

NEW EDITION OF THE TOWER OF BABEL IN LONDON

By ED L. KEEN.

(London Correspondent of the United Press.

London, May 12.—A revised, up-to-date edition of the Tower of Babel is nearing completion in London. But the confusion of tongues which wrought havoc to this time be prevented by modern ingenuity. Although 14 languages will be spoken in the huge steel and corrugated iron auditorium now being erected on "Aldwych Island" in the Strand, polyglot interpreters and telephone will enable all to understand what is going on.

For two weeks beginning June 12, this building will be the meeting place of 5,000 delegates assembled from all the civilized—and a number of the uncivilized—countries of the globe for the decennial International Congress of the Salvation Army, and then will be torn down. Unable to procure a satisfactory hall elsewhere, Gen. Booth leased the Aldwych site from the London County Council for a temporary structure. The proceedings will be in English, but there will be on the platform interpreters who will transmit simultaneously to the foreign delegates, each in his own tongue, the remarks of all the speakers. The non-English speaking delegates, grouped in various parts of the hall, will each be provided with an earpiece connected with a miniature telephone transmitter in the hands of his particular interpreter.

Gen. Booth predicts that this congress will be the greatest as well as the most picturesque religious gathering in the world's history. The enormous spread of the Salvation Army in the past ten years will be illustrated by various characters of delegates from the representative corners of the earth will appear in their native costumes, under their own flags and banners. Among them will be converted Chinese "devil-dancers" had a dozen Dom girls, a band of boys saved by the Army from starvation in the famine stricken districts of India; and a number of professional criminals whose reclamation was officially entrusted to Commissioner Booth-Tucker by the Indian government. Korea, which is among the countries untouched by the Salvation Army a decade ago, will be represented by three highly educated native officers. Commissioner Hodder, formerly a barkeep in a London dive, now head of the Army in Japan, is bringing a noble delegation from the island of Zululand, and members of other dark-skinned tribes of South Africa will fraternize with Maris from New Zealand and Red Skins from British Columbia. Three thousand delegates will represent the British Isles, while of the 2,000 foreigners 500 are coming from the United States, personally conducted by Commander Eva Booth, and a number from Canada, under command of Commissioner Rees.

The congress will be formally opened by Gen. Booth at a monster mass meeting on June 11 in the Royal Albert Hall, seating 10,000 persons—all subsequent business meetings to be held in the Aldwych "Tower of Babel"—and will be closed with a farewell demonstration in the Albert Hall on the 28th. Interspersed will be numerous processions and district meetings in various parts of London. To the music of 150 brass bands comprising 3,000 members, the Salvationists will march on the 13th from the Embankment to Hyde Park, where speakers will address the throng from 12 platforms. Sunday the 21st will be "American Day." It is expected that 15,000 soldiers of the Army, from all over the United Kingdom, in addition to the regular delegates, will participate in the big review to be conducted at Crystal Palace by Gen. and Mrs. Booth on the 23rd.

The suffragettes have still another grievance against the British government. They have just discovered that there are three persons who may go round smashing plate-glass windows in the city of London with impunity, and without fears of Holloway or forcible feeding—so long as they confine their attentions to the foreign made product—and that these three are men. The charter of one of the ancient city guilds known as the Glass Sellers' Company, only few of whose members are now actually engaged in the glass business, contains a provision authorizing the master of the company and his two wardens to destroy foreign glass wherever they may find it, and the charter has never been revoked or amended.

Charles II chartered the company in 1664. History doesn't record whether the original officers of the company ever took advantage of this seventeenth century idea of protection, but William Dallas Ross, the present master, holds that he would be legally immune from arrest should he take a notion to put it into effect today.

The Ulster Volunteer Army is suffering from a plague of pajamas. When Sir Edward Carson began organizing his anti-Home Rule forces he was besieged by Ulster women with offers of assistance. "What can we do? What do you need most?" they asked. "Pajamas," replied Carson. They got busy at once and soon pajamas began pouring into Belfast headquarters by the dozens, next by the hundred, and then by the thousand. Sewing circles were organized all over the province. Before long the storerooms at headquarters were packed to overflowing and additional rooms had to be secured. In vain Carson tried to stem the pajama flood. Still they came. The latest census shows that two pairs have been provided for every one of the 100,000 volunteers.

DEATH OF REV. W. A. HARRIS. Manchester, Ga., May 12.—The Rev. W. A. Harris, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, of this place, and a brother-in-law of Mrs. Corra Harris, author of "The Circuit Rider's Wife," and other well-known books, died at College Park Saturday. His sister-in-law and other members of his family were at the bedside. He was buried at Rockmont, Ga., yesterday.

Standardizing The Child--Work Of Dr. Stiles at Wilmington

(By T. P. NASH, JR., in Technical World Magazine.)

"I wanted five thousand human guinea pigs, and I got them!" This, I admit, is an astonishing introduction to the unique experiment which the Federal government has undertaken, to determine the average physical and mental endowment of Southern children.

Who have guinea pigs to do with an endeavor to measure, for the first time, the peculiar influences which shape the life and growth of the boys and girls of the Southland; to find a proper standard for intelligent methods of correction and cultivation and advancement among them?

"Human guinea pigs?" you exclaim with horror. Guinea pigs involuntarily suggest vivisection. And human vivisection—really, that is a barbarous project.

But the Government is back of the "barbarous project," and Doctor C. W. Stiles, Professor of Zoology of the United States Public Health Service, is its investigator.

While the government's representative is smiling at your horror, and filling his pipe, let us take a quick inventory. A glance at the small office-laboratory and the several assistants busy over their microscopes is reassuring. Nor can we associate motives of human vivisection with the man on the other side of the desk, whom the world knows as the man who was carried a conviction of conscious purpose and resource. The most likely reason that Doctor Stiles got five thousand human guinea pigs, we surmise, is because he wanted them. Nor is it a matter for large wonder, we agree, that the United States Public Health Service should permit him to try out under its patronage an educational experiment of his own invention.

But the pipe is going well, and the Doctor is tilted back comfortably in his chair.

Five thousand human guinea pigs—that's how the thing began. In a measure, of course, the hookworm crusade is related to—even responsible for—the present investigation. Although experiences in different southern states clearly show the enormous damage that can easily be brought about in backward children, no one can yet measure that improvement in terms of the average southern child. No standard of comparison exists by which results found may be checked. Medical examination in the schools of the South is not far advanced. Even where it has been provided, the tests and standards and methods have been those developed in a different locality and under different conditions.

Obviously, there had to be a home-bred standard. So Doctor Stiles resolved to set about finding one. He wanted, for his purpose, one entire county with five thousand school children. And he wanted no restraint in his research.

The Public Health Bureau gave him permission to undertake the work. Several tests led to the selection of Wilmington, North Carolina, for the testing ground, the most important being the fact that the location and the influences arising from the location are fairly typical of the entire south. Another important consideration, also, was the location in Wilmington of a United States Marine Hospital, which afforded facilities and organization for beginning the work immediately. New Hanover county, with approximately five thousand children in its schools, wanted medical inspection and as the money was not immediately available for it, the authorities were glad to meet the investigators more than halfway in a spirit of cooperation.

Theoretically, normal physical quality is necessary to average mentality. If the average school child in certain southern districts is below the physical standard of the children in other sections, how does he correspond mentally? And if he does not measure up mentally, what are the causes of the backward physical condition, and how may the causes be remedied? These are the questions which Doctor Stiles and his experts hope to answer.

Naturally, therefore, the work falls into two classes: the physical, or strictly medical part; and the mental part.

tents, but after the first few days it was found that more room was needed than was available, and throughout appointments for examination a month ahead.

In all cases the usual physical tests are applied to the respiratory, circulatory, and digestive organs, and to the nervous system. As a complement to this actual physical examination by professional assistants, each pupil in the city schools at the beginning of the year was given a list of fifty-seven questions.

Answers to these questions constitute a bill of family statistics of individual health and habits. "Take as an illustration of the general character and purpose of these questions, the following: "Have you ever had a cough?" "Have you ever had the hookworm treatment?" "Have you plumb-

ing in your home?" Now, I dare say, not one parent in ten sees any relation between these questions. But ground itch is the first stage of the hookworm disease, and unless the person subsequently receives treatment, the chances are that the disease will progress to a flourishing state in his system. It is known that the surface outhouse is the main source of hookworm infection; and the investigators expect to find that the majority of children who have had ground itch are from homes without plumbing. Hookworm is a cause of the south's backwardness. No one so afflicted can have energy and ambition.

The south's educational problem is, therefore, to a considerable degree, a problem of sanitation. "Swat the fly" has become, as elsewhere, a familiar slogan—so familiar, in truth, that its importance is neglected in the south. It has been almost impossible heretofore to acquire lasting interest in the subject. Southern people have been accustomed to the fly and its breeding place—the outhouse—for generations.

One of the fortunate developments of recent sanitary work is the discovery of just such a startling means of appeal to public sentiment. One discovery in connection with the sanitary work has furnished evidence for a fresh indictment of the fly, and marks a starting point for the investigators. A test showing conclusively whether a person has eaten food contaminated by human excreta has now been made in various parts of the country, and Doctor Stiles has at his disposal data from as far north as northern New York, as far south as southern Alabama, as far east as Baltimore, and as far west as San Francisco.

The method of demonstration is both easy and practicable, and depends on the presence of certain protozoa in the human intestine. The stage of each form of these protozoa outside the body is a spore. The spores enter the body only through the mouth; and, although there are several ways in which the infection may come about, it seems quite clear, both from experiment and circumstantial evidence, that the most prolific danger is in transmission by the fly. In the examination of one hundred and eighty-seven unselected persons, chiefly city children in a certain southern county, twenty-three per cent were found to have eaten food contaminated in the manner already stated. The percentage of infection was ten higher for those living in houses without any plumbing than for those living in houses connected with a sewer.

When the fact is known that those with sewerage were still not entirely immune, on account of the proximity of surface outhouses, the difference is even more startling. Two hundred and ninety-three flies were caught in a Hodge fly trap placed in one of these outhouses for twenty-four hours, and during the same twenty-four hours 175 flies were caught in a fly trap placed in a kitchen forty feet away.

Many a southern farmer is perfectly willing to ignore the common pleas for better sanitation, but a personal letter to him saying that John or Sally has eaten something worse than poison has been found a means to startle the most indifferent father into action.

The second portion of the work, that is, the mental tests, is taken up largely during the winter months when the experts can take advantage of the school organization. Although only tests which are standard and authoritative have been selected, many of them have never before been used in public schools. They have been devised especially for the study of backward children.

In no sense can the tests be called difficult. They are, in fact, the same for children of all ages. Their purpose is to show the quality of the mind as it now is, and what it may ultimately be capable of. To illustrate, a child of ten may show greater mental possibilities than a child of fifteen. The series of tests for the two children is the same; the difference is in the quality of their minds, that is their quickness in mental reaction, is measured by the stop watch. Children are expected to vary in their responsiveness to the reactions in these tests, according to their ages; a dif-

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ference of three months in age being sufficient to reveal different reactions. Each child is handled by thirteen assistants, and is subjected to thirty-two tests. Similar tests are so distributed that there is a successive variety. Whenever the time elements enters, as when the child is required to subtract nine from one hundred until one is reached; or to name opposites to a list of familiar words; or to fit variously shaped blocks into their proper holes in a board, the time is noted by stop watch to the fractional part of a second. Where child's attentiveness, or retentiveness, or accuracy of observation, an account is made of the number of trials and mistakes. Many of the older children regard an invitation to "play blocks" as a joke, but some of the seniors are later chagrined to find that they have not been able to perform as creditably as some of the freshmen have with the little Samsams which form the test.

The broad basis of classification in the examinations, as I have indicated, is the age of the children. Each day this winter they have been testing mentally four groups: those whose birthday is; and those whose birthday is three months, six months or nine months ahead. Thus they will have examined in three months' time all the children in the schools.

Every one of the five thousand "human guinea pigs" will eventually receive an average of five hours' attention. It will take two years to make all the tests planned. This year they are working in the city and country schools for whites. Next year the schools for negroes will have their turn.

Finally, all these statistics, mental and physical, will be worked together into tables which will show an average, abstract figure for a large number of children grouped by age. There will be a group figure for the children ten years old, another for children of ten and one-half, and a fourth for children ten years and nine months old. All the children from six to eighteen years old will be thus standardized.

Aside from the bearing the statistics may have on the main inquiry, the possibilities for combinations among them and for more or less incidental comparisons will be almost infinite. By the simple device of listing children, with a proper plumbing system in their homes in links of different color, we shall have a direct comparison of the health and mental condition of the two classes; city and country children may be balanced against each other, in the same way; and whites and negroes may be contrasted.

One of the by-products of the investigation will be the standardization of the tests used for immigrants. If an average school child of ten can perform an experiment in the same time that it takes an illiterate immigrant child of twelve years, it will be shown that the school child of twelve years is mentally two years ahead of the immigrant child of the same age. And these are but a few of the interesting deductions we may anticipate.

From these experiments all present indications are that the conclusions will be: First, some of the south's children will be shown to equal any northern children found; second, backwardness in many cases will be shown to be from the same causes that retard the physical and the mental development of northern children; third, the backwardness of some of the south's other children will be definitely proved as due to causes quite distinct from those operating in the north, but to causes that, it is hoped, are easily remediable, in particular, the hookworm.

Five years after the present investigation is finished, the work will be exactly repeated in Wilmington. The investigators will compare the average child of that period with the average child of the present. It then will be seen what has been accomplished for those children whose parents have ta-

ken an interest in the prevention and cure of ground itch and hookworm. And we shall look with genuine interest to see what effect improved sanitation has had upon the general average of health and mentality.

The results obtained here will doubtless have a bearing on future educational processes in the south. In any event, Doctor Stiles and his staff will endeavor to give to the south a standardization of its children, from the physical and mental points of view, and a basis for comparison in future educational work.

SUPPRESSING THE DRUG HABIT.

(Memphis Commercial-Appeal.)

A vigorous crusade against the illegal traffic in habit-forming drugs is being steadily waged. The entire country seems at last to realize the great danger to future generations. Alarming disclosures have been made, some so revolting in detail that they can scarcely be discussed in print.

Philadelphia and Brooklyn have been the most afflicted cities so far discovered. In Philadelphia it became necessary to close a school on account of the extensive use of drugs among the children.

The man or woman who will deliberately sell cocaine or morphine to a child is entitled to the extreme penalty of the law. They are guilty of a crime worse than murder. The child does not appreciate the danger of the drug, and even after the habit is formed and the nervous system undermined, few can explain the cause. The mere fact of a boy of seven years of age being held in a strait jacket while his nerves were being brought to a normal condition is but one pitiful illustration of how the curse is showing itself in the larger cities.

There is no more contemptible violation of the law than this illegal traffic in drugs. It caters to the lowest human instincts and wrecks the lives of those who come within its influence. In Tennessee it is pleasing to note that a determined warfare is being conducted by the state, county and city boards of health. The sale cannot be entirely destroyed. The severest legislation cannot accomplish this, but it can and will be restricted. The use and sale of "dope" must be discontinued if the future of the race is to prosper. The country is filled with helpless and hopeless drug-ridden victims. They seem doomed. They are helpless to help themselves and there does not seem to be any disposition to help them.

It is probably useless to work with the veteran victim, but those who have but recently acquired the drug habit can and should be saved before it is too late.

The men who traffic with youthful victims should suffer the severest punishment and the man who sells to a child should be sent to the penitentiary for life, or to the gallows, for hanging is really too good for a wretch so low and so vicious. Every civilized state stringently prohibits the unregulated sale of opium, morphine, cocaine and other harmful drugs, but such laws will not execute themselves. Eternal vigilance is required to check the activities of those who, for a paltry profit, are ready to prey upon the depraved appetite of helpless drug fiends.

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