

THE ILLITERACY OF UNEDUCATED PEOPLE.

There is need of a united effort to reduce the illiteracy of educated people. It is not enough for us to offer better opportunities to our new citizens and others whose chance of schooling has been limited. We must try to develop among ourselves better habits of reading. Let us include four good resolutions about our own illiteracy among our stock. They may not last longer than other good resolutions, but at least we shall have confessed our illiteracy and next year we can try again.

First: That we will remember what we read. It would be far better for us all if we read less and remembered more. Our present habit is born of the theory that we can always find a mental filling station a little further on down the road. Life proves this untrue. When the times occur of illness, loneliness, depression, crisis, or catastrophe we have no reservoirs of memory to draw upon for comfort and for guidance. Lord Bacon said, "Reading maketh a full man." It is not too much to add that our wasteful habit of skimming over the surface of books and newspapers makes empty minds instead of full ones.

Second good resolution: We will think over what we read. It is a good practice to close the book and ask ourselves, "Is it true? Does my experience or thought confirm this?" Of course this kind of reading takes longer, but educated people would be less illiterate if we practiced mental Fletcherism and gave fifty intellectual "chews" to every chapter. A friend of mine made a rule never to buy a book until he had read it. As a result, his shelves were filled with books that he was proud of. They were his friends. He knew them, liked them, valued them. How many of us would have a large library if we followed his plan? Have we any real scale of values in reading? We shall never get it until we read less and think more. This is particularly true of newspaper reading. It is our duty to form our own opinions on the day's news. Too often we only echo the editorial or the opinion of some one who is quoted in the news. Every true editor will wish his readers to go with him, not blindly, but upon reflection. He can't write for thinking people unless people will think. Did you ever realize your responsibility as a reader for the kind of reading you get? Granville Barker, the dramatist, said lately, "The audience makes the play." It is still more true that the reader makes the newspaper.

Third good resolution: We will apply what we read. The illiteracy of educated people is most striking in this regard. We read as if in a vacuum. The innumerable contacts which the author makes with our own lives are never energized by the current which we alone can supply. Our mind's batteries are dead. We need to recharge them. Nine books in ten we read not in order to apply them to life, but to distract our minds from life. Books are a dissipation, a scattering of our energies, not a charging and strengthening of them. This is not fair to books. Can we not change the proportion and make nine books help us to live, while the tenth book alone serves as an opiate to drug our senses?

Fourth good resolution: We will grow with our reading. Most of us read one elementary book after another, with no direction or plan. We never think, "Where is our reading taking us?" We never stop to consider that books are steps upward. We keep on exercising with eight-ounce weights when our mental muscles are trained for two-pounders. The way to correct this bad habit is to choose our lines of reading: one connected with our occupation; one connected with a hobby, pastime, recreation or avocation. Then we can plan to go on from the easy book to the more difficult one, from the known to the unknown, from the narrow to the broad horizon. How many parlor tables are filled with a random lot of primary books? Let us go to school to our books, we educated illiterates, and not stay always in the first grade.—By Henry Noble McCracken.

ALL NEED MORE EXERCISE.

"Spend one day of the week in thought, and one day in exercise, and you will be able to put seven days' work into the other five."

That is the creed of Sir Harold Stiles, regius professor of clinical surgery of the University of Edinburgh and representative of the Royal College of Surgeons to the American College of Surgeons, which recently met in annual convention in Philadelphia.

Sir Harold learned of the statement made by Sir James Cantile, a London surgeon, that "old age is just a pose. We only begin to live at forty-five. Down with the gospel of folded hands." Sir James is seventy years old. For fifteen minutes every morning he dances the Highland fling and the sailor's hornpipe.

As a result, a passion of exercise has taken hold of the older heads of London, and Sir James is leading groups of calisthenics in all quarters of the city.

Sir James Cantile's campaign "for physical jerks for young men of more than 50 and young women—say more than 40"—brought smiles of approval from Sir Harold Stiles.

"Exercise—why it's the greatest thing in the world.

"You Americans are too fat. The ordinary American as I have seen him is far more robust than the average Englishman, not because you exercise less but because you eat more."

Sir Harold is an earnest champion of golf. "If I did not exercise one day out of the week, I could not get along the rest of the time," he said.

Americans are waking up to the possibilities of exercise, Sir Harold believes. He has visited this country three times. Each time he has found conditions permitting exercise improved more for the "middle-aged, tired business man."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

RUNVILLE.

Mrs. Ida Witmer, after spending a week at State College, came home last Thursday.

W. J. Kunes, of Mill Hall, spent a few days last week among his friends in this place.

Lemoyne Lucas, of Snow Shoe, spent Saturday and Sunday with his grandmother, Mrs. Annie Lucas.

Miss Lizzie Weaver, of Philipsburg, made a week's visit with her friends, Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Poorman, and called on a number of others during her stay.

The Ladies Aid will hold a pie social on Saturday evening, February 4th, in the P. O. S. of A. hall. Ice cream and cake will be served. Everybody is invited.

Mr. and Mrs. Plummer Strunk entertained a sled load on last Saturday evening: Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Shurt and three children, Mrs. Lulu Ammerman, Misses Annie and Grace Spicer, James and Frank Emel, all of Bellefonte.

Birthdays Party.—A delightful birthday party was held at the home of J. O. McClincy on Friday night, January 13th, commemorating the forty-third anniversary of Mr. McClincy. The evening was spent in a very joyful manner, beginning with games, in which many participated. Vocal and instrumental music were rendered, followed by refreshments. Then the attention of all was attracted when the forty-three candles of different colors, which were inserted in the birthday cake, were lighted. Those attending the party were Mr. and Mrs. J. O. McClincy and two daughters, Georgiana and Bessie; Mr. and Mrs. John Lucas and children, Iva, Donald and Vincent; Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Walker and daughter Goldie; Mr. and Mrs. John Furl, Mr. and Mrs. Toner Furl, Samuel, Edward and Arthur Furl, Jackson Witherite, Merrill, Melvin, Harold and Kenneth Watson, Mrs. Ted Poorman, Bettie Lucas and Maynard Sparks.

Golden Wedding Anniversary.—On Saturday, January 21st, the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Poorman was all aglow, when a host of their friends assembled in honor of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. The parlor was beautifully decorated for the occasion, in white and gold, and a large golden wedding bell hung gracefully over the arch to which the happy pair were escorted, attended by Mr. Poorman's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Fetzer. The wedding march was played by Miss Fay Confer, of Yarnell; the beautiful ring ceremony was informally used by their pastor, Rev. G. A. Sparks. After many congratulations and good wishes that they might live to enjoy many more anniversaries of their wedded life all were invited to the dining room where an elaborate dinner was in readiness and to which all did justice. An inspiring address was made by Rev. G. A. Sparks and also by our school teacher, Mr. Austin Allison, of Jacksonville. The tokens of love and esteem were presented in many pretty and useful gifts, among them being twenty-five dollars in gold. Those in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Willis Poorman and sons, Raymond, Chester and Willis Jr.; Naomi Stover and Miss Alice Yarnell, of State College; Mr. and Mrs. Claude Poorman and sons, Ralph and Guyer and daughter Gertrude, of Bellefonte; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Heaton and daughters, Mabel and Alice, and son Claude; Fletch Poorman and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Poorman, of Hols Hollow; Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Pownell and son Wayne, Mrs. Edward Confer and daughter Fay, Mr. and Mrs. William T. Fetzer, of Yarnell; Mrs. Raymond Spond, of Avis; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pownell, of Osceola Mills; Miss Lizzie Weaver, of Philipsburg; Austin Allison, of Jacksonville; Mrs. Etta Watson, of Snow Shoe; Rev. and Mrs. G. A. Sparks, Mrs. Belle Lucas and son Milligan, Miss Dorothy Brown, of Corning, N. Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Witherite and daughter Thelma, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Kauffman, Miss Vivian Poorman, Mr. and Mrs. James McClincy and daughters, Georgiana and Bessie, Mary Heaton and Ida Witmer, of Runville.

BUFFALO ON THE INCREASE.

Latest Reports Show that the Animal is not Likely to Become Extinct, at Any Rate.

The fear that existed not long ago lest the native buffalo would soon become extinct is dispelled by a report of the American Bison society, which states that there were 3,393 wild and tame buffalo in the United States in January, 1920. This is an increase of about 300 per cent. since 1908, in which year there were 1,116 wild and tame buffalo in this country.

Of the nine government-owned herds, two of the largest under the care of the United States Department of Agriculture are located in the Wichita national preserve, Oklahoma, and on the national bison range at Dixon, Montana. The herd on the Wichita preserve now numbers 154, including 28 calves of this year. In this herd four bulls and 12 cows are ten years of age or over, and one cow is twenty-nine years old. The 15 animals that constituted the original Wichita herd came from the New York Zoological park.

It is planned this year to dispose of some of the surplus buffalo in the government herds in accordance with the provisions made by the 1919 appropriations bill for their care. Public parks and municipalities are the largest patrons. By distributing the animals over the country, if disease or misfortune overtakes the main herds, there still will be stock left with which groups could be built up again.

—A pessimist is a man who thinks the world is against him. And he is probably right.—Punch.

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Shares of American Telephone & Telegraph Co. stock have recently been selling around \$118.

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The Company has 40 years of dividend history of never less than 7 1/2 per cent.

The earnings of the business are remarkably steady through periods of bad general business conditions as well as good.

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There is public confidence in its fair dealing.

One share will, at the present dividend rate, pay you a return of \$9.00 a year. The dividends of a few shares will pay your telephone bill.

We shall be glad to furnish further information if you so desire.

Buy outright through your Bank or Broker, or on the Partial-payment Plan

Banks do not recommend any particular stock.

They desire, however, to encourage systematic saving and careful investing, and most of them afford the service and facilities of their loan departments to customers who desire to purchase reliable securities on the partial-payment plan.

The usual arrangement is to make an advance payment of approximately one-fifth of the purchase price, and pay off the balance gradually.

The dividends on the stock will more than pay the interest on the loan.

It is a fine way to save—to make a start as an investor, as a partner in a conservative, reliable, established business.

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| Centre County Banking Co., | - - - | " " |
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| The First National Bank. | - - - | Howard, Pa. |

The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania

C. W. Heilhecker, Local Manager

Removal

On Monday, January 30th, we will occupy our temporary rooms on High street, moving there after business on January 28th.

We assure our friends that we have provided against any interruption to our Banking Services.

The First National Bank

Bellefonte, Pa.

January Price Reductions

AT

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Every Suit and Overcoat in our Store is included in this Sale..

Come, take your pick. Deduct 1-3 the marked price and you will go home with the Biggest Clothing Bargains you ever had.

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