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It is the opinion of the author of this article that one of the first things needed for the upbuilding of any town is the necessity of combating the tendency of communities to lose sight of the co-operative spirit and become divided into factions. The second is the important use that may be made of libraries and reading rooms that may be established at various social centers of the towns.

There are communities and towns whose capacities for social enjoyment are limited, just as there are individuals whose capacities for self-entertainment are limited. There are towns—dead little towns—where enthusiasm has been banished from the inhabitants' vocabularies, which seem to have been built only for people whose faces are turned toward the beginning of life, while they reluctantly step backward toward the grave.

Who is there that has not been in some community where a puritanical ban is placed upon the joy of living, where the innocent enjoyment of the young people has been changed to gray and somber forms and the beat of the community pulse has been lowered to a faltering sixty-two?

A careful watch upon these places would see them gradually empty themselves of their young men, who are seeking wider and more responsive fields than are afforded by the conservative attitude of their elders in their home towns. In this way the red blood goes out and the soul of the town is shriveled, its vitality sapped, its capacity for growth stunted. And here is the best indication of the spirit of a town—what the young people say about it.

If they are suppressed in their natural and normal efforts to give themselves wholesome pleasure they are sure to find little attraction. If they say the town is dead it is dead. They know. But if they get enjoyment out of living there the visitors are sure to find it out, and it attracts other people—people who desire to share a pleasant community life.

Beware of that town where the young people complain that there "is nothing to do." That town needs a municipal doctor to prescribe a social tonic. It needs a social magnet to draw the people together. It needs allopathic doses of the brotherhood of man.

We must remember, however, that when our young fellows go off to the cities and our daughters are taken by "discerning" young men away to other places we have conditions where the doctrine "Let well enough alone" will not apply. We have created a double problem. First, we must re-energize the languishing communities; second, we fit our cities and cause dilemmas. At present in the second problem we are not interested. It is with the languishing community, the near source of the nation's red blood, that we must deal. These communities must generate power and enlarge capacities for social enjoyment and intellectual activities.

Organizations should be organized in these dead towns, and they should get together and decide upon some plan of interesting the whole population. Public spirited citizens could take upon themselves the work of committee men and make provision for entertaining the people. In the spare room of the building a school library might be installed, and the people might have access to it. A reading room would be easy to provide and maintain.

A small tax levy or a popular subscription could provide for equipment of a gymnasium and payment for such services as would be necessary. Boys' clubs, girls' clubs, men's clubs and women's clubs could be organized to meet on certain nights or in afternoons. Domestic science meetings, sewing circles, civic improvement clubs, debating societies, amateur bands and orchestras could be organized.

On certain evenings when the people meet for general entertainment there might be addresses by the mayor, councilmen, county officials, the health officer, some physician or some other citizen interested in and an authority on some phase of municipal community progress. On these evenings the people from the rural districts could be invited and a simple entertainment in the way of refreshments served.

At these gatherings the right of free speech should be considered sacred. It must be everybody's meeting, and a chairman for each meeting should be elected every evening. The reason for coming together should be the common good, and such a reason will soon generate warmer community spirit and higher ideals of civic righteousness.

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