that the salvation of American manhood and the maintenance of industrial integrity depended upon the future status of play. He declared that we have no national game, but kids' games, because the older people cannot play, and advocated in an interesting argument organized play as the only means of reaching the needed reformation.

Dr. Curtis on Playing. Dr. Curtis in his lecture prior to the folk lore games and dances upheld organized play as the only efficient manner of recreation for the young, saying: "You can't turn a vacant lot in a playground by simply calling it a playground. There must be organized supervision. The purpose of the playground is as definite as the purpose of the school, and as important."

Speaking from a wide experience with children who strive to play where desire is thwarted by the city or their parents, an experience beginning in his home town of Worcester, Mass., and extending through periods of service in New York, Washington and Chicago—Dr. Curtis declared that the child who was arrested for playing in the street and later became a criminal, was made so by the delinquency of the city.

City is Responsible. "Turn the children loose to play without a supervisor, arrest them for playing on the streets, as many towns do, and these do not be surprised if these same children develop into criminals. If they do it is the delinquency of the city and the parent that is the cause, and not because the child is predisposed toward the lawless."

Mothers Losing Influence. "We have no national game today. The older people do not play, as they do in England. The games are the games of children and we adults forget them. Our games are transmitted by the children because we have forgotten them."

Purpose of the Playground. The speaker declared there were three main purposes which the playground accomplished—the ideal of physical health, the formation of better habits, and, finally the development of group consciousness or loyalty, which is "known as good citizenship in a city and as patriotism in a country."

As the best means of securing physical health Dr. Curtis pointed to the open air playground: "If a child is to grow up healthy and vigorous it must be kept in the open air."

There is no specific for tuberculosis except the open air. Many of the congresses on tuberculosis have expressed the belief that the playground is one of the most effective means of preventing the disease.

Prevents Dread Tuberculosis. "Not only does the playground keep the child in the open air, but it strengthens his lungs and he is enabled to throw off tuberculosis germs when they find lodgment there. The congresses on tuberculosis which began to meet in Germany fifteen years ago were one of the chief sources of the playground movement there."

Country Folk Eat Too Much Canned Food, Says Condra

"We have sung long enough the praises of the old, oaken bucket, the moss-covered bucket; we should begin to learn the dangers of the old oaken bucket, the slobber-covered bucket," declared Dr. George E. Condra, of the University of Nebraska, in a talk on "Rural Environment in Nebraska," at the science section of the Teachers' Association convention at the Young Men's Christian association Thursday, in which he graphically depicted menace to health in the country.

Dr. Condra, as a member of the Rural Life commission, has scoured Nebraska from end to end ferreting out the causes of disease. Only last week he tramped 100 miles through the state on a tour of investigation. The lack of pure water, clean milk, wholesome food and also too little play and rest in proportion to work, he named as the chief sources of unhealth in the country.

Dr. Condra emphasized the danger in drinking after a diseased person, in drinking from wells which are located so low as to get seepage from chicken yards and other foul environment, the necessity of keeping windows open in sleeping rooms and the need of wholesome food.

"Too much canned food is being consumed in the country," said Dr. Condra. He also said that farmers' wives need to learn that they cannot raise strong sons and daughters on spices and vinegar. "It is not right that people should die from preventable disease when they are needed for the world's service," said he.

Other addresses of this section were: "Color Photography," Frank H. Shoemaker, University of Nebraska; "Relative Place of the Sciences in the Public Schools," Prof. J. C. Jensen, Nebraska Wesleyan university; "Nature Study in the Public Schools," Superintendent Robert Thomas of Orchard.

W. G. Bishop of University Place, president of the section, presided. "Nationally, our music has been, said Miss Clark, 'until very recently a joke. Cultured Europe has said that we have no ideals, no native music, only borrowed productions and producers.'"

"This was once true, but it is true no longer. The making and enjoying of ragtime, minstrel and vaudeville music has brought us low; tastes have been perverted, standards have been lowered, our planes have been littered by a deluge of trashy so-called 'popular' music of the light opera and musical play."

While deploring the harm the trashy music has done Miss Clark approved the work ragtime has accomplished in forcing composers to realize that we have a way of our own, speech of our own and a music peculiar to ourselves. She concluded: "Our music must be made more democratic; our plans must be changed to conform to the new ideas. The music must be for all, every single boy and girl, not in the sense of making artists or performers or singers, but just a great nation of intelligent listeners to music—the whole people cultured in the love of good music, the whole country appreciating and supporting our own singers, players and composers."

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The finest Neckwear in Omaha just arrived, over 300 dozen—at 50c-\$1.00



College Alumni Meet at Banquets

At the University club Thursday night the local alumni of Bellevue college feasted the alumni who are attending the State Teachers' convention. About sixty were present. Charles E. Baskerville of the class of '08, Rev. W. Phelps of the faculty and Ray Crossman of the class of '08 made short speeches. The latter spoke on the enlargement of the Bellevue club and asked the hearty cooperation of the alumni in making the organization a permanent as well as a successful one.

College Alumni Meet at Banquets

Eastering of Omaha, Miss Effie Hult of the Kearney Normal, A. E. Winship of Boston, Judge Kennedy and N. P. McDonald. Two hundred alumni of the Fremont college banqueted at the Paxton hotel last evening. After a six-course dinner, during which old times and college days were talked about, speeches were made by a number of the alumni and a short musical program was given.

Heard at Teachers' Convention

In the meeting of the biological section Prof. C. E. Hasey, Prof. Elmore and Prof. Latimer spoke. On Friday over 10,000 postal cards and letters, most of them gathered from hotels and lodging places, were sent out Thursday several thousands card were mailed. A number of these have been mailed without stamps and some without addresses.

Heard at Teachers' Convention

William Miller, manager of the Hotel Rome, gets credit for paying the best compliment to the visiting teachers that has as yet been recorded. Miller had been strolling around the hotel lobby for several hours frowning. Suddenly he looked up and remarked in an awed whisper to the nearest bystander, who happened to be a reporter, "Gee, when I was going to school, they didn't have such good looking teachers. Golly, if they had, I would be in grade school yet."

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University were present at the banquet at the Hotel Rome yesterday. Addresses by Dr. G. W. A. Luckey of the University of Nebraska, Mr. J. Cameron of Omaha, James Dezell, state superintendent of schools, and C. A. Elliott, deputy superintendent of schools, were heard. All spoke of experiences from their school life and of their happy days while at school. The banquet ended with college yells and songs, in which even the staid old professors joined.

THEY'RE SHOWING MARY MERRY TIME AT NIGHT

Mary, who is with the visiting teachers, directed an Omaha souvenir postal card to the folks at home, but she failed to put a stamp on it, so the postal employes couldn't help reading it. Mary said, "Omaha is all right, but there is too much doing here at night."

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