

THE NEGRO AND THE NORTHERN CLIMATE

By Rev. J. M. Boddy, M. D.

Stand on any river bank, and you will see here and there bubbles of air coming to the surface from beneath the stream. These air bubbles are not visible to the naked eye; but you see the disturbance of the surface of the water which this gas has made.

The real cause of the bubbles is the decaying or disintegrating of some organic substance, which may have been deposited in the stream from some sewer discharge, or, perhaps, from some limb or leaf of a tree. Gas seems to be everywhere: in the air, on the ground, in the water; and in greater abundance in the pulpit, in the newspapers and magazines. They pipe it out from Boston. Coming from there puts a scientific smell to it. Its effect is not deadly and its odor is rather pleasant to the Schneiderian membrane of our olfactory apparatus. We like to smell it.

Piped from Boston (the New England Textile Mills), or from the several cotton exchanges; it is liberated, like the gas that comes from the sewer decomposition in the river, and it acts just like the scare-crow which the farmer puts up in the corn field to scare the crows away. The gas scares and convinces Negro ministers, school teachers and Negro business men, and Negro farmers, all through the South, like a haunted house that stands in a very dark place in a Georgia graveyard, or on a moon light night. Its effect is marvelous. This season the liberation of this gas will help the cotton belt to produce 16,000,000 bales of white cotton bales. You know all plant life must have gas to make it grow. (Without nitrogen gas plants will not grow.)

The black man-power of the South, which swings the hoe and chops the cotton, keeps the New England textile workers in good jobs; clothes the nation, supplies to the surgeons and drug stores of the nation bandages; helps to make the trunks and suit cases of the traveler; ammunition used by our War and Navy Departments; cottons, which has almost driven hog lard from the kitchen; an oil which is used as a nutritious substitute for olive oil, etc., etc. So that the Negro down South, being engaged in the great industry, can better grow and develop in the South, and become prosperous because the South is his natural home. And he can not live and survive in a cold Northern climate. The Northern winters are too severe on us; we can not stand the cold.

But this good old pipe leaks somewhere; as the "haunts" are not on the job. Of course, you have read the book written by Mr. Matthew Henson, entitled "A Negro Explorer at The North Pole"; of course, you have seen in the "National Geographic Magazine," for April, 1920, the article by Donald McMillan. It tells about the time when Perry and a lot of white gentlemen went to "look up" the North Pole and in that memorable expedition was one lone Negro, Matthew Henson. When they got as far up North as they could get, on a shipboard, they hopped out on the ice and went on and on and on, with the thermometer registering from 56 to 60 degrees below zero. Then when Perry arrived at the point where he was to make the last dash for the North Pole, he looked the nine white men over and found that none of the white gentlemen possessed the stamina to stand the "gaff" of that memorable "dash," and he (Perry) found that the Negro, Henson, possessed the stamina, vigor and endurance qualities which the white men with frozen feet, frozen toes, and frozen hands did not possess. Up to this point Hen-

son had stood the rigors of this journey better than the white men; Henson was chosen, and he, with Perry, went to the Pole. Perry is now dead. This leaves Matthew Henson as the only (living) civilized human being on earth who has ever stood on the top of the world.

This concrete example scares the "haunts" away from any graveyard, proving the point that the Negro can stand the rigors of a cold Northern climate equally as well and better than the white man. So that the natural home of the Negro is neither in the North nor in the South; but anywhere he can improve his economic, religious, moral and educational and civic condition; anywhere between the equator and the North Pole.

"As in Adam, all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive." In the processes of or act of salvation, therefore, there is no difference between the white man and the black man.

What are some of the factors that enable the Negro to stand the cold Northern climate as well as the white man?

The first element is gas. The Negro must have plenty of gas. It keeps him alive; helps to build up his system in the processes that go on day and night, which biology calls "metabolism and "katabalism" of the human economy.

If Lake Itasca in Minnesota, is of a higher altitude than the Gulf of Mexico into which it empties 3,000 miles away, then the people dwelling in a Northern climate use more gas to supply combustion in the system. The colored people in the Northern climate are never jailed for using an abundance of this fuel, that helps to keep them warm. The name of this gas is oxygen, which is in the atmosphere or air that we breathe. This cold air is taken into our system through breathing. Then it is carried by the blood stream to all the muscles and tissues of the body, and there it combines with other elements in the blood, producing combustion. Chemists tell us combustion produces heat. This heat is conserved in the body and helps to keep us warm.

Another source of heat to the Negro in the cold climate of the North is the very cold air or atmosphere, the great fuel reserve. The cold air acts as an astringent to the dermis. This drives the blood from the exterior surface of the body to the heart. The heart receiving the more abundance of blood must get rid of it; hence the heart's diastolic and systolic action is accelerated. The blood thus being driven from the heart into systemic circulation, must come in contact with the vessel walls (veins and arteries). This causes friction. The science of physics or natural philosophy says friction produces heat. Again this heat is conserved in the system to help keep you warm.

A third heat-producing factor in the Negro in the Northern climate enabling him to stand the cold just as good as the white man are muscular contraction and relaxation. The muscles that are on the job are the external and internal intercostal muscles, which we use in the process of gathering fuel from the air (breathing). Associated with these rib muscles are the great diaphragmatic, lorengial, face and abdominal muscles. Their action is constantly producing heat.

The chemical combustion of food in the stomach and "tractus intestinalis" is a very great source of internal heat. The liver, kidneys, spleen, pancreas and other glandular tissue which elaborate an internal secretion likewise produces heat.

Finally, recent researches in the science of biology gives us the information that there are centers in the brain, in the thermolytic, the thermogenic and thermotaxic centers which are concerned in the production, regulation and distribution, and keeping uniform the temperature of the body.

With these great heat-producing factors present in the body, together with suitable clothing to conserve this animal or body heat, the Southern Negro can live, thrive and become prosperous in the cold wintry climate of the North. The Southern Negroes' so called vital resistance is second to none. It is time for us, as Negroes, to think and investigate these things for ourselves and come to our own conclusions, regardless of what our dear white friends say who dial out to us the dope, "The South is the natural home for the Negro; the Northern climate is too severe on him."

8600 NEGROES IN COLLEGES LAST YEAR

New York, August 14.—According to an article in the Aug. "Crisis," more than 8600 Negro students were enrolled last year in American colleges and universities, over 7000 of this number being in Negro colleges, and 1600 in white institutions. The former conferred degrees on more than 1000 students, 33 of whom received the degree of Master of Arts, 519 that of Bachelor of Arts, and 173 that of Bachelor of Science. There were 100 graduates in medicine, 72 in dentistry, 33 in pharmacy, 37 in law, and 47 in theology. In addition, the big Northern universities conferred degrees on about three hundred Negro students. Several received the degree of Ph. D., and a number were elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa. The number graduating last year was about three times as great as that of five years ago.

Among the M. A. graduates at Harvard was Countee Cullen, the young Negro poet who last year won the Witter Bynner Poetry prize in a national competition open to all college students.

WHOLESOME RACE PRIDE NEEDED

By Rev. A. L. Scott in Southwestern Christian Advocate.

In the education of all races, room must be made for teaching its noble traditions, for fostering its historic pride. The Negro child ought to know very thoroughly the history of its race from 1619 to 1926. All that the Negro has done for this country; the part that Crispus Attucks, Peter Salem, and a long list of others played in the initial hours of this country's life and development of the South; how also in the perplexing days of the Civil War the Negro's loyalty and true illustrious manhood both to master and country stood out like a beacon, and will continue to stand as long as men love the heroic and the good.

The Negro child should be carefully taught how much progress the race has made in every sphere of human activity, and under what circumstances it has been made; the honored names of its members who have contributed so much to find the instinct that nature has planted in the race—its genuine, warm religiousness, its love of music. Every member of our race ought to be made to feel from earliest childhood, as against every misrepresentation of caricature and gossip, that there is something in the Negro type that is worth preserving, that will repay unfolding. We have a right and a duty to confront the injustice of prejudice with the legitimate possessions of a strengthened loyalty.

FEE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE GETS LABORATORY, LIBRARY AND COTTAGE

Due to the new requirements of the schools of Kentucky and other States, Fee Memorial Institute has joined ranks with the progressives. Long before our term ended last season our list of applicants had gone beyond our power to accommodate them. Much concerned were we to find some way of avoiding to say no to such a splendid set of girls and young women. Our Board trying to stem the tide of a great deficit, frankly told us that we would have to wait until the time was ripe to give us a real dormitory. However, knowing the need of a well-equipped normal school in the great State of Kentucky, they gave us a laboratory and a library both of which are now being installed. But this did not solve the problem of housing the student body which is increasing by leaps and bounds. We needed a refectory as badly as we needed a dormitory. We put our wits together, went to the local people and told them what a great asset our plant was to the community, having spent \$22,000 in the vicinity during the two and a half years it has been in their midst. Our plea was telling. Our local people told us to go ahead with our plan of having erected a cottage and they would assist us in paying for it. We went to the contractors and they agreed to erect the cottage for us and take small payments as they come in. There is no limit as to the time we have to cancel the debt but donations are entering the hands of the contractors daily. Our cottage is being erected containing a refectory, a science room, a model kitchen, a regular kitchen and a store house. The cost of the cottage is about \$2,000. After the new dormitory is erected we hope to turn this cottage into a home for a man and wife who will teach with us, (and by the way the man has been secured and hopes to leave J. C. S. U. next commencement to take up work with us.) By the erection of this cottage we are enabled to care for fifteen additional girls.

Our teaching force this year is of the highest type. Our aim is to have a school surpassed by none. Our list of teachers is as follows:

Principal, H. W. McNair, J. C. Smith University.

Preceptress and Treasurer, Mrs. H. W. McNair, Brainerd Institute and Ingleside Seminary.

Department of Science, Mathematics, History, Latin and Greek, Miss Hollie Winkfield, Chandler Normal and Kentucky Normal and Industrial Institute.

Bible and Biblical History, Rev. R. L. Hyde, Alabama Normal.

Department of Domestic Science, Dressmaking, Grammar and Domestic Arts, Miss T. L. Kinchlow, Tennessee State Normal.

Matron and Home Department, Miss Lucy F. Caliman, Cincinnati Public Schools.

Principal of Primary Department, Miss Carrie A. Pullen, Tennessee State Normal and University of Cincinnati.

Instrumental and Vocal Music, Voice Culture, Mrs. W. L. Johnson, Fisk University.

Assistant Domestic teacher, Mrs. R. L. Hyde.

Secretary and Bookkeeper and Librarian, Miss Rosa Ann Graves, Fee Memorial Institute, 1926.

Janitor and keeper of grounds, Mr. Andrew Bosley.

Fee hopes to start a publication with the beginning of the term, September 16th, and as we have one well versed in printing and engraving we call ourselves fortunate. A good friend has promised to bear most of the expense of the journal. It is to appear twice per month and will keep our friends posted as to

our progress out in these parts. The city is extending the east end of Maple Avenue so as to take in our most beautiful campus consisting of about fourteen acres. We are at the extreme end of the avenue. They are now just in front of our campus and we are not afraid to say there is no school under our Board that will surpass ours in beauty.

We are now preparing the list of those whom we hope to have with us in our dedication. Our aim is to have every President of our leading institutions in the South, (and Dr. McCoy, of course, of the Board of National Missions.) Also we have already asked Dr. Gaston to have the Workers' Conference meet with us in the near future.

Mrs. McNair has just returned from the School of Methods which met in Anniston, and reports the best Conference she has ever attended and says that she has already started preparing for the next one.

When passing this way, brethren and sisters, don't fail to stop. Our latchstring is more prominently on the outside than ever.

H. W. McNair,
Fee Memorial Institute,
Nicholasville, Ky.

CRISIS PUBLISHES FIRST ARTICLE IN SURVEY OF NEGRO EDUCATION

New York, Aug. 20.—The September Number of the Crisis magazine, published today, contains the first article in the survey of Negro common schools undertaken in virtue of an appropriation of \$5,000 for this purpose by the American Fund for Public Service, known as the Garland Fund. The first article, which covers the state of Georgia, shows that the average amount expended yearly on each white child in the State is \$4.59. Although Negro children form 43 per cent of the children of school age only nine per cent of the educational funds are spent on them and 91 per cent on the white children.

The survey contains a history of education for Negroes in Georgia, a summary of school laws affecting colored children, and tabulations of attendance, expenditures, value of school property, libraries, etc.

It is shown that there are 115 libraries for colored schools as against 1417 for white, and that the white libraries contained 269,128 books as against 12,188 books in the colored.

Conditions as shown in 75 counties investigated by the Crisis, are typified by the following:

"Berrien County: The schools in this county for colored are taught mainly in old churches with no equipment other than a stove, benches and a few feet of home-made blackboard.

"Ben Hill County: Cowokee, in this county, used as a school a dilapidated wooden building which was formerly a church. There is one room, one teacher and the school runs for four months. The enrollment is 35, the attendance good. The salary of the teacher is \$25 a month. The school at Fitzgerald is held in a frame building which is in a very dangerous condition being nearly ready to fall. There are 7 rooms and 6 teachers. The term is nine months and the enrollment is 400. The principal's salary is \$50 a month and the teachers receive \$40. The school at Union is held in a frame building with no windows, no lights and the school benches have no backs. There is one room. The term is four months and the teacher's salary varies from \$20 to \$30 a month.

According to the official report of the Commissioner of Education in Georgia, the Negro schools in this county are deplorable and should be improved in some way."

In Atlanta, it is reported,

URBAN LEAGUE REPORTS ON INDUSTRY FOR JULY

Bulletin No. 5 of the Industrial Relations Department of the National Urban League summarizes employment conditions throughout the country as follows:

Reports covering a wide area tell of two outstanding developments among Negroes during July. One is the unusual demand for workers in the building trades; and the other the large number of laborers added to municipal payrolls. Chicago reported a shortage of masons and brickmasons and in several North Carolina cities the demand was so urgent that Negro artisans found employment where it had been denied regularly. In Baltimore and Lexington, Kentucky, colored contractors used more than the customary number of men and in Albany, Georgia, whose building program is the largest in the State, save Atlanta's and Savannah's, it is estimated that more than half of the skilled and unskilled tasks were performed by Negroes.

Prominent among the cities which showed gains in municipal employment is Detroit, where, because of additions during July, there are upwards of 2,000 Negroes paving and improving streets and collecting garbage. Tulsa added to its Negro employes in the water and street departments and Jersey City added Negroes to its street-paving gangs. In San Antonio colored janitors and matrons went to work in the new million dollar city auditorium.

Other noteworthy instances were reported from the following cities:

Basing—The New Old Hotel, finding its white waiters unsatisfactory, employed colored waiters. To supply the required number a force was brought in from neighboring cities.

Kansas City, Mo.—Hod carriers and building laborers, of whom ninety per cent are colored, have been idle during the carpenters' strike. The local union to which these men belong has one of the largest colored memberships in the country.

Pine Bluff, Ark.—In the new Nash automobile body plant 49 Negroes went to work at unskilled operations.

Los Angeles—The industrial problems of the city's large Negro population attracted much attention during July. The Council on Social Agencies ordered a city-wide survey of industry among Negroes.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Here, too, the rapidly increasing Negro population was discussed and a survey of the working and living conditions was considered.

Milwaukee—There was a decided movement into this city from Chicago and other points in the middle west. Twenty-five families are known to have entered the city in two weeks from the State of Iowa. During the month three foundries, employing 326 Negroes, shut down temporarily and the packing industry cut down to an average of three and a half days a week.

Cleveland—For the first time a rapid transit company gave employment to colored men as track workers.

Brooklyn—Two companies reported dissatisfaction with the colored help because of irregularity in attendance and threatened to change to white workers. A group of dependable colored workers replaced the inefficient ones in one of the factories, and for the time being the threatened change has been averted.

Chicago—A silk hosiery company offered positions to ten and to train them in salesmanship in the company's school.

One of the fine things about modern business is that sellers are trying to help people to buy right.

(Continued on page 4)