

YEARS TOO OFTEN WASTED

Magazine Writer Calls Attention to What He Considers a Danger to Democracy.

As conditions now exist there comes into the life of the average boy or girl four or five waste years—the years between thirteen and eighteen. These waste years hold in them the real dangers of our democracy.

And yet 10,000,000 of fourteen-year-old boys and their sisters—who are really worth something—are out of school in America today.

For when a child is not "doing well" in school the parents find it easy to get him to work outside. Probably 2,000,000 leave school not because they have to leave to support the family, but because the parents feel that the boys at least are better off working out of school than idling and wrangling with their teachers in school.

DOG USED THE TELEPHONE

Intelligent Act of Animal Imprisoned in Office, Reported by the London Mail.

The operator at Grimsby telephone exchange received an unexpected call from the premises of a firm of tobacconists in the early hours of a recent Sunday morning.

Coming to the conclusion that there were burglars in the place, the operator informed the police. In the meantime the owner of the dog suddenly remembered that he had, contrary to practice, left the animal, a fox terrier, in the office, had gone to the premises to release it.

Be Careful.

If you have reached the place in your life where the commonness of word, action or thought does not disturb you, if mediocrity of purpose and accomplishment be all that satisfies you.

American Voices Something Fierce.

"You don't notice it so much when you have been living here right along," said a man who returned lately to America from the Orient.

Still in the Ring.

"Billinger used to be one of the big best fish fiars I ever met."

Wanted—A Drawing Card.

"Hold, man! What would you do?" "I would die! From this bridge I will leap into you mighty torrent and end it all—"

QUITE A SNAP FOR HUBBY

How Mean Man Turned to His Own Account the Latest Fad of His Wife.

"My wife has a new fad," announced the fat man with the red face as he cheerfully stirred the mixture before him with a long straw.

"Listen to me. You must no longer drink intoxicating liquor. If you do it will make you sick. You will find it impossible to lift a glass of the vile stuff to your lips.

REASON FOR THE SLOW TIME

Irritable Traveler May Not Have Been Convinced but He Had to Be Reconciled.

The trains on the branch road never went very fast. There were various reasons for this, all good ones.

One day a particularly irritable passenger sat next to him. He not only complained that the train was slow but wished to know why it was slow.

"What are we stopping for now?" he asked.

"This is a station," he said, mildly. "Don't see any," said the other.

"What are we stopping for now?" he asked.

"Water!" exclaimed the other. "Water! Why, we just took in water not five minutes ago. What do you mean?"

Antics of Fireballs.

Fireballs or globular lightnings are the most mysterious of all nature and for long it was doubted by science if there was any such thing.

Eskimo Candy.

Tallow is the Eskimo's candy. It is put up in bright red packages made out of the feet of water fowl.

None of the food that the Eskimos eat seems very inviting to us, but they are extremely fond of it and are very apt to overeat.

Live by Catching Fireflies.

In Japan there are people who obtain a livelihood by catching fireflies.

These fireflies are used as ornaments at social festivities.

"Hold, man! What would you do?" "I would die! From this bridge I will leap into you mighty torrent and end it all—"

"Heavens! But if you must, wait a minute until I can send for my moving picture machine; this will make a corking film."

USE MACHINES FOR JUDGING

Method Recently Devised Would Seem to Put End to All Possible Controversy.

For registering the results of athletic contests, the human eye and voice sometime seem painfully inadequate.

One such device, the invention of an Austrian, is designed to be placed at the finish line in a running race, and consists of a light metal frame partitioned into two or more divisions.

The instant the first man passes through his division a shutter falls, disclosing his track number.

The same inventor has originated an automatic judging machine for bicycle races.

During the last lap these strips, which are coated with enamel, are placed in position by means of a lever, and the first wheel to cross receives five marks.

RELIEF FOR AGED HORSES

Effective Efforts Put Forth to Secure Humane Treatment for Friend of Man.

One of the pleasant signs of the times is the growing disposition, manifested in many quarters and through many agencies to remember the ancient proverb, that "a merciful man will be merciful to his beast."

In its efforts to bring about the humane disposal of old or worn-out horses the Boston work horse parade association is meeting with encouraging success.

Many of the larger corporations never sell an old or worn-out horse; others see that they fall into good hands when they dispose of them.

There is an old-age pension scheme for horses in this country. In several European countries the problem is solved by eating the horse—a more compassionate method of treating him than keeping him at work until he drops in his tracks.

"Krapen," a Great Oxen Race.

Near the eastern end of Java is a small island called Madura, the inhabitants of which are much addicted to sport.

The driver sits on a small piece of plank, and from this lowly and precarious position guides and encourages his steeds.

An Inquiring Spirit.

"Liquor," said the Experienced Cop, "surely gives a man a peculiar way of looking at things.

Unfamiliar Commodities.

"Any book in particular, sir?" asked the young woman in charge of the book counter of a large department store.

"Not for me," said the old gentleman, who had been examining the stock in trade with an air of considerable disapproval.

"I don't know about fox," said the young woman, "but I guess what you must be looking for is the provision department."

MADE A "HIT" OF ACCIDENT

Sicilian Actor Certainly Gifted With True Dramatic Instinct, as This Incident Shows.

Giovanni Grosso, a Sicilian actor of unusual dramatic energy, is the hero of a peculiar story, says the Florence correspondent of the London Express.

An indignant member of the audience flung the knife back to the stage, where it was dexterously caught by Grasso.

Then, with a swift bound, Grasso was in the pit beside the injured man.

After settling him in a chair, Grasso threw himself on his knees and began a long entreaty for forgiveness.

But this was not to be until Grasso, weeping copiously, had bestowed no fewer than 50 resounding kisses on the man's blushing cheeks.

CHILD'S LIFE SAVED BY CAT

Sleeping With Infant, Pet Received Death Thrust Delivered by Insane Father.

In the St. Germain quarter of Paris a little French child owes its small life to the liking of the family cat for the little one's warm, soft bed.

The child's father, once a prosperous merchant, had come down through speculation, and by constant brooding over his reverses became insane.

The poor mother, struck dumb by horror, sprang out to stop him, but the maniac was too quick for her.

English Women's Feet Larger. English women rapidly are becoming rivals of the Chicago women.

Smoker Who Found Himself. It is doubtful whether the confirmed smoker ever really enjoys smoking.

Gretna Green Marriages. The production of a Gretna Green marriage certificate in court is not absolutely unprecedented.

Journey Letters. When a friend starts on a journey, particularly if the journey be long.

What Keeps the World Alive. There's the world at large; town, village, country, sea.

THE OLD SPACIOUS CLOSET

The Roomy Old Closet, Which Fond Recollection Presents to the City Resident.

"Rarely indeed does Mrs. Billtops indulge in mournful reminiscence," said Mr. Billtops.

"To that proposition I assented." "But you could put this trunk in that closet," Mrs. Billtops continued.

"We would not go back to the old oaken bucket, we'd rather have the water laid on; we wouldn't want again those old time freezing rooms.

PRESERVING HEALTH OF CHILD

Possible to Avoid the Ordinary Infectious Diseases, That Have Been Considered Necessary.

The idea prevails among many people that children must have the ordinary diseases of childhood, and that it is better to expose them early in life so as to get through with them as soon as possible.

TO GET ANSWER TO LETTER

Simple Plan That Is Not Only Effective But Really a Requirement of Courtesy.

You may have occasion often to write a letter of inquiry to a stranger who is under no obligation whatever to answer your question unless he shall see fit to do so out of kindness or fellow feeling.

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LITTLE "WILLIE" WAS BUSY

When Mamma Found Her Darling Was "Passing Cards" for Bootblack.

A glittering car with a liveried footman on the curb stood at the Fifth Avenue door of a fashionable jeweler.

"Where is my Willie?" she cried. "I was looking at some jewels and he slipped away. Have you seen Willie?"

"I beg your pardon, madam," he said. "He must have left by the side door while you were absorbed in the jewels. I really thought it strange that a child from some home of wealth should be passing cards for a bootblack.

"Nasty cards!" exclaimed the mother, seizing them indignantly.

"Where did you get them?" she demanded.

"Man gived 'em to me," he bowed. "Man told me to give 'em to my friends. I want my cards."

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Uses for Roman Amphitheaters. Dorchester is not the only Roman amphitheater for which a use has been found in modern times.

The Lisbon Earthquake. The Lisbon earthquake of 1755 is clearly entitled to rank among the appalling disasters of history.

A Forgotten Art. New Customer—I see you have Van Falutin for a customer.

Tailor—So? It's too bad he doesn't try to emulate their noble deed.