Ambition in the United States

By Max Nordau.

AMBITION is nowhere else so general and so boundless as in America. This is natural, for in no other country is individualism so highly differentiated as in America, or man so full of inborn energy, so rich in initiative, resource, optimism and self-confidence; so little tethered by pedantry, so willing to recognize the value of a brilliant personality, however this may find expression.

To this it must be added that in America the instances in which men have risen from the most humble beginnings to the most fabulous destinies are more numerous and striking than anywhere else. A Lincoln who develops from a woodcutter into a President; a Schwab who, at twenty years, earned a dollar a day, and, at thirty-five, has a salary of a quarter of a million; a Carnegie who, as a youth, did not know where to find a shilling to buy primers, and, as a man in mature life, does not know how to get rid reasonably and usefully of his three hundred million dollars, must suggest to every woodcutter, every "buttons," every factory apprentice with the scantiest elementary schooling, the idea that it depends wholly on himself whether or not he shall tread in the footsteps of a Lincoln, a Schwab, or a Carnegie, and reach the goal that these celebrities have attained.

The Horatian "Aurea mediocritas" has nowhere else so few partisans as in America. "Everybody ahead!" is the National motto. I suppress, intentionally, the second half of the smart sentence. The universal ideal of the American people seems to be success. The dream of success feeds the fancy of the child, hypnotizes the youth, gives the man temerity, tenacity, and perseverance, and only begins to become a matter of indifference under the sobering influence of advanced age.

"Success," however, is but one of those vague words which mean nothing definite, but which, like "freedom," or "progress," are mere recipients filled by everybody with contents distinctively his own.—Success.

A Collegiate Education Essential to Success

By Chauncey M. Depew.

IT has been my fortune, as business associate in many enterprises, to become intimately acquainted with hundreds of men, who, without any equipment whatever of education, have accumulated millions of dollars. I never met with one of them whose regret was not profound and deep and poignant that he had not an education.

I never met one of them who did not feel in the presence of cultured people a certain sense of mortification which no money paid for. I never met one of them who was not prepared to sacrifice his whole fortune that his boy should never feel the same mortification.

Our language comes, in part, from the Latin and Greek. Our literature is in itself a sort of Latin and Greek. The man or the woman who knows Latin and Greek takes up the paper and reads the editorial or the magazine and scans the page, or the book of poetry or prose and looks at the illustrations, and there is a meaning in the word with the Greek or Latin derivation which comes to him unconsciously; there is a suggestion of a classic flavor in the illustrations which gives them a delight; so that you find university people readers to the day of their death, and business people readers until they go into business.

In the older countries of the world the higher education had always been a privilege. In these United States of America a liberal education is a duty.

There the institutions of government rest upon thrones, rest upon classes, rest upon caste. There the higher education endangers the caste and undermines the throne. Here liberty rests upon the intelligence of the people, and it is pure or it is base according to the character of that intelligence.

Every college is an insurance company against anarchy and socialism. Every fully equipped and thoroughly educated boy and girl is a missionary for the right in the State, in society, in religion and in morals.

No More "Asleep at the Switch"

By George H. Daniels.

"ASLEEP at the Switch" could not have been written if the great railroad systems of the poet's time had been what they are now. If the author of those thrilling verses had not taken time by the forelock, amateur recitationists of to-day would have to depend entirely on "Woodman, Spare That Tree," or "Curfew Shall Not Ring To-night." For the melodramatic situation used to such advantage—the switchman snoring at his post, the train coming madly on through the night and saved in the very nick of time by a maiden with her hair standing on end—would not be true to life in these days. Like the times, railroads have changed—for the better—and the fate of a trainload of passengers is no longer left to a single man who may or may not snuggle up to his switch and take a nap.

With the "block" system now in operation on the main lines, a man "asleep at the switch" would practically stop the running of trains for miles back. The sleeper, in other words, would virtually tie up the operation of the road until some one woke him up. For the object of the block system is to block trains, to keep them a certain distance apart. A block is the distance between towers—the distance varying all the way from less than 1500 feet to over three miles. Only one train is allowed in a block at a time.

The system is so simple that it can be described in a few words. The signals at each tower are controlled by the man in the tower ahead. That is, no towerman can give the signal "All clear" until that signal is unlocked by his co-laborer in the next tower. Thus, a train leaving Grand Central Station is controlled as follows: On approaching tower one the towerman asks tower two for an unlock by ringing three bells. If block is clear between towers one and two, towerman at tower two unlocks tower one by pushing a plunger in a cabinet. Tower one then clears signals, and after the train has passed he announces the train approaching tower two by ringing four bells. And this method is carried out all the way to the end of the line.

Still, the block system does not alter the old rule for trainmen. When a train stops at an unusual place, the trainman, as in former days, must hurry back over the track for at least three-quarters of a mile, and place a torpedo on the track. Then he must continue further back one mile and place two torpedoes. If his train pulls away before another train comes along, he picks up the torpedo nearest the train, leaving the others on the track.

Torpedoes are called audible signals. When the engineer strikes the first torpedo he slows up, and if he does not strike a third he knows then that the track has been cleared and again goes ahead full speed. If he strikes two torpedoes, however, he slows up and proceeds with extreme caution, knowing there is danger within one mile ahead. At night, in addition to the torpedoes, the trainman must light a fusee, a red light, which burns exactly ten minutes. An engineer coming upon one of these fusees knows that a train is ahead within ten minutes, and does not proceed until the fusee has burned out.

Aluminum Gold.

New remarkable properties of aluminum are still being discovered. Its lightness, ductility and strength are well understood, but even these qualities are being constantly developed and enlarged. Mixed with a small quantity of gold, a beautiful ruby tinted metal is produced that can be used for decorative art. It is said that a comparatively thin sheet of the metal will turn a bullet. Wire has been drawn from it as fine as and not much heavier than a fine silk fiber. In violins it produces a tone as fine as the most perfect Stradivarius. The racing shells made of it are constructed of sheets only one-nineteenth of an inch thick, that are as strong as an inch board and less liable to break. It does not tarnish and acids have no effect upon it. Race horses are shod with it. Wounds are sewn up with the wire.—Ores and Metals.

THE MIND OF THE CHILD.

Be Happy if You Have a Boisterous Infant—The New Scholastic Ideal.

In the next annual report of the Commissioner of Education will appear a paper entitled "Inhibition: A Study of Child Character," which will deal with the ideas that dwell in the brain of a very young child and are developed into thought. The data concerning the development of the child mind were gathered from recorded observations of hundreds of children, while they were at work or play. Deductions are made, from the facts presented, that over-exertion, particularly of a mental nature, is injurious to the child; that the young mind in the course of growth may be permanently injured by overstudy; that when a child is growing rapidly he is disinclined to exercise, and on the other hand, that too much exercise will check growth.

The report says that restlessness in children up to six or seven years of age is a good sign, but a bad sign after that age. The report says: "The restless child should naturally develop into a man of action. Mothers who have restless children can get comfort out of the fact that this condition shows a normal and desirable development. The boisterous child is as a rule a peculiarly good animal.

A quiet child, the report says, is not necessarily one that will develop into a bright man or woman. Such a condition in a child is often the result of rapid growth or of sickness.

The report concludes: "We are suffering from a false idea of education, which has been handed down to us from the Renaissance. We seem to think that to master books is the only way to become learned, and that to become learned is the object of education. One can gain nothing by second-hand information from books, and the object of education is not to make men scholars. The time when a man can become learned from books is already passed. We live in an age of science, and observation and experiment are fundamental methods. Our ideal student is no longer an emaciated consumptive, with a wet towel about his brow, bending over his tome in the small hours of the morning, but rather a well-rounded man of the world; one who knows books, but who knows men and affairs as well; one who has drunk deeply from every experience an honorable life can offer him; one who has ideals of action as well as of thought."

The Men Who Break Down.

When a man standing at the head of a vast business breaks down the papers begin to talk of the enormous pressure of modern life, especially in the lines of finance and industrial activity. There are railway presidents who stand a great amount of business strain, but they waste none of their energies, and are temperate, as all men of great affairs must be, if they would hold their own in these busy days.

While a great business involves large responsibilities, a strong man at the head of it will be found to have selected capable assistants, often younger men with great power of resisting strain. The railway president, bank president or head of a trust has his staff; his business is systematized, and a large part of his worth to his corporation consists in his ability to pick good men for responsible places.

When one comes to look over the list of men broken down in business it is among those having small business that the greater number will be found. The man in a small way rarely can afford to have capable assistants; he must "do it all himself," and hence worry and overdoing. There is more of a chance for brain fag in a small shop or agency than in a big business.—Mexican Herald.

The Law Business.

Overcrowding is the motto of the day. The factories are overcrowded. The theatres are overcrowded. The only reason why one does not say that the street cars are overcrowded, is that they are something worse. All such overcrowdings, however, are spareness and loneliness compared with the overcrowding of the bar. In 1891 there were fifty-eight law schools with 6073 students. Now, according to an estimate made by Professor Huffcutt, of Cornell, there are 120 schools with 14,000 students. Meanwhile the number of full fledged lawyers in the United States is said by the last census to be about 114,000. No other profession, with the exception of teaching and of medicine, is so populous.—Chicago Tribune.

A Giant Without Strength.

A peculiar story is brought by the delayed Australian mails this week. At Warrnabool, Victoria, an application for an "old age pension" was made on behalf of a young man named McLean, whose height is seven feet four inches, and his age twenty-four years. It was stated that owing to a heart weakness this youthful Goliath would never be able to work, and that he had no one to rely on for support. For some time he had been an inmate of the local hospital, where two beds had to be placed together in order to accommodate his recumbent form. It was officially promised that his case would be laid before the ministry.

SOUTHERN FARM NOTES.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE PLANTER, STOCKMAN AND TRUCK GROWER.

The Poultry Industry in the South.

The poultry industry of the South when compared with other sections of the United States seems to be almost in its infancy, yet at the same time, in Eastern Tennessee, eggs and poultry are among the leading exports. Shipments from some of the leading towns are very heavy. How much more valuable the poultry industry would be if thoroughbred stock was the rule, and a better quality of poultry put on the market.

Thoroughbred stock does not command the prices in the South, because the farmers have not been educated up to fancy prices, and many cannot see that eggs from a $50 hen are any more valuable than any other setting. A lady in Tennessee had some valuable chickens, for which she had paid a large price. A neighbor came and wanted "a settin' of aigs." She asked him what he expected to pay. "Well, he reckoned, about fifteen cents." She told him they were worth $3 for fifteen. He went away very indignant because she would not let him have them for fifteen cents. Another neighbor wanted to "swap" eggs.

In some of the markets chickens range from fifteen cents up to twenty or thirty. A good hen often bringing twenty-five cents regardless of condition. The average price of ducks is fifteen cents. Here in Dayton, chickens will bring from twenty-five cents up to seventy cents each, dressed, plump and fat.

Now, why should this be so? Climatic conditions are much more favorable in many parts of the South, especially Tennessee, than here. At Birmingham eggs were among the "not to be thought of luxuries" all winter, and most of these cold storage, and hardly worth carrying home. By the way, Congress should impose a tax upon cold storage eggs after they reach a certain age.

There is a great future for the poultry business in the South. Feed costs less, as chickens can provide for themselves the greater part of the year, unless kept up in too close quarters; the gravelly soil in many places supplies the necessary grit. Fall chickens can be gotten ready for the holiday market. Early broilers are more easily raised. In fact, the South is an ideal poultry country. There is one drawback, and that it, it is more difficult to keep the fowls free from vermin, but if the proper precautions are taken they may be kept free from even that annoying enemy. Some poultry raisers will tell you that cholera is so bad in the South that they lose so many chickens each year from that disease. It is doubtful whether a case of cholera was ever in their flocks. Vermin will make a fowl get light in weight, droop, comb and wattles become pale, and finally die with every symptom of cholera.

Some of the large breeds will do equally as well in the South as in the North. The Plymouth Rock is a reliable fowl in any locality. The Langshan is an excellent winter layer, and adapts itself admirably to the Southern climate.

The success with a flock of hens depends upon good management, as in any other line of business. The same per cent. of attention must be given to all the details required in the poultry business. Proper food for egg production, pure water, good ventilation, grit and cleanliness. Poultry gives the best returns for the least care of any other industry on the farm. The farmer cares for his stables and neglects his henhouse, at the same time the hens are paying their way as they go, while may be the horses are not.

The Southern hen will do as much for the South as the Kansas hen has done for that State if given half a chance. Too many poultry owners do not handle their flocks to produce the best results.

Unlike Greely we would advise the active young man to go South, especially if he intended going into the poultry business. Poultry raising for egg production alone near some of the largest cities would be a very paying business. Take the Langshan and Plymouth Rocks for winter layers, and some of the Mediterranean breeds, as Leghorns and Ancovas. Study their habits and the conditions required for egg production. Market only good fresh eggs. Get the reputation and the business will come.—Sadie A. Berry.

Water For Sheep.

An important point in successful sheep management is the water supply. While good water is a good thing in growing all kinds of live stock, it is especially so with the sheep, which is not only a dainty feeder but a dainty drinker, and will only take bad, stagnant water into its stomach when driven to it by thirst.

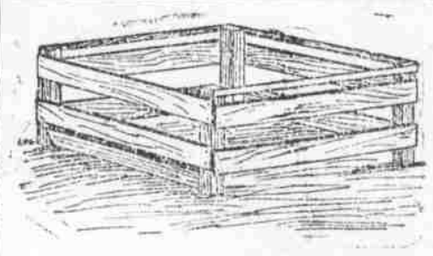
Not only will it suffer for the want of drink when the supply is bad, but it is subject to more diseases, usually parasitic, that have their origin in polluted water than any other of the domestic animals. Where the flocks get their supply from surface water courses liable to pollution of all kinds, sick sheep may be expected, with the aggravation that it is often impossible to determine what to do for them.

With such a source of supply, also, a rainy season, which washes the soil from long distances and brings down accumulations of filth, is likely to increase the amount of obscure disease in the flock. It is also no unusual cause of scours in lambs. We generally look for the cause of scours in the feed, but quite as often it is due to impure water.

Everybody is familiar with the disturbance in the human family, particularly in hot weather, which follows the use of bad water. The stomach of the lamb, and even the sheep, is quite as susceptible to dangers from this source as is that of the shepherd. We often see flocks on fairly good pastures, that ought to do well so far as feed is concerned, showing a lack of thrift and a general dullness for which there seems to be at first blush no apparent reason. Very often an examination of the water supply will reveal the cause. —Atlanta Journal.

Cheap Movable Hog Pen.

A cheap movable hog pen is shown in our illustration. Use four pieces 3x3-inch stuff, each three feet long for the corner posts, and eight 8-inch boards



OUTLINE OF PEN.

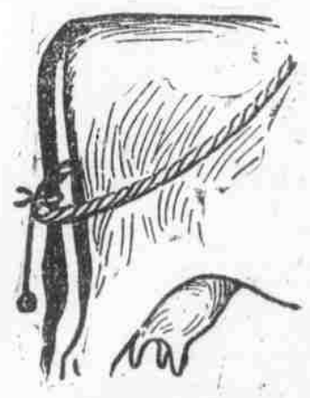
any length desired for the sides. Nail bottom boards six inches from the ground and the top ones eight inches above the others. Place a trough at one end and secure by cleats and strips nailed to posts. To prevent shoats jumping out, additional strips can be nailed above or a smooth fencing wire strung round at top. Raise the pen up at one end, call three or four shoats and drop the inclosure over them. The hogs will thoroughly root up and manure the inclosure. Two men can move the pen.—J. G. Allshouse.

The Value of Humus.

Farmers now have an opportunity to study the value of humus in the soil. Several consecutive years of hoed crops will exhaust the vegetable matter even in new grounds. Then the red clay soils and black jack soils bake very hard after a rain. Sandy soils get very close and root development is arrested. Stable and lot manure supply humus and plant food at the same time. But no farmer can make enough such manure to keep up his land. Stubble and weeds after small grain help land somewhat. But the quickest and best supply of humus is to be secured from the pea vine. Nature's way of restoring lands in North Carolina is to begin with broom sedge, followed by briers and plum bushes, after which the old field pine comes in and finishes the job. That is a slow process and requires twenty-five to forty years. But in five years an intelligent farmer may restore the thinnest land in the State, provided it has a good subsoil, by sowing peas and small grain and deep plowing.—Cotton Plant.

A Milking Device.

The use of a heavy rope in a circle about a cow's flanks is a well-known device for keeping a cow's tail still during milking time, but the best part of such a help is usually left off the rope. It is a bit of cord with a weight



IN FLY TIME.

at the end that is tied to the rope. When the latter is in use the cord is looped about the tail, as shown in the cut and holds the tail within bounds. Without this cord the cow will switch her tail about inside the circle of rope and will often get it out entirely.—W. D., in the American Agriculturist.

Bad For Swine.

Cottonseed meal should never be given to swine. They thrive on it for a few weeks and then begin to die; it appears to have a poisonous effect.