

Home May Determine Movie Influence On Children Says Dewey

Blame which is heaped on movies for lowering moral standards of youth may, in part, properly be directed towards parents and home life, suggests Dr. John Dewey, dean of American educators, writing in the current Rotarian Magazine. While "recent investigations, conducted with scientific care, have shown that many boys and girls have been stimulated in unwholesome ways by the movies," he points out that "the influence of movies upon children is fixed by the general tone and level of the child's surroundings."

"A boy or girl from a cramped environment that provides few outlets, reacts very differently from one in which the movie is not the main vent for romance, and for acquaintance with conditions very different from those that habitually surround him.

"The luxury of scenes depicted on the screen, the display of adventure and easy sex relations, inoculate a boy or girl living in narrow surroundings with all sorts of new ideas and desires. Their ambitions are directed into channels that contrast vividly with actual conditions of life.

"The things that a boy or a girl from a well-to-do and cultivated home would discount or take simply as a part of the show are for other children ideals to be realized and without special regard for the means of their attainment. The little moral at the close of the picture has no power compared with the force of desires that are excited."

One "healthy effect" of the depression seen by Dr. Dewey is "a more general questioning of the primacy of material values." With parents putting less stress on wealth, their example will become an important factor in forming more wholesome attitudes among children, wherewith to counteract any unwholesome suggestion motion picture leaves in the youthful mind. Schools also help in this but, Dr. Dewey declares, with the child in the schoolroom only five to six hours a day and much time devoted to routine work, the teacher's influence is secondary to that of parents, the home, and other factors.

Sixty pure bred Jersey calves were selected in Alamance county and entered in the annual calf show at Snow Camp on August 21.

Attractive Jury Rooms Lead to Better Jurors

(An editorial from The Rotarian Magazine)

A small group of New York business and professional men, spurred by the challenge of the gangster, are quietly bringing about a radical improvement in the administration of justice in America's metropolis. One of the group, Charles Larned Robinson, tells in the current Rotarian Magazine, how it was done.

Whereby formerly prospective jurors were herded into a room by surly attendants and compelled to wait for hours "thinking of unanswered correspondence and neglected business appointments," they now await their turn in a room where they sit in easy chairs, chat, smoke, or even keep in touch with their offices by telephone. And in one court, instead of calling 1,500 jurors, only 600—the number actually required—are impanelled. These and other changes, sponsored by interested laymen, have resulted in a saving of \$300,000 in three years, and the willing service of a high type of business and professional men as jurors.

Crime Begins at Home

(An editorial from The Rotarian Magazine)

Clarifying the channels of justice is important. So is "clamping down" on lawbreakers, especially such desperadoes as Dillinger. But such efforts do not eradicate crime, only the criminal. Jailing the lawbreaker or sending him to the electric chair disposes of him, but what is the net social gain if two restless youngsters immediately aspire to the underworld role he vacates?

Here, then, is the nubbin of which crime problem, notwithstanding the expediency and necessity of coping with existing crime.

Even a cursory glance at the picture reveals that youthful criminality is on the increase. The recent growth in the United States' annual thirteen-billion dollars crime bill is due not to the hardened criminal, whose ranks are thinning, but the youthful recruit. Statistics from England and Wales bear that out, for there forty-two per cent of the persons found guilty of indictable offenses in one year were under twenty-one years of age.

The psychologists and criminologists have charted the field, but

New Bank Law Has Teeth Like Shark Says Shephenson

Insuring bank deposits by the federal government is restoring public confidence in banks, declares Rome C. Shephenson, former president of the American Bankers Association, in the current Rotarian Magazine.

That plan was at first opposed by most American bankers who cited unhappy experiences of certain Western states. "But," writes Mr. Shephenson, "let me assert unequivocally that the men who drew up the federal plan profited by the mistakes of the guaranty failures and avoided them. The state funds went bankrupt because they not only permitted but also encouraged bad banking. None of the state laws had teeth in them. The federal law has teeth like a man-eating shark, and already has done some effective biting."

Noting that the "temporary" law insures deposits up to \$10,000 until July 1, 1935, when it probably will be displaced by "permanent" measure, Mr. Shephenson concludes "that the American public is not only possessed of sounder banks right now than ever before, but also is assured in the future an even better set of banks than it now has."

The Road to Optimism

General improvement in the automobile industry is having its reactions upon Washington. Almost without exception, the automotive manufacturers are reporting increased sales this year and with increased sales is coming increased revenue for the federal government; thus the automobile is taking the American public on tours over new highways of optimism.

It has been noted by observers at the National Capital that again the motor car industry is leading the way in business.

One newsworthy fact is that Walter P. Chrysler has just built his millionth Plymouth, setting a new all-time record. It was not until 1928 that Plymouth was launched. Its development is considered more remarkable because it was made during the lean depression years.

No other manufacturer ever manufactures his first million cars in building his million in six years. less than nine years. And the first million of all makes took from 1900 credit for the remarkable rise of to 1912 to construct. And yet Chrysler has made Plymouth a definite factor in the low price field by the American public is demanding

the safety afforded by all-steel bodies and hydraulic brakes and also the easy riding qualities attained through power engine mountings and individual frontwheel springs. Washington observers are impressed by the fact that no other car in the low-price field has all four of these advantages.

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