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EDUCATION IN REALITIES

DEBATING LIVE ISSUES

How to transform college debating from a negative, formal exercise into a living thing is a problem that has been successfully solved by the Department of English of the University of North Carolina under Prof. Edwin Greenlaw. To give advanced students a sense of dealing with realities, he organized them into a peace conference with groups representing the United States, France, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Belgium, Russia, Germany and the Balkan states, with special commissions on indemnities, constitution of a league of nations, final draft of the peace treaty, territorial adjustment, freedom of the seas, mandatories, etc.

Meetings were held daily for twelve weeks; an extraordinary amount of reading and investigation was done; every provision in the constitution was adopted only after debate which frequently became very intense. The final report—issued almost simultaneously with that of the Paris conference—embodies the decisions arrived at but, of course, only a very small part of the work of the course. Last year, the same class published a journal of opinion called the Range Finder, also devoted largely to practical questions of community organization.—The Survey.

TACKLING REAL PROBLEMS

One of the most valuable organizations in the whole country, and that is making it quite comprehensive, is the North Carolina Club over at Chapel Hill. This is an association of young men who are engaged in the study of problems that are chiefly North Carolina in extent, yet which because of the general truth that we are all about the same as far as the states are concerned, affect Christendom much as they affect our own State. The young men do not confine themselves to the course of study laid down in their books, but they take up from time to time topics that are bobbing up as civilization rounds new corners on its forward road.

A recent theme was public ownership of water, lights, and street transportation, and this theme was covered in such a way that it is worth the while of communities in the state and out of the state to look into the views the young men present. They do not start out with an assumption and devote their energies to establish their theories. They go at the matter right and inquire into the best methods, allowing the truth to lead them where it will, and that is the only valuable way. If the University can get the students to face all problems in this way it will have earned its cost if it gives no further education.

But in the matter of municipal conveniences the conclusion reached in the electrical theme was that private capital can serve better than the community. The big corporation can control capital to better advantage, can develop big units of power and split up into small units to meet the needs of big and little towns, can secure more capable engineering and managing skill and compel greater economy and efficiency. On this subject Dr. C. L. Raper, of the faculty, started the discussion by an address before the club, when the members joined in talking the matter in its various phases. In that way are dug out the advantages and disadvantages of such a scheme, and the students see in as nearly an unbiased light as possible the logic and the theory.

There may be bigger universities and more pretentious, but Chapel Hill has an ideal in trying to bring the young men into thinking contact with the current progress of life, and will never have to apologize for its work as long as it keeps up its present gait.—News and Observer.

THE WEIL LECTURESHIP

Dr. J. H. Hollander, professor of political economy in Johns Hopkins University, was the speaker invited this year to give the Weil Foundation lectures on American Citizenship. His three brilliant discourses will be issued presently in book form.

The Weil Foundation is one of the

most interesting gifts the University of North Carolina has received of late. Leslie, Lionel, and Herman Weil of Goldsboro, created this lectureship in 1914 in memory of their fathers. It provides \$500 or so annually for a series of addresses on American Citizenship. It is an expression of ardent patriotism by the younger Weils as well as a loving tribute to the unsmirched integrity and the unobtrusive but fervent patriotism of Sol and Henry Weil.

In these days of active planning for the rapid Americanization of the foreign-born within our borders, it is heartening to remember that there are many among our adopted citizens who do their own Americanizing and do it capably. Carl Schurz, Otto Kahn, and the Weils head a long list of patriotic Americans of foreign birth or blood.

They came to America to escape intolerable conditions at home—conditions economic, social, or racial. Whatever the cause, the effect was misery. But once arrived they found conditions they could master. Given health, strength, and well-directed ardor they held the key to fate. They found the keenest competition, but along with it a quick and generous recognition of merit.

A rarely sound and sweet natured man we knew often said something like this to his children: "The dearest article in the world in point of price is a present. The unrequited benefit is the commonest of all debts and the most destructive to the soul. The most expensive commodity is the one you get for nothing. And in nothing does the principle so apply as in citizenship. You cannot live long enough to pay what you owe to the community which furnishes you with opportunity for earning a competence, for education, for friendship, for recreation, for liberty of conscience, for free speech, for joy in life. All the social service that you can render will never fully wipe out the debt you owe to your country." It must be some such thoughts as these that lead men like the Weils to establish a lectureship in their state university on American Citizenship. They are rich in the royal coin of devotion to their home state, to their Alma Mater the state university, to America, and to the loftiest ideals of American citizenship.—E. N.

THE HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE

The seventh annual contest of the High School Debating Union of North Carolina came to a very successful conclusion on May 2nd in Memorial Hall at the University, when Leo Brady and Miss Aura Holton, representing the Durham High School, triumphed over all others, and won the award of the Aycock Memorial Cup. Their opponents in this final debate were, Miss Sudie Creech and William Hosea of Goldsboro High School.

The query was: Resolved, That the Government of the United States should adopt a policy requiring one year of military training for all able-bodied men before they reach the age of 21. Goldsboro advocated the affirmative and Durham defended the negative. Dr. H. W. Chase, chairman of the faculty of the University, presided over the debate in Memorial Hall. Professor N. W. Walker presented the Aycock Cup to the winning team in behalf of the inter-collegiate debaters of the University. Dean A. H. Patterson presented the cups and medals to the winners in the inter-scholastic track meet. Memorial Hall was filled to its capacity for the final debate.

High School Week

One hundred and sixty-four youthful debaters, representing forty-one high schools, came to the University for this final contest. They had all been successful in the triangular debate on April 4th, in which series 720 debaters participated, representing 180 schools in 75 counties.

The stay of these visitors at the University proved to be a very enjoyable and happy one. The debaters represented all sections of the State. There were present 75 girl debaters.

The dates of May 1st and 2nd had been set apart as High School Week in the University's calendar. Other features of High School Week were the seventh an-

NEXT GREAT QUESTION

Dr. David Snedden

Now that we have achieved substantial results in laying the foundation of public vocational schools, I predict that the next great question which will, for many years engage the efforts of the public, and of educators who can think and plan, will be that of the moral education which can produce in individuals the moral character required to meet the needs of a highly developed democracy in the twentieth century.—Columbia University.

annual inter-scholastic track meet, which was won by the Friendship High School, and the fourth annual inter-scholastic tennis tournament, which was won by the Wilson High School.

The schools which were represented in the final contest for the Aycock Memorial Cup were: Advance, Angier, Aulander, Belhaven, Bethel, Cameron, Canton, Carthage, Clemmons, Columbus, Crouse, Dixie, Durham, Elizabeth City, Goldsboro, Hertford, Jamestown, King's Mountain, Lincolnton, Louisburg, Lucama, Manteo, Middleburg, Mount Gilead, Mountain Park, Mount Olive, Roanoke Rapids, Rockingham, Sand Hill, Scotts, Selma, South Buffalo, Southport, Stony Creek, Walkertown, Wesley Chapel, Winston-Salem, Yanceyville.

COSTLY IGNORANCE

The State Health Board mails out diphtheria antitoxin for 25 cents a package. It is free except for this nominal charge to cover the cost of the syringe, wrapping, and postage or express. It goes for this charge to the physicians of the state who can keep it on hand for emergency uses. Or they can wire it in from Raleigh when danger threatens a patient.

When bought at the nearest drug store, the cost is tremendously greater. How much greater appears in the leading article of the State Health Bulletin, April number. Here it may be seen that 15 drug store customers recently paid \$228.65 for 48 doses of antitoxin that they might have had from the State Health Board for \$12. Fifteen people in distress paid nearly 20 times more than they needed to pay. In other words they wasted about 95 cents of every dollar they spent for diphtheria antitoxin. It cost them \$216.65 to be ignorant of a state agency of free public service. A pretty big bill for fifteen people.

If you want to know who these graceless profiteers were, read the bulletin. It gives their addresses in full right off the bat. The profiteering seems to be proved by the fact that the prices charged ranged from \$2.50 to \$9.00 per dose. In one and the same drug store the prices ranged from \$5.82 to \$9.00 per dose.

There is nothing in this world more expensive than ignorance, and nothing more remorseless than greed. Here is an apt illustration of these hoary facts of human nature.

Negligent Counties

By the way, 21 counties have made no arrangements with the State Health Board for free antitoxin, as follows: Alleghany, Anson, Avery, Bladen, Burke, Cabarrus, Camden, Columbus, Cumberland, Dare, Graham, Greene, Halifax, Pender, Rutherford, Scotland, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Vance, and Warren.

The neglect lays a heavy burden of expense on the folks.

The State Health Bulletin, by the way, ought to go into every courthouse office and to every high school in the state.

Every minister who really serves the Great Physician ought to have it; also every intelligent citizen white or black.

It comes near to being the best public health bulletin in the United States. It's free. Write to Dr. W. S. Rankin for it.

THE 1918-19 COMMENCEMENT

The program of the forthcoming commencement at the University of North

UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION LETTER SERIES NO. 169

THE ILLITERACY PROBLEM

Many of the men and women who are able to meet a literacy test remained in school in childhood days only long enough to learn the merest rudiments of reading and writing. How inadequate is the foundation that this gives for intelligent citizenship is suggested by the results of the psychological and educational tests given in the Army. If these results can be safely generalized, one must conclude that nearly one-fourth of the adult population of the United States is only barely lettered, for the tests showed that nearly twenty-five percent of the drafted soldiers were unable to write an intelligible letter or read a newspaper intelligently.

Largely a Rural Problem

A relatively large proportion of this educational deficiency must be charged against the rural schools with their short terms, their poorly paid, untrained, and immature teachers, their meagre supervision, and their lack of an effective system of compulsory attendance.

The educational weaknesses revealed by the experience of the last two years

are due very largely to the inadequacy of rural and village schools. The country is becoming thoroughly aroused to the peril that lies in illiteracy, but it should not forget that adult illiteracy is twice as prevalent in the rural population as in the urban population, and that the permanent elimination of adult illiteracy must await the solution of the rural school problem. That the proportion of adult illiterates is three times higher among the native-born children of native-born parents is another fact that points to the same inescapable conclusion.

A Dead Letter Law

Outside of the urban centers compulsory attendance is far too frequently a dead letter requirement. Nor is the problem limited to the rural states. An attendance officer in a county not seventy miles from New York City recently remarked that the attendance law of her state could not be enforced in the rural districts of her county; and she added, It would be little good to enforce it, so poor are the schools and so ill-prepared the teachers.—National School Service.

Carolina, the dates of which are June 15, 16, 17 and 18, has just been announced. It contains several new features, including a historical pageant to be presented on the afternoon of class day exercises, and arrangements whereby the various reunion classes will have more time to themselves for renewing the bonds of friendship.

Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane is the commencement day speaker, while Rev. John Ellington White, pastor of the First Baptist church, of Anderson, S. C., will preach the baccalaureate sermon. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the visit of Secretary Lane will mark the fourth university commencement address by cabinet members within the last four years. Secretary McAdoo was here in 1916, while Secretaries Daniels and Baker were present for the 1917 finals. The visit of Secretary Lane to North Carolina, particularly at this time, promises to make the occasion one of momentous importance to the state.

More emphasis is being put on the class reunion program than heretofore. The ten, five, and one year get-together affairs have been styled "Victory Reunions" for this commencement. "Home coming" or "After-the-War" reunions are other names that fit well. Many of the younger alumni, especially members of the last one or two classes whose reunions are scheduled for this year have been in the service and many are still in France, but the great majority are back home and are being urged to assemble again in Chapel Hill during the week of June 15-18. More stress is also being put on the big general reunion, which includes every alumnus of the university. A special effort is being made to get a record breaking number of alumni back for the finals this year, and all indications are favorable.

The following classes will hold special reunions, although all alumni are invited to attend the big general reunion: 1859, 1869, 1879, 1889, 1894, 1899, 1904, 1909, 1914 and 1918. Letters have been sent out to all members of these classes calling attention to the home-coming event; along with plans for the exercises, by Prof. W. S. Bernard and Secretary E. R. Rankin.

The Program

The commencement exercises will be opened Sunday, June 15, with the baccalaureate sermon by Rev. J. E. White. Vesper services will be held in the afternoon.

Monday, June 16, will be given over to the seniors, who will hold annual class day exercises. They will form in front of Memorial Hall and march to chapel for prayer in the morning. Class day exercises will be held in Gerrard Hall, to be followed by the annual orations by members of the graduating class in contest for the Mangum medal.

The closing exercises of the senior class will be held Monday night, June 16, to be preceded by a historical pageant given

by the class, which will be staged in the afternoon. Anniversary meetings of the two literary societies, which will be held in their respective halls, will mark the end of Monday's program.

Class Reunions

Tuesday, June 17 is alumni day, when the campus will be turned over to the former members of the student body. A meeting of the General Alumni association will be held in Gerrard Hall in the morning; to be followed by the annual alumni luncheon and class reunions at noon. A Victory Reunion of the alumni in service will be held in the afternoon. Baseball games between special reunion classes will be held on the athletic fields also in the afternoon. A meeting of the board of trustees, the annual inter-society debate, and a reception in Bynum gymnasium are on the night's program.

The finals will come to a close with commencement day exercises on June 18, when degrees will be conferred and addresses made.—R. W. Maddry.

THE DEADLY FLY SEASON

The fly season is upon us. Is your table covered with these odious animals? If so, you have unsanitary conditions in the vicinity of your house. Flies breed in uncovered manure piles, open privies uncovered garbage cans, and so on. They carry filth, and often disease germs, from these places to our food. They are harbingers of sickness and discomfort. They are indicators of uncleanness, they are unnecessary and preventable.

To prevent flies: First, destroy their breeding places. Second, shut them out of the house.

Keep manure piles covered or remove manure once a week. Keep privies screened and closed to flies. Keep doors and windows effectively screened. Various commercial fly traps can be bought at little expense which will rid the house of these pests. Freedom from flies means freedom from typhoid and diarrheal diseases. Flies are much more than a nuisance; they are a deadly menace.—T. S.

ONCE-A-MONTH PREACHING

Eighteen thousand out of a total of 20,000 Baptist country churches in the South have preaching only once a month and most of them are served by absentee pastors. Out of a total of 19,800 Southern Methodist churches 16,500 are rural and about 15,000 have once-a-month preaching. Baptist and Methodist have approximately 45,000 churches in the South. Of these about 37,000 are rural and nearly 30,000 of these are served by absentee pastors. Surely there is great need that these churches be served by resident pastors and that the number of preaching Sundays be increased to two, three or four Sundays each month. Once-a-month preaching will not do for this day! —G. C. Hedgepeth.