

BADIN BULLETIN

The

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OF GENERAL INTEREST

What Is Efficiency?

Efficiency has been called "doing the right thing, in the right way, at the right time." It is the accomplishment of a maximum of results with the least expenditure of time or money. It is the attainment of the desired result in the best, easiest, and quickest way.

We become efficient through education and practice—education in the science of efficiency, practice in the art of efficiency.

The art is centuries old; all of us practice it to a greater or less degree. Since time immemorial we find it reflected in the lives and habits and undertakings of men whose names have been handed down to us as great men; and to a greater or less degree all of us practice it in our own lives.

The science of efficiency, the recognition of its laws and its principles, is comparatively new—not much more than thirty years old. Within that period a few men, notably Harrington Emerson, and Frederick W. Taylor, have directed study and thought toward finding the underlying causes, principles, and laws which have been and are responsible for success. They have not invented a new scheme or system or fad. They have only sought out and recognized certain truths, old as the human race, and have endeavored to list, classify, and explain them so that we common folks can more quickly grasp their significance, and teach ourselves to use them.

Efficiency is not "System," for the most systematic of methods may yet be woefully inefficient—for instance, our friend who scrubbed the front porch with a toothbrush. Nor is it mere strenuousness, energy, and action, for some of the least efficient cause the greatest commotion. Instead, it is generally a matter of thinking more, working less, and accomplishing more. Sometimes even lazy people are exceedingly efficient.

Science is organized, classified facts. A Chinese boy spends years learning to read and write as well as our boys can at the end of a few months. The Chinese language is a jumbled, accidental hodge-podge of word pictures, thought pictures, ideas. Our alphabet is logical. Its characters represent sounds instead of thoughts or pictures. The mouth can make less than thirty different sounds. Any word, sentence, or thought can be *classified* according to these sounds, and represented by our letters; consequently our language is far easier to learn.

Libraries are able in a few minutes' time to give us great quantities of information about any subject, for the reason that they *classify* their books wonderfully well.

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Our Neighbor's Rights

No right-minded person would knowingly do anything that would injure his neighbor's property; yet many of our good citizens are thoughtlessly allowing members of their households to do that very thing. Many people who wish to have flower and vegetable gardens are complaining that their good work is oftentimes largely brought to naught by somebody's children, chickens, or dogs.

Now no one would deny that children, chickens, and dogs are useful and desirable members of a community. They are mighty good to have—in their right places. But when they get out of their place, and onto the neighbor's newly prepared yard or garden, they become a nuisance and an evil. They are destructive. So—

TAKE NOTICE

All persons who possess children, chickens, or dogs are hereby notified that these must be kept off their neighbors' yards and gardens. Please see that this is done.

The State's Free Dental Service

The Bureau of Medical Inspection of Schools is organized as a part of the State Board of Health of North Carolina. Though it is rather recent in its establishment, it is recognized already as being one of the best in the entire country.

They have a system of examination cards which are sent out to the various schools in the State. A preliminary examination of the children in the school is made by the principal, or a physician who is employed locally, as in the case of the Badin Schools.

These records are sent to the offices of the Board, at Raleigh, where the data is compiled in such form that the exact needs of the community become apparent. The number of children in the community, the number of cases of adenoids and enlarged tonsils, the number of defective teeth among all of the children of the community, and the number of cases of defective vision, together with the degree of success with which glasses have been fitted in each case where any attempt has been made to correct the defect, are some of the facts that these records show.

So far the work was rather inexpensive, and could be carried on with considerable ease; but these are only the preliminaries. The real task of the State Board, as they see it, is not merely the compilation of facts which will show the pathetic conditions that prevail in the schools of the State, but to organize and conduct a program which will be effective in the correction of these defects. It is not enough for them to know just how many children in Badin are suffering from enlarged tonsils or decayed teeth, which act as a harbor for disease, and continually infect the system with germs; what they want is the correction of these defects by the best skill that can be obtained.

They began by sending notices to the parents of the children, stating the de-