

NOT TRUE 'GENIUS'

"Wonder Children" Merely Intellectually Precocious.

In Most Cases They Are Possessors of an Abnormally Retentive Memory—Do Not Necessarily Die Young.

A few days ago there appeared an account of the doings of Samuel Reschewski, a wonderful chess player, eight years old, who is confounding Berlin with his uncanny knowledge and skill.

These "wonder children" always arouse especial interest, and, as many explanations are put forward to account for their apparent genius, there are gloomy forebodings as to their meeting with an early death.

There have been many "wonder children" in the past, and it is strange, though true, that quite a large proportion have lived to the average age.

In recent years there have been a number of child evangelists who have startled the world by their eloquence and theology. In the United States a few years ago a boy nine years old attempted to convert the whole country, and when ten years old he was actually appointed minister of a church in North Carolina.

In Great Britain there are records of a child twelve years old who preached in a Baptist church at Porthewl, and a small boy who, at the tender age of three, began preaching to crowded audiences and continued to do so until well after ten years old.

In the case of such prodigies, their talents consist chiefly in an abnormal, retentive memory and, provided that their temperaments are not emotional, they stand the mental strain exceedingly well, though there is, of course, the danger attached to the excessive physical strain which they frequently undergo.

To this type belong those children who learn rapidly by heart such things as the tunes, words and numbers of all hymns in the ancient and modern hymn-book. It is such children, who most often meet with early death, and maybe it was in such cases that old saying, "The wise die young" had its origin.

But the child chess player in Berlin belongs rather to the type of intellectual precocity, such as the learned child of Lubeck of the early part of the eighteenth century. This child could recite the whole of the Old and New Testaments before he was two years old, and a little later he was an authority on religious history and dogma. He mastered also ancient and modern geography and history and several languages before his death at the age of four years.

A contemporary of this wonderful child was fluent in five languages before he was five, and translated the Hebrew Bible into Latin and French at the age of eight. He survived until he was nineteen.

Historical and clinical evidence are both definite in showing that "wonder children" are no more liable than other children to die young, nor is it found that children who assimilate knowledge readily and retain it show any undue signs of fatigue.

The great point in the case of children marked by special brilliance is to avoid any attempt at making the brilliance apply to everything, for in so doing the existing brilliance in the one special direction may tend to disappear. In the same way those who are intellectually brilliant must not be forced to become industrious in a practical way, for such interference invariably brings on over-strain and breakdown.

How's This, "Pedestrians?"

It was an inky black night and we were riding along a country road, when we saw a railroad crossing ahead. We stopped about a hundred feet from the tracks and peered through the brush and trees that lined the road. There up the track we saw a light moving toward us. The driver wished to move on, but I, being very nervous, objected loudly, so we waited at least five minutes. The light kept drawing nearer, but the driver in disgust insisted upon crossing, saying it was probably a slow freight. But again I shrieked loudly, for I knew train lights were so deceiving at night and it must be nearly upon us by now. We continued waiting in the darkness for the train to pass, and as the light drew nearer we discovered our locomotive to be nothing more than a man coming down the track with a lantern.—Chicago Tribune.

The "Lion D'Arras."

A Paris dispatch announces the disappearance of one of the last of the war newspapers—the Lion d'Arras. These war area sheets, which did so much to cheer and encourage the inhabitants of the stricken towns and countryside, will be looked upon in the future as one of the most interesting products of the war years. The Lion d'Arras appeared in the city at a time when the enemy was within a few hundred yards from the walls. The founder of the paper was the Abbe Guerrin, who continued its editor during the 172 weeks of its existence.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

HEALTH SCHOOL

Pennsylvania State Department of Health.

Questions.

1. Why is drinking from springs or running streams or wells unsafe?
2. How can water which may be contaminated with typhoid germs, be made safe for drinking purposes?
3. Why is it important that every one should wash their hands before handling milk or any other foods?

TYPHOID

September 9, 1919.

Telegram to: The Department of Health, Harrisburg, Pa.

15 cases of typhoid fever reported in _____ city yesterday.

Health Officer.

September 9, 1919.

Memo Division Engineering: Detail sanitary engineer and assistants to report immediately to Dr. _____, Health Officer, _____ City. Typhoid epidemic.

September 9, 1919.

Memo Division Nursing: Detail 4 nurses to report immediately to Dr. _____, Health Officer, _____ City.

Two days later the Sanitary Engineer telephoned his chief that the epidemic was milk borne, its source discovered and conditions corrected.

Looks easy, doesn't it? This is what happened:

Immediately upon their arrival, the department's representatives reported to the city authorities who called a meeting of local physicians, nurses, the city engineer and other officials. A city map dotted to indicate the locations of the typhoid houses, showed that they were not grouped, but scattered.

The water supply came from three different reservoirs, each independently supplying a separate section of the city. The typhoid houses were not grouped in any one of these; moreover laboratory examinations had shown no pollution for weeks.

A study of the milk routes showed that the same milk man supplied every typhoid house.

Inspection of the dairy farm failed to show evidence of typhoid—present or past—or any association with it, on the part of the dairyman, his family or any of his help.

The milkers washed their hands before milking; had soap, water and towels conveniently placed to prove it; and an inspection of one milking indicated that the hand-washing was a habit and not a special performance to cheer the inspector.

"Where do you wash your milk cans?" asked the Health Officer. "At that pump," replied the farmer. The well seemed properly placed and was protected by a closely fitting cement platform. An attempt to pump failed to raise water because the leather sucker had dried. "It often does that," said the dairyman. "I'll prime it for you." He took a bucket of water from a small pond near at hand and poured it down the pump stalk. The pond was made by a mountain stream which formed a bend and resulted in a pool near the dairy house. This pond water suggested a possible source of the trouble.

Typhoid germs always come from a typhoid patient. An upstream search for such a patient was made, each house being investigated. The first, second and third miles were passed without result. On the fourth mile of this section, a Health Officer found in a shack half a mile from the stream a pale, wasted man who had been sick for weeks. He had no doctor because he "knewed it was malarial and would get well with spring." His excreta had been thrown upon the frozen ground, had accumulated for weeks, and had been washed down by the freshets of early spring to the still water of the pond near the dairy house.

All milk at this dairy was boiled and fed to hogs, until the dairyman's well had been cleaned and lined and he had installed a plant for sterilizing his milk vessels with live steam or boiling water.

In a similar milk borne outbreak, a recently employed milker had, within a few months, nursed her husband who had died from typhoid fever. Though she had not been sick herself, the typhoid germs flourished in her system, were discharged by way of the bladder and bowels, and, through the medium of her unwashed hands were planted in the milk.

"Typhoid Mary" is a carrier so determined to cook for others, that she has caused at least three outbreaks and several deaths.

Typhoid fever is caused by swallowing germs which were one time in the intestines of a typhoid patient or a carrier. In typhoid outbreaks, the germs are carried to the stomach by water, milk, or raw food (oysters, water cress, celery, lettuce, radishes).

Open springs, streams and wells are sources of danger. Boiling or chlorination destroys the germs of typhoid; milk is safe if certified, if pasteurized or boiled, and if protected from flies. The state law requires that food shall be protected against flies, and shall be handled by healthy people.

Our armies were protected against typhoid, in this country, by (1) filtered and chlorinated water; (2) supervision over milk, and over the handlers of food; (3) the eradication of flies from cantonments. Since these measures could not be taken in active service, all were vaccinated against typhoid and paratyphoid A and B. Vaccination against typhoid and paratyphoid fevers becomes effective in about three weeks. It protects for two years.

The establishment of an efficient filter plant abolishes typhoid as a large public health menace.

CENTRE HALL.

Work on the state roads has been delayed by the many recent rains.

Mrs. Charles Geary and interesting little children, of Newport, are visiting her mother, Mrs. Belle Whiteman.

Miss Helen Sandoe, of Ingram, near Pittsburgh, is spending a week or more at the home of Miss Margaret Jacobs.

Prof. W. A. Krise, after an illness of several year's duration, was finally relieved of his sufferings when death claimed him on Tuesday.

Bruce Arney has been housed up for several weeks with muscular rheumatism. His condition is not greatly improved at this writing.

The Ladies Aid society of the Methodist church was treated to strawberry shortcake at the home of Mrs. John Mowery, on Tuesday of this week. All enjoyed it very much.

Mrs. W. E. Park, formerly of this place, is spending some time with her sisters, Mrs. D. A. Boozer and Mrs. Charles Slack. Mrs. Park came with her father, Capt. George M. Boal, when he returned from a visit with his daughter, Mrs. W. Gross Mingle, of Philadelphia, last week.

LEMONT.

The wheat, oats and corn are doing fine.

Mrs. Benner Walker fell and broke her right arm.

We had very heavy rains in these parts last week.

The Methodist festival was quite a

success, as they had a large attendance.

Albert Garbrick put a new roof on his house last week.

Harvey N. Kerns is gradually recovering from his recent illness.

Harry F. Houtz had the misfortune to lose a valuable horse one day last week.

C. D. Houtz and wife returned home Saturday from their two week's visit at Fleming.

Jesse Klinger left last Wednesday for an officer's training camp, where he will spend six weeks.

Mrs. J. Harvey Shuey and two children left for Illinois, Friday, where they will visit their many friends.

By all appearances there will be the largest hay crop this year that the farmers have had in several years.

A bunch of the members of Lemont Camp P. O. S. of A. went to Centre Hall last Thursday evening to confer a degree.

Carl Williams and William Mulbarger are both slowly improving, and it is hoped by their many friends that they will soon enjoy good health.

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