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A Country Girl's Creed.

By Flora Bullock.

I believe that the country is a better place for me to live than the city, because it is cleaner, quieter and more beautiful. I believe that I can find no nobler work than to use all the knowledge and skill I can obtain to make my country home a place of happiness for my family, and friends.

I believe that the community in which I live is a part of my home and that I should work earnestly with my neighbors to bring more helpfulness and joy into the community life.

I believe that God did not mean to shut me in a house away from the free air and sunshine. I believe that all the blessings of the great outdoors are intended for me. I believe that for me, too, it is an ennobling privilege to work with Nature—to care for the life-giving soil with my own hands, to sow the seed and help it grow. I believe that all my life I should plan to have some work that calls me every day into the open air.

I believe in learning to enjoy good books, good music and good pictures. But most of all I believe in reading in Nature's unwritten books the wonderful stories of plants and animals; in listening to the music of birds and insects, of wind and rain; in watching the ever-changing pictures of earth and sky. For I believe that God has given all these things to make my country home beautiful and dear to me.

Spread of Diphtheria

During September, October and November there were 3,379 cases of diphtheria reported to the State Board of Health. The number reported for the entire year of 1920 was 3,432. Inasmuch as so many of those people who have had diphtheria will carry the germs in their nose and throat for a considerable time, I feel that it is my duty to urge all parents to avail themselves of the protection for their children above six months afforded by the use of toxin-antitoxin.

About one per cent of the people in this county are diphtheria carriers. It is this group that spread the disease. This is done by the carriers carelessly coughing or sneezing in the faces of those near them, or by contaminating articles which they handle and thereby passing on infection to the unprotected. Children especially are exposed through the exchange of pencils, chewing gum, fruit, food, or the use of the common drinking cup.

When we come to think of it, it is a wonder that we do not have more sickness than we do, inasmuch as there is so great an exchange of spittle from one person to another.

The diphtheria season will last for several months yet, so it is hoped that those who have not given their children three treatments of toxin-antitoxin will do so. Remember that these treatments completely protect about 90 per cent of the children, but this protection does not come until three to six months after the injections have been given. If any people in this county desire to ask any questions about toxin-antitoxin, I will be very glad to answer them.

Yours very truly,
FRANK ROBERTS,
Quarantine Officer.

Voice Of The People

"THE SWORD OF WOODFIN."

The writer was one of the force of federals at Warm Springs in the fall of 1863, when Major John Woodfin at the head of a body of Confederate horsemen came charging down the French broad River road from the direction of the town of Marshall.

At the end of the bridge that spanned the river to the hotel on the opposite side of the river, Major Woodfin signalled with his sword for the cavalcade to halt. The next moment he fell from his horse dying instantly. The major's body was tenderly carried across the bridge and laid on the grass lawn in front of the hotel until his comrades came under a flag of truce and took the body away.

His sword which was a very handsome one, fell into the possession of a federal major, who I believe was for a time postmaster at Asheville, during reconstruction days.

About a year and a half later about the time of General Lee's and Johnston's surrender, the federal major (now a colonel) was with his regiment, fording one of the numerous crossings of the Watauga river between Johnson City, and Boone, N. C., when his horse fell over a large rock that was hidden by the muddy water and the pulsant colonel was totally submerged.

When he emerged, his (Major Woodfin's) sword had slipped from the scabbard and was left there. Whether it was ever found I am unable to say. But if any one of Major Woodfin's surviving friends or relatives, would like to know the local name of that ford, I have it in my papers and will cheerfully send it upon request.

I would also be glad to correspond with any Confederate who was with Major Woodfin in that affair or any who a few days later attacked us so audaciously at the mouth (near the Springs) of Spring Creek.

That was a fight to be remembered to the end of life for all participants on either side. Maj. Charles M. Roberts, the indomitable hero of numerous hard fought battles, was with the Confederates and perhaps in command. We lost our adjutant, Lieut. Crace, and a few men. The body of Lieut. Hiatt, C. S. A. was left on the field.

The gallant band of Confederates were to have been supported by Gen. R. B. Vance, with artillery and infantry in force, on the opposite side of the river but a mishap prevented the arranged co-operation and Major Roberts, finding himself alone in face of overwhelming numbers, was forced to fall back. If the original plan had not miscarried it would have been a great battle and Hot Springs would now be a historic site of one of the memorable battle grounds.

All were of the Western North Carolina mountain marksmen. Men of the same blood, some were brothers, cousins and neighbors. Both Vance and Roberts had blood relatives among the federals.

Such is civil war and let us hope that such may be forever impossible in the future. Since the war between the states, our sons and grand sons of North and South have stood shoulder to shoulder in common cause and ever increasing prestige.

Here's to eternal oblivion for all sectional prejudice between Americans—Asheville Citizen.
JOHN C. PICKENS,
Sawtelle, Calif. February 9, 1920.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

ADOPTED BY THE

State Board of Education

(Continued from last week.)

Demands of The Farm or Home

Section 2 of the compulsory school act provides that "immediate demands of the farm or home" in certain seasons of the year, in the several sections of the state shall constitute a legal excuse for temporary nonattendance, and the State Board of Education is authorized to formulate such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary to meet the provisions of this act. Since the conditions in different parts of the State are so unlike, the State Board of Education authorizes the county boards of education to excuse temporary nonattendance in any particular county where the agricultural conditions are such as to show a reasonable need for the services of the children, under the following conditions:

1. Where it is apparent that the demands of the farm are serious enough to require the immediate services of the child, and
2. Where it is apparent that sufficient assistance to meet these demands is not at hand and cannot be secured.
3. Where it is apparent that the demands of the home, due to sickness or other causes, are such as to call for the immediate assistance of any child, and
4. Where it is apparent that immediate assistance is not available in the home and cannot be secured.

A full report of each and every case coming under this section must be sent to the State Department of Education on blanks supplied by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, in order that the State Board of Education may determine to what extent this section of the law is appealed to.

There is no desire to work any hardships on any community. The object is to secure attendance first, and not to make the law so stringent as to work a hardship. It is well known that in the trucking season of the year the assistance of the older children in many cases is necessary. Moreover, at certain times during the cotton picking season the assistance of the children is necessary. In other sections of the State agricultural demands may be such as to make the assistance of the older children necessary. But it hardly can be said that the children under ten years of age can be of much assistance, either in the cases of farm or domestic needs.

In such seasons of the year it might be wise to open school earlier and close about 12 or 1 o'clock, thus permitting the pupils to attend school the first half of the day and to aid their parents the second half. This has been tried with success in certain districts and only a very few students are actually required in the home or in the fields during the school session.

Truancy

Truancy is here defined to mean absence from school on the part of the child without the consent of the parent. The school should cooperate in every way possible, with the parent to prevent or correct truancy, and the necessity for assuming this responsibility should be impressed upon the parent. It is particularly important to correct truancy in its early stages, because if not corrected there, it usually leads to serious forms of delinquency.

Any child who willfully absents himself from school for at least one day, is guilty of truancy, and it shall be the duty of the teacher to explain this law to the pupil and parent. Then if the child persists in willfully absenting himself from school, the teacher shall report the same to the attendance officer, whose duty it shall be to investigate the cause of his truancy and to notify the parent and the child that for the next offense reported by the teacher the child will be carried before the judge of the juvenile court, who has jurisdiction in the matter.

Other Unlawful Absences

Section 2 of the compulsory attendance act provides that any parent or guardian violating the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, that is, if any parent is the cause of the child's non-attendance by keeping said child at home or permitting the child to be employed in any way compared to section 5 of this act, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and the penalty is prescribed in section 2.

All absences due to the consent or indifference of the parents shall be considered unlawful absences. Such absences shall not be construed as truancy, but as violations of section 2 of the compulsory attendance law.

Parents who refuse to comply with the health regulations of a community, such as compulsory vaccination, thereby causing their children to be excluded from the school, are responsible for the non-attendance of their children and come within the provisions of section 2 of the compulsory school law.

Suspension From School

Whenever the conduct of any pupil in school is such as to make suspension advisable or necessary the teacher shall report the child, together with the causes for suspension, to the attendance officer, whose duty it shall be to investigate the matter, and if the child's conduct is such as to be a menace to the welfare of the school, and said attendance officer shall carry the child before the judge of the juvenile court, who has jurisdiction in the matter.

The teacher and parent should co-operate to save such child to the school, and the teacher should use great caution in handling such cases, for suspension should always be the last resort of a teacher. No child should be suspended unless it is evident that the welfare of the school is endangered by his presence. Moreover, teachers should not hesitate to reinstate a pupil if it is all evident that the child may be reclaimed, and a reinstatement should be allowed by the juvenile court as a part of the conditions of probation for the child.

Valeria Wilson Treadway.

Another friend of ours has outstripped us and has entered into rest, while we on Little Pine Creek are left to mourn her loss, tho we can't but rejoice in what we know is her gain.

Valeria Jane Wilson was born November 3, 1903, to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wilson, married January 30, 1921 to Joseph Woodard Treadway, died Friday 10, 1922.

These are the bare and standing events of her life.

The years, so few in length of time, were filled with an unusual amount of happiness. Always sunny and full of fun, Valeria had hosts of friends among the old as well as young people.

Ever since old enough to sing she has been counted on to help in the Caney Fork Baptist Church choir, of which church she was also a member. But for a year Valeria has not been able to be in her accustomed place having been bed fast much of that time, and lately in great suffering and pain.

Relatives and friends have been constant in their care and devotion and all that loving hands could do was done to help her through the hard days.

Toward the last she prayed to be allowed to go but pleading at the same time for those dear ones she was leaving who as yet are unsaved. Just before she took her final sleep, she reached out her hand to those around her bidding them good by and telling them to meet her "over there."

Valeria was laid to rest in a corner of the home burying ground within sight of the house, Sunday February 12, at 11 a. m. Rev. J. Rees and Rev. Wiley Graham conducted the services. It is a lovely spot there on top of a high mountain with nothing to intercept the view of surrounding valleys and other mountains. The day being warm and balmy made it possible for friends to come from far and near to render their last tribute and mingle their tears with those of the immediate family all of whom were there.

Some one has said, "He truly mourns the dead who lives as they desire."

We know Valeria's wish for us who are left. May our lives henceforth prove our devotion to her and this desire and it be carried out in our daily walking closer to Him to whom Valeria has gone.

Lead us, oh Father, in the paths of peace;
Without thy guiding hand we go astray;
And doubt's appeal, and sorrows still increase
Lest we through Christ, the true and living way.

Lead us, oh Father, in the paths of right;
Blindly we stumble when we walk alone,
Involved in shadows of a moral night;
Only with Thee we journey safely on.

Lead us, oh Father, to Thy heavenly rest,
However rough and steep the path may be,
Through joy or sorrow as thou deemest best,
Until our lives are perfected in Thee.

We believe in Taulac and so will you if you try it. Marshall Pharmacy, Marshall, N. C.

How to Prevent Deaths From Diphtheria.

The aim of the Bureau of Epidemiology this year is to markedly decrease deaths from diphtheria, typhoid fever and pellegra. Sanitation and vaccination through cooperation of our citizens will make typhoid as scarce as "hen's teeth." The plan for prevention of pellegra will be announced later.

In this article we will state briefly the means of preventing deaths from diphtheria and try to enlist the help of the parent, the physician, and the druggist, the three agencies in the accomplishment of this end. First, we explain the parent's part. We would like to see every parent have every child in North Carolina above six months of age protected by the toxin-antitoxin method. This will prevent the sickness with its financial cost, the mental anxiety it causes, the afflictions such as loss of voice and a weakened heart that this disease often leaves in those who recover from it, and above all, it will prevent the deaths. This toxin-antitoxin method is of great importance in children and babies, for during their ages we have most of the cases and most of the deaths. But if you do not take advantage of this method, we urge you to accept the following advice: When your child has sore throat, especially when you see white membrane or patches of white in the throat, or when the child is croupy, take no chances. You are not the doctor; call him. A dose of antitoxin is cheaper than a coffin, and a live child is a better memorial than a tombstone. There is more music in the laughter of a child than in a funeral dirge.

When your doctor comes, say to him "Mary has symptoms of sore throat or of croup. I have called you because the Health Bulletin of our State has converted me to prevention. Examine her well and if in doubt, give her antitoxin. Don't say anything about cost for the State taxpayers are making an antitoxin used in 80 per cent of the cases of diphtheria, with the best results, which is sold for less than the cost or production and sale."

Now comes the doctor's chance to help, for it is up to him to deliver the goods. We hope he will take no chances but give antitoxin in doubtful cases. By taking chances he may lose the child and then to cover up his mistake, folding his hands piously say, "God hath taken it away."

The druggist may help by keeping the State Board of Health antitoxin. At first the business man did not like to keep our antitoxin because there was no profit. He wanted to make the public spend \$5.00 in order to clear a dollar himself. The druggist is changing. He was like some doctors were when we first began the treatment to prevent typhoid fever. Those doctors changed and now the druggist is seeing beyond the dollar in his hand today. Each profession realizes that it owes to its customers service. So let every one of you ask the druggist now if he has on hand North Carolina State Board of Health Diphtheria Antitoxin, and if he does not, tell him you are one of his customers and you feel that he should have it. Why send money out of the State for antitoxin? Keep your dollars at home and your babies out of the grave.

Early diagnosis and early administration of North Carolina Health Board Diphtheria Antitoxin will practically save digging all graves from diphtheria.

FRANK ROBERTS,
Quarantine Officer.