

THE BOYS OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY

(Charles H. Huber)

In the oft-discussed "good old days" the boy was wont to get rid of his excess energy by throwing water and smashing property, but in 1931 he loses his animal spirit in well-conducted, organized athletics, according to Dr. Huber, who has seen them come and go at Gettysburg Academy since 1892.

"Mischievous is merely misdirected energy," said Dr. Huber as he allowed his mind to wander back over the years that have transpired since he was an academy student.

"Thirty years ago organized athletics was unknown, and the boy often gave vent to his animal spirit by throwing rocks through windows, smashing doors and so forth. He was crude, very crude, indeed. Today that spirit crops out in some of the boys but rarely.

The Value Of Athletics

"Today organized athletics works off the animal spirit. We, like every well-regulated school, have certain hours for systematic exercise, and the boys are tired when that is ended. They don't feel like damaging property. We have week-end trips to our camp as a further means of getting rid of energy in a wholesome way."

"What about the boy of today as compared to the boy of yesterday from a moral standpoint?"

"I really cannot see any great change there. We had good boys and bad boys in 1901 and we have both kinds in 1931. One hears a great deal of talk about the effect of prohibition on drinking among young boys, but I don't agree that prohibition has resulted in a tremendous increase in drinking among the boys with whom I have come in contact. There was prohibition for students in the old days in that they were not permitted to obtain liquor at local saloons. They got around the rule by sending in a messenger for liquor if they wanted it. In other words, drinking was a problem then and still is and has to be dealt with accordingly by those in authority.

"There is a change in the boy's inclination to study, however. It is more difficult to make him study today because of the many things that have come to take his mind off his study. The automobile is one, the radio another and the motion picture a third. When the radio first came into existence we permitted the boys to have sets in their rooms, but that soon had to be changed. The boys became so absorbed in radio programs that they would listen in until after midnight and pay no attention to their studies.

"Boys now are cleaner physically than they were thirty years ago. The Saturday-night bath was no myth then but a fact. In the smaller colleges of the State the boys had to go to the old-line pump, draw the water and then go back to the dormitories and bathe. Taking a bath was actually something of an event then. Today organized athletics and the shower bath have made taking a bath part of the daily routine. Speaking again of organized games, I believe the prep school student goes in for the more sincerely than the college student, who is old enough to figure ways and means of saving energy."

"In what way have the courses changed since you were in college?"

"When I first entered college, back in 1888, the college course was a fixed thing and included four years of Latin and four in Greek. Before I was graduated the elective system was introduced.

System Ran To Extremes

"In time the elective system ran to the other extreme and many students picked out all the snap courses. Then came the group system with some required and some elective subjects, and I consider it the best of the three."

"What do you think of the action of Yale, Princeton and other schools in abolishing Latin as a required subject for the A. B. degree. Dr. Huber?"

"I think it is a great mistake, not on the part of the institutions but on the part of the students in demanding the change. The English language is based on Latin, and a person can learn more English grammar from Latin than he can from English grammar itself. These days, more than at any time, it is imperative for people to be well versed in grammar because of the great increase in writing and public speaking.

"In addition, more than fifty per cent of all the words we use have Latin derivatives. Furthermore, the translation of Latin helps a student to learn how to reason, to think. A knowledge of Latin is also a great help to student of French, Spanish, mod-

ern Italian, Portuguese and English, because Latin is the mother of the Romance languages."

Why Latin Is Discarded

"Then why have so many institutions relegated Latin to the discard?"

"Because of the demands of the students who want to take the easiest way through college, who want to have all their obstacles removed for them instead of removing them themselves by conquering them. Such a student wants to go forth, waving his diploma to the world and saying 'I am a mighty man of valor,' but he has not earned the right to be so called. In time he will learn the thrust and parry of real life and wish he were better equipped to meet the fight."

"Educators may as well try to sweep back the Atlantic Ocean as to resist the overwhelming tide of unanimous student sentiment. But I hope the pendulum will some day swing back to Latin because I feel when educators take everything away from education

that makes students work and do not permit students to cudgel their brains, then they are taking away education itself."

YOUNGEST GOVERNOR IN UNITED STATES

Oath Administered By His Father.

Atlanta, Ga.—Chief Justice Richard B. Russell on June 24 administered the oath of office to his son, Richard B. Russell, Jr., who became governor of Georgia at the age of 33 years. He is the youngest governor in the United States.

Governor Russell, who was elected last October, has other distinctions. He is a bachelor. He is one of 13 sons and daughters of a family whose forebears have lived within the bound-

aries of Georgia since colonial times. He left the University of Georgia to enlist during the world war. He made his first political campaign driving from house to house in a second-hand automobile.

On assuming the office of chief executive he gives up the post of speaker of the Georgia house of representatives he served for three years.

Some insight into the personality of this unusual young man may be gained from the fact that he has stated "The machinery of government should be simplified. Speaking of the work of a special legislative committee of the general assembly not long ago he put his views thus:

"The machinery of government should be so simple that the humblest citizen can understand it. Here in Georgia we have more than 100 different agencies to carry on the state's business and I venture to say there are very few who can sit down with pen and paper and name them all and

outline the duties each is supposed to perform.

"Co-ordinate and combine the departments of state to a minimum," he urges, "and thus give the people of the state the economical government Georgia today so badly needs."

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GIRL SCOUT BETTY

—Look Before You Leap

—By Montfort Amory



Bang! Into the girl who had been swimming nearby dove the woman who had plunged from the springboard without noticing anyone below her.

Watching from the float Betty saw the girl lose her head and frantically clutch at the woman. Even before the woman, startled, cried for help, Betty was darting to the rescue.

Betty quickly broke the hold of the younger girl, who regained her presence of mind and swam for shore. But the woman had fainted and had to be towed in.

"I don't know how you managed both of us", cried the woman, gratefully. "Thank the Girl Scouts", smiled Betty. "I learned life-saving in camp last summer".