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### THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1910.

#### CHILDREN IN PERIL.

From the Good Housekeeping Magazine for February, 1909, by permission.

The fire peril in our public schools is trifling beside the constant spread of disease through common drinking cups, nasty towels and other media of infection.

Diphtheria, pneumonia and other diseases are found, by analysis, on drinking cups. A cup used by ten boys carried 75,000 germs.

Special investigations by representatives of this magazine, many of them parents, reveal appalling conditions in 90 per cent. of the schools visited in many sections of the United States.

How long will intelligent parents and teachers—let alone boards of health—permit this wholesale poisoning to continue?

The remedies are easily available, and described herewith.

#### AN APPALLING SITUATION.

The public schoolhouses, a majority of them, are reasonably safe from a repetition of the Collinwood fire horror; this was fairly demonstrated by the investigation reported in our January number. Fire traps there are, but relatively not many.

Less can be said, unfortunately, of the efforts to safeguard the health of the boys and girls; in fact, a deplorable state of affairs is revealed. Many of the communities the most alert in providing fire-proof buildings and in guarding against panic neglect to adopt the simplest hygienic precautions to ward off disease. The majority of them, indeed, deliberately invite the spread of infectious germs by means of the common drinking cup.

More than ninety per cent. of our investigators report the common drinking cup in daily use in the schools which they visited. A few, only a few, report hygienic drinking fountains, and in a very few places the pupils are using individual cups.

#### THE DEADLY DRINKING CUP.

Every common drinking cup, from the tin dipper of the boy who passes the drinking water in the country school to the granite-ware cup chained beside the faucet in the lobby of the city school, is a poison cup. These are not imaginary dangers, but living, malignant germs awaiting the first opportunity to en-

ter the human system. Who shall say to what extent these school drinking cups have been responsible for the mortality among our children of school age? oftener than suspected, epidemics of tonsillitis, severe colds, sore throats and diphtheria could be traced directly to this medium.

In the August issue of this magazine, 1908, in an article entitled "The Cup That Kills," was the story of a three-year-old girl who is cursed for life with one of the most loathsome diseases, contracted from a single use of a railroad drinking glass.

The human mouth is a natural lurking place for bacteria, both harmless and dangerous. The warmth and moisture are conducive to their welfare, and not infrequently decayed teeth afford natural breeding places.

Bacteriologists have conclusively shown that a considerable number of people in good health harbor in their mouths virulent germs. It has been estimated that nearly one per cent. of well persons carry in their mouths true diphtheria germs. The germs of tonsillitis, pneumonia, bronchitis and the dreaded tuberculosis are harbored in the same way.

What does this mean? Simply that the systems of these persons, being in a state of perfect health, are proof against attack, but if these germs gain entrance to the system of a person whose body tissues are weakened and susceptible serious, even fatal, illness may result.

To prove this, Dr. Alvin Davison, professor of biology in Lafayette College, requested ten boys to apply the upper lip to pieces of flat, clean glass in the same way as the would touch a cup in drinking. These glass slips were then given a thorough microscopic examination, and they showed an average of about one hundred human cells or minute bits of skin, and seventy-five thousand bacteria, to each slip. This from one application to the lip.

Going a step further, Prof. Davison took a thin drinking glass, which for nine days has been in common use in a school. By counting the cells present on fifty different areas on the glass he estimated that the cup contained over 20,000 cells or bits of dead skin. Few of these showed less than ten germs clinging to them, and many as high as 150, while between the cells were thousands of germs left by the

smears of saliva deposited by the drinkers.

A cup which had been used in a high school for several months without being washed was lined inside with a thin brownish deposit. Under the microscope this proved to be composed of particles of mud, thousands of bits of dead skin and millions of bacteria, among which were scores of germs corresponding in all details to those of tuberculosis. Some of this sediment was injected under the skin of a healthy guinea pig, and in forty hours the animal died. A post-mortem examination revealed that death was due to the presence of a sufficient number of pneumonia germs to cause blood poisoning.

A second guinea pig inoculated with the cup sediment developed tuberculosis. Careful inquiry proved that several pupils in the school from which the cup was taken were then sufferers from this dread disease.

An outbreak of diphtheria among twenty-four persons in Rochester, New York, was traced unmistakably to a common drinking cup which all the sick had used. Dr. Davison's investigations show that tonsillitis and sore throat affect a larger number of pupils in schools where the common drinking cup is used than in schools in which the sanitary drinking fountain has been installed, or where the individual drinking cup is required.

The common drinking cup should be banished from every school and either the sanitary drinking fountain installed or the pupils provided with individual cups; preferably the former plan should be adopted, as it is next to impossible to prevent an exchange of cups between children.

These precautions are economy in the truest sense. It is the shortsighted politician and the narrow-minded taxpayer who cannot see the immense saving in dollars and cents which the conservation of the public health means. It is not enough to warn the child not to drink after another; he must be prevented from so doing. In some places in Germany paper cups are provided, to be destroyed when once used. They find it pays over there. It always pays to protect the public health, and it doubly pays in the case of the child not yet sufficiently developed to reason these things out and protect itself.

The drinking cup must go. It is the individual duty of the fathers and mothers who read this magazine to see that it does go, and that right soon, in their home cities and towns.

#### TWO GAMES OF BASEBALL.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

**BELL'S PARK, July 19.**—Bell's Park crossed bats last Saturday afternoon with McAdenville on the latter diamond, the score being 15 to 0 in favor of McAdenville. Bell's Park's second team and the Ozark team played a game Saturday afternoon at Bell's Park, the score being 11 to 10 in favor of Ozark. Farrar, Bell's Park's pitcher, weakened in the ninth, allowing the visitors to win the game. He pitched fine ball up to the eighth inning, fanning eight men. The feature of the game was the batting of Kendrick for Bell's Park. He got two 2-baggers out of four times up. Cox also hit a two bagger with the bases full. Batteries: Ozark—Moore and Saunders; Bell's Park—Farrar and Price.

#### DOTS FROM DALLAS R. F. D. 1.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

**DALLAS, R. F. D. 1, July 21.**—Ollie Kathryn, the little 3-months-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Pasour, died Tuesday afternoon. The remains were laid tenderly to rest in Antioch cemetery Wednesday. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. C. K. Bell, of Kings Mountain, the pastor, Rev. P. D. Risinger, being away on a visit to his parents. The bereaved parents have the sympathy of the entire

community.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller Rhyne and children, of Spencer Mountain, visited relatives in this section Saturday and Sunday.—Mrs. Lillie Johnson was called to Gastonia Sunday to be with her sister, who is very ill.—Messrs. Z. N. and Crown Ratchford went to Catawba county Sunday to visit their brother, Mr. J. J. Ratchford. They returned home Tuesday.—Mrs. John Friday, of the Hoyle's Creek neighborhood, is spending a few days with her daughter, Mrs. L. C. Pasour.

#### Dallas Dots.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

**DALLAS, July 21.**—The military company is expected home this afternoon.—Mrs. C. E. McAllister and daughter, Miss Ida, are visiting friends in Charlotte.—Mrs. Mattie Moore, of Gastonia, visited Mrs. R. J. Durham yesterday.—Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Cornwell, of Old Fort, are visiting Mr. C. C. Cornwell.—Mrs. Osie Hutchinson and children, of Del Rio, Texas, are visiting her father, Mr. C. C. Cornwell.—Dr. Bessie Pruet, who has been practicing in Philadelphia for the past year, is at home again. We welcome this young lady physician to our town and hope she will decide to locate here.—Miss Essie Wilson is visiting friends at Due West and Anderson, S. C.—Mr. and Mrs. Reed Williams and children and Miss Minnie Williams, of Kershaw, S. C., are the guests of their sister, Mrs. Laura Sasser.—Mr. J. L. Webb, of McAdenville, visited his son, Mr. F. O. Webb, yesterday.

The Monarch Cotton Mill started up work Monday morning. They expect to run regularly in day time.—Sheriff T. E. Shuford, Messrs. F. H. and W. D. Robinson, G. W. Ballard, Joe Taylor and P. A. Summey went on the excursion to Richmond Tuesday night.—Miss Lois Durham has been visiting Miss Margaret Ruddle this week.—Misses Ellen and Oran Hicks, of Gastonia, were the guests of Miss Mary Mason Sunday.—Mrs. Clark and Miss Louise Mason, of Belmont, visited Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Mason this week.—Miss Katherine Mason is visiting Mrs. R. E. Carpenter at Shelby.

The Shelby district conference of the M. E. Church, South, meets here Thursday and lasts through Sunday. About one hundred and twenty-five delegates and ministers are expected, besides visitors.

Miss Marie Smith is greatly improved. She has been suffering from an attack of typhoid fever.

A farmer of Connecticut while dredging a pond Tuesday lost his footing and fell into quick sand, seeing something he thought was a rock he climbed on top of it and reached safety, but upon investigation found that it was a snapping turtle.

#### NOTICE.

North Carolina,  
Gaston County.  
In the Superior Court.  
Mamie I. Wright, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
D. J. Wright, Defendant.

The defendant above mentioned will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Gaston county, to obtain an absolute divorce from the bonds of matrimony uniting plaintiff and defendant, and the said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the term of Superior Court to be held on the 1st Monday after the 1st Monday in September, 1910, which is the 12th day of September, 1910, at the Court House in said county, in Dallas, North Carolina, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said action.

This the 21st day of July, 1910.  
C. C. CORNWELL,  
Clerk of the Superior Court.  
A 12 c 4 w.

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