

DO PARENTS KNOW THEIR CHILDREN?

"The son usually would go (for advice) to his roommate, his doctor, his teacher, his minister—to anybody sooner than to his own father." So declares President Faunce of Brown University apropos of the question in our caption, and the reason lies in the father's lack of understanding of the son. "A number of parents overdo the matter of keeping in touch with their children. They follow them to the college, put pillows in their chairs, and make sure that they will have the right kind of dessert for dinner." This is the dissident conclusion of the President of a Southern university in answering the same question. President Angell of Yale, however, distrusts utterly "the casual impressions on a matter of this kind of any single observer." It happened that we were considering seriously this very question of parents and children when an article by Dean Gauss of Princeton appeared in Schribner's bearing the title, Should Johnny Go to College? In that article he implied that many youths (and maidens) were in college and taking courses of instruction, where they did not want to be and were unfitted to be, and when they would have been better off and more contented elsewhere. The cause of this, it was implied, is that parents did not know their children. They had not maintained that intimacy which would have shown the children's preferences and potencies. So, he suggested, time is lost, discontent is caused, and square pegs are misfits in round holes.

This pronouncement of a university dean whose work brings him in to confidential relations with many students was somewhat startling—if not merely individual opinion. Was it? Who could tell? We anticipated Doctor Angell's pronouncement. But surely other men in like positions would have information. "In the multitude of counsellors there is safety." Accordingly, to about seventy presidents, deans, or chancellors of representative universities and colleges, whose work brings them into confidential relations with youth, we wrote asking (essentially) the question at the head of this article. These busy men were exceedingly courteous, and many of them much more than kind, writing freely and in extenso. Only two desired, their names withheld. The gist of our letter was in this paragraph.

Is it your experience that sons and daughters are handicapped through the indifference or ignorance of their parents? Do you believe that the best solution of the modern problems of young people is for parents to know their own children, to solicit and keep their confidence, to be acquainted intimately and day by day with what is going on in the minds of their boys and girls? Do you think that the average parents are doing this less or more than they used to?

We begin our citations with a letter from one who prefers to be unnamed. It was sent for private information only. But it is so fine and revealing, and so much that is good that we begged the privilege of quoting it. Reluctantly consent was given, and we can not give even regionally the location of the very useful college over which this scholar presides. Among other things the poise of the deliverance will be noted.

In reply to your direct question whether in my opinion parents do not know their children, I would in the first place say that in this more than in most other cases generalizations are dangerous. I know so many parents who are giving a much more intelligent attention to the needs of their children than the parents parents of an earlier day that I should condemn myself if by anything I had to say these parents felt themselves condemned. Naturally my mind turns at once to our daughters and sons. Each of them has children. We proudly survey our grandchildren and rejoice that these young mothers and fathers are giving attention to their children which their mother constantly tells me is more intelligently directed to their interest than she herself knew how to give. But I may venture to remark parenthetically that to this I take exception without in any wise

detracting from the comment as it bears upon our children. But this is all too personal, and, therefore, really beside the mark.

My mind quickly turns to a case, I ought not to mention names and will not; but two years ago a student came to see me. He spoke with a slight impediment in his speech, as one heard of hearing. He came to talk with me about his future vocation and in his conversation expressed himself very beautifully concerning his mother's care and direction. I urged him to bring his mother to see me when next she came to town. He did so. She was a fine specimen of motherhood—a slender little person to be the mother of so husky a young man. She told me with a direct look in her eye and an illumination of countenance I remembered that when her boy was five years old the doctors—she lived in New York—told her that there was no use trying to educate her son, that he was mentally deficient. She would not have it so. She fought as only a mother can fight and because she was possessed by a great spirit carried her fight to a successful issue and proved to the doctors that the boy was not deficient in intellectual power but that his ears were dull. He could not hear half that was said to him. She fought the fight through the schools. The young man entered college and graduated last year, not a brilliant student but never having failed. All of this and much more of a like nature I should make haste to assert in answer to the allegation that parents today do not know their children. Yet there is too large a measure of truth in the claim advanced by Dean Gauss. The things that have marked the changes of social life during the past twenty years have most of them been of a kind to turn the attention of men and women from their homes to fields of activity and interest outside. The mothers have been involved in this, the case of getting about the activities of political life now not merely open to women but seem in many cases to impose a new and additional duty upon them; the freedom with which men and women carry on social intercourse where formerly the men withdrew and the women were left to other and different occupations, the introduction of club life, the out of doors (and incidentally one notes the benefit of it because most of the young people of today are inches above their parents in height)—all these, to say nothing of the ease of getting about and of listening in on all sorts of occasions are so disturbing to the old relation of mother and child in the home that many instances come to our notice of young men, and in women's colleges I suppose the same is true of young women, who have not had the kind of careful attention that they ought to have had in the home.

I think first of my own mother and the constant care exercised over us. Every night during our boyhood days mother came to our room and read aloud to us while we made ready for bed and we were asleep. The result was that we came to her for counsel always, even when we were grown up and had families of our own. Indeed I cannot picture a more perfect example of a mother in the community than my own was in those days after my father's death when she was the soul and center of the colony, the big house filled to overflowing with children and grandchildren who built houses round about her, the company even extending to connections by marriage not merely blood relations and all turning to my mother for counsel. Again, I think of the mother of my children. Only on the rarest occasion while our children were young and until they went away to school and college was their mother away from them. She gave all of the evening to them from the time we were through the evening meal until they were asleep. I can see myself now sitting before the fire while she was upstairs with the children, a small voice calling out from a neighboring room. "Now, Mama, it's time to come to me," and she sat with the children in turn carrying on those quiet talks too sacred for intrusion. The result is that today our sons and daughters turn to her as we turned to my mother.

After reading that letter the editor could wish himself a boy again at the college presided over by this Christian gentleman. The President of Yale, Doctor

James Rowland Angell, sees now a larger and more definite effort toward maintaining the relationship of parents and children.

"I doubt whether the conditions at present are materially different from those which have always obtained in periods of rapid change in social and religious ideals and practices. Strain and tension between the younger and the older generation has always existed. In general, so far as my observation goes, I should think that intelligent American parents are more definitely trying to maintain sympathetic contact with their children than did the generation just preceding. But I distrust utterly the casual impressions on a matter of this kind of any single observer.

On the facts President D. W. Morehouse of Drake University, Iowa, endorses Dean Gauss, but is not at all dogmatic:

The Dean is right, distinctly right. The college cannot completely make over the raw material which is furnished it. There must be a desire within the student. He must appreciate the difference between a factory and a university. Unless there is a will to accept the benefits of education there is no use to go to college. You might as well attempt to teach a fish to live on a lawn. I think there is no advantage to either the lawn or the fish. I do not know where the trouble lies, whether it is in the home, the school or the society. Possibly there isn't any trouble. Boys and girls have been very much the same through the last few generations last.

So on the direct question of parental interest in children he agrees, but is tolerant and kindly:

Parents in general should give more attention to their children, especially with relation to their education. Too much is left to the high school and college, but frequently this is done with the very best of intentions. The parents do not consider themselves qualified in this line and they follow with most courteous and sincere confidence the program and policy of the school. It has been my experience that the parents are interested and very anxious to give their children the greatest possible advantages both at home and in the school. I believe this tendency is growing. Let's give the parents credit, and the children too, as far as that is concerned. If we could turn the matter around and have fewer fur coats and diamond rings and limousines on our campus and more boys and girls who recognize the advantages of education, who truly desire its culture and are willing to give anything for an education, many of our problems would disappear.

In quite a similar vein, admitting the facts but seeing reasons in social conditions, writes Professor S. P. Nanninga of the University of New Mexico:

Many sons and daughters are handicapped through the indifference or ignorance of their parents. Our social standards and beliefs change and it is difficult for parents to realize this. I have students who come to me with their problems who refuse to discuss some of our modern problems with their parents. It is a very difficult matter to change the convictions of our youth and many times it would be better for parents to at least be tolerant and fairminded rather than condemn.

From a New England college (Middlebury, Vt.) President Paul D. Moody replies with an unqualified "yes," and adds:

I distinguish between indifference and ignorance, however, for many parents are ignorant who are not indifferent, and their ignorance may be as troublesome as the indifference of others. The constantly changing state of education makes parental cooperation difficult, and as necessary as difficult.

Like Doctor Holland, President Bizzell (University of Oklahoma) attributes conditions to the changing state of society. The old state of things will not return, however, and in his fourth paragraph he suggests a remedy.

The enormous advance in science and invention has greatly changed the habits of the American people. Labor saving devices have decreased the burden of domestic life for women and the automobile has increased the mobility of both men and women. The apartment house and family hotel have taken the place of the

individual home in the case of thousands and increased the comforts and opportunity of leisure for many. Along with these many conveniences and the enormous increase in wealth and the distribution of income have come high standards of living and increased desire for leisure and comfort.

But, with this transformation in the habits and inclinations of our people have come a decrease in family responsibility and a decline in a sense of personal responsibility. The center of interest of fathers, mothers, and children is no longer in the home. There is no longer a family circle held together by sympathetic ties. The automobile has taken the place of the fireside. The picture show has become the modern substitute for the family library and the musical evening at home.

But, we are not to return to the old habits of living. We are fasci-

LEGAL MATTERS

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE. Having qualified as Executor of the last will and testament of the late Edward Simpson Miller, all persons having claims against the estate of the said deceased are hereby notified to present the same to the undersigned for allowance and payment within one year from this date, or this notice and the statute in such case made and provided will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This Dec. 18th, 1928. MELLIE C. MILLER, HARRY MILLER, EXRS. OF E. S. MILLER, DECEASED.

NOTICE OF SALE OF LAND BY MORTGAGEE. Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain mortgage deed, executed by Emma Belcher to the undersigned, Hayes Dockery, Mortgagee, to secure certain indebtedness therein mentioned, which mortgage deed is dated January 23rd, 1928, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Cherokee County, North Carolina, in Book No. 91, at page 476; and default having been made in the payment of said indebtedness as the same became due, and the default not having been made good, and the power of sale having become operative, I will, on Monday, February 4th, 1929, at 11 o'clock A. M., at the court house door in Murphy, Cherokee County, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder for cash, all the following described real estate, to-wit: A certain piece of or lot of land lying and being in Murphy Township, Cherokee County, North Carolina, and described as follows: Being Lot No. 11, Sec. No. 5, as shown on the map of the Duke Land and Improvement Company, as registered in Plat Book No. 1, at page 11, in the office of Register of Deeds for Cherokee County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a stake, Factory Town Street 300 feet to a stake in the right of way of the Southern Railroad; then a west direction with the right of way of the Southern Railroad 345 feet to the corner of Lot No. 10; then with the line of No. 10, 151 feet to the beginning. Being known as the R. H. Speed Lot, bought from the Duke Land and Improvement Company, which is registered in Deed Book No. 25, at page No. 252 and the Lot that Gibson bought from W. Christopher, by deed registered in Book 87 at page 85 in Book of Deeds in the office of the Register of Deeds for Cherokee County. The said sale being made to satisfy said indebtedness, interest and costs.

This the 1st day of January, 1929. HAYES DOCKERY, Mortgagee.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY. By virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain deed of trust executed by Charles

Wilhelm, Joseph Bradberry, Clyde E. Case and S. M. Stevens to Frank S. Hill Trustee on July 16th, 1926, which deed of trust is duly recorded in the office of Register of Deeds for Cherokee County in Book 95 at page 43 and hereinafter described, to said trustee to and hereinafter described, to said trustee to secure two certain notes dated July 10, 1926, each for \$4,576, and due one and two years after date respectively, default having been made in the payment of both said notes and the holder of same having requested said trustee to sell said lands pursuant to the terms and conditions of said deed of trust, the undersigned will, for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness, and other items on the FOURTH day of February, 1929, at ELEVEN o'clock A. M., at the Courthouse door in Murphy, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described tract or parcel of land, to-wit:

Being in Cherokee County, N. C. District five on waters of Cane Creek in Beaverton Township and beginning on a stake ten poles South 55 degrees 45 minutes east of Elbow Creek, formerly a blackum corner of 57, running thence South 55 degrees 45 minutes East 249 feet to a stake Northeast corner of 4819, then north and west 20 minutes East 1,000.9 feet cross middle of Elbow Creek at 1520 feet cross east prong of Elbow Creek at 2100 feet then South 14 degrees West 422.5 feet to a black oak the Northwest corner of 4805; then South 66 degrees East 254.5 feet to a chestnut on point of ridge above Buckberry branch 26 minutes West 802.8 feet to a stake, then North 2 degrees 15 minutes East 997.7 feet to a stake; then North 69 degrees 45 minutes East 1271.7 feet to a stake from which a black gum 10 inches in diameter bears South 26 degrees East 27.8 feet to a red oak 22 inches in diameter, bears North 23 degrees 26 minutes West 37.8 feet; then South 84 degrees 50 minutes East 1269.8 feet to a Spanish oak on a ridge; then South 13 degrees 31 minutes West 1725.7 feet to a chestnut, pointers small persimmon and two chestnuts, then South 4 degrees 20 minutes West 312 feet to a stake on point of ridge, then South 11 degrees 5 minutes East 2286.2 feet to a stake, then South 2 degrees W. 550 feet to a Spanish oak on top of ridge, then South 7 degrees West 1090 feet to a stone marked 154, supposed corner of 154 and beginning corner of farm, then North 84 degrees 30 minutes East 980.7 feet to a stake, on line of 522 and conditional line between S. W. Evans and J. P. Brown estate, then with conditional line between S. W. Evans and J. P. Brown estate North 37 degrees 45 minutes East 1131.5 feet to a stake and stone on top of ridge, cross Gann's Cove Creek (Evans) at 250 feet then 26 degrees 5 minutes East 1645.6 feet to a stone and black jack in the line of 225 then with line of 236 South 80 degrees West 267 feet to a stake, corner of said number and in line of 522, then with that line North 9 degrees 15 minutes West 927 feet to a pine corner of No. 522, then with the line of 522 South 80 degrees 20 minutes West 1229 feet to a white oak in said line and corner of 4812; then with line of said No. 4812 North 4 degrees (four degrees) 20 minutes East 1794 feet to a chestnut oak, corner of 4812, then continuing with the line of 4812, North 54 degrees 25 minutes East 4782 feet to a stake on the east side of Cane Creek, pointers a large maple and a red oak, then North 54 degrees East 595 feet to the Southeast corner of 722; then North 10 degrees 45 minutes West 1970.5 (nineteen hundred seventy five tenths) feet to Northeast corner of 7772, then South 80 degrees West 1316.8 feet to a stake and stone N. W. corner of 524, then South 29 degrees 15 minutes West 1518.8 feet to beginning—containing seventeen hundred six and three fourths acres, more or less.

The above lands being the same as those conveyed by Mary H. Brown and Mary H. Brown Administratrix to Charles Wilhelm, Joseph Bradberry, Clyde E. Case and S. M. Stevens in July, 1926, deed to which is duly recorded in the office of Register of Deeds for Cherokee County in Deed Book 96 at page 463 et seq. reference being here made to said deed and prior conveyances for complete, full and accurate description of said lands. This January 2nd, 1929. FRANK S. HILL, Trustee.

Newest of the new five months ago - and newest of the new today! COUPES . . . \$1195 to \$1875 SEDANS . . . \$1220 to \$2145 SPORT CARS . \$1225 to \$1550 These prices f. o. b. Buick Factory. Convenient terms can be arranged on the liberal G. M. A. C. Time Payment Plan. The New BUICK SESSOMS MOTOR COMPANY ANDREWS, NORTH CAROLINA