Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., December 11, 1931.

LEFT HANDED CHILD PROBLEM NO LONGER

Southpaws, leftys and persons who tilt to the larboard side are no longer to be considered "left handed," meaning awkward.

Modern educators permit the child to use his left hand to hold pen, pencil, table knife or any of the other things a child's hand holds.

So the left-hander, once the bane of every teacher, is no longer a school problem, according to Dr. Martin Chwrowski, director of the Fanny Edel Falk Elementary School of the University of Pittsburgh.

"There is no reason why the right should be used more than the left hand," Dr. Chwrowski said.

"To right-handed people it looks awkward to see a person using his left hand. But is it awkward? Certainly not."

In the school of modern educational tenets the child is instructed to use his right hand as far as possible, unless he shows marked signs of being left-handed.

"Up until a child is six years old we try to show him how to use his right hand, if it is not too great an adjustment for him to make," Dr. Chwrowski said. "We only encourage the use of the right hand because this is a right-handed world. Door knobs are so placed to facilitate right-handed people. So are innumerable other things. But if he shows signs of being a person highly developed on the right side of his body, that is being a left-handed person, then we want him to use his left hand."

"Stammering, shyness and innumerable other things have come about when children have been forced to employ the right hand in preference to the left," he said.

They seem awkward, the educator said, but that is only because right-handed people look at them from an angle of prejudiced tradition. The very words, "left-handed" connote a certain clumsiness. The French word "gauche" means left. But it means "awkward" in English. Sinister, a Latin word meaning left, has a derived meaning of which the connotation is evil, the tendency to disaster. There is no more reason why the left side should be associated with evil any more than the right. But tradition has it so.

A study of left and right handedness was commenced some 30 years ago by a psychologist, G. Stanley Hall, Chwrowski said. Researches have been carried on by Dr. Samuel Orton, who has found that "handedness" left or right, is inherited. Handedness shows which side of the brain is best developed. If a person is right-handed, then the right side of his brain is the better developed. If he is left-handed the opposite is true."

A left-handed child forced to use his right hand often reads words backwards. For instance he will read the word "saw" as "was" and "not" as "ton." In addition to being an educational disadvantage it became a physical one and modern educators abandoned the attempt to form each child to a pattern.

IF CHILD DRIVERS CRASH, PARENTS PAY

The Pennsylvania vehicle code makes a parent liable to damages who permits a child under 16 years of age to operate a motor vehicle and injuries to another person result from an accident when the child is driving. The same liability also applies to a person not a parent who allows a child less than sixteen to operate an automobile.

"Children under sixteen may be safe drivers in the opinion of their parents but the law does not so regard them." "Parental pride in the youngster's ability at the wheel can quickly be turned into parental remorse. The law says that any owner of a motor vehicle who permits a child under the age of sixteen to operate a car is liable with such minor for any damages resulting from an accident when the child was driving."

STUDENTS AT PENN STATE FROM EVERY COUNTY.

Every county in Pennsylvania is represented in the student body of the Pennsylvania State College, according to a recent compilation of the geographical distribution of students. Africa, Europe, North and South America, the West Indies and 34 other States also are represented in the student body of 4857 men and women. Almost all of the 277 from other States are enrolled in advanced courses in the graduate school.

Centre county leads with the largest number of students at Penn State, a total of 466. Allegheny with 386 stands second, and Philadelphia with 320 comes third. Other counties which send 100 or more students to their State College are Montgomery, Schuylkill and Westmoreland.

Q. Are there many wild lions and tigers in the world?

A. Lions were formerly much more widely distributed than at present. They are found now throughout the continent if Africa, but have been exterminated in the more civilized regions; in Asia their habitat extends south from Mesopotamia and Persia, to India, but in India only near Kurraches. Tigers are widely distributed throughout Asia, being especially abundant in India, though absent from Ceylon, and also from the plateau of Tibet.

Customer: You don't seem very quick at figures, my boy.

Newsboy: I'm out of practice, sir. You see, most of my customers say, "Keep the change."

HARD TIMES AHEAD FOR THE MOVIE STARS

From Eric M. Knights "Daily Film Gossip" we take the following concerning the hard times that are about to fall upon Hollywood.

The dawn comes for Hollywood, and it is the dawn of common sense. Those great big salaries that sound like a box-car number are going to be just memories soon, wild memories that will be talked of just as we talk only half-believingly today of the gold collections of Pizarro.

The first move comes from Warner Brothers-First National, which has made an announcement that has set California to trembling. The San Francisco earthquake was just a little fluctuation on a seismograph compared to this.

The company will ask contract players to take from 20 to 30 per cent salary cuts. Along with the verbal notification went a little hint that the players who refused to agree might find themselves out in the cold when present contract dates are up.

This studio has such stars as Richard Barthelmess, George Arliss, Dorothy Mackaill, William Powell, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Bebe Daniels, Edward G. Robinson, Joe E. Brown and Winnie Lightner. Some of these persons draw as much as $350,000 a year.

Other players, of course, have pay checks starting at $100 a week and these have been asked, it is said, to take a 30 per cent cut. All non-union, noncontract players also get a cut this week.

This looks like one of the healthiest moves the industry has made to date. This high-salary business has been a bugbear.

The decision to cut by Warner may be followed by other companies. The producers will meet this week with Will H. Hays. Unofficially, it is said that they talk openly, but solve their problems separately. This sounds all right, but if they all agree in open tak that Lottie Gazink isn't worth more than $200,000 a year then they can proceed to keep that idea in separate procedure. Lottie may squawk, but what if no one listens to her? A combine? Don't ask me. It's a healthy move. Either that or some of the companies must cut down on the number of films they have scheduled for production. They may do this anyhow—and close up a few theatres.

In it all I wonder what Ruth Chatterton and William Powell think—having just left Paramount to go with Warner-First National—being lured away, one supposes, by higher salaries and getting there just in time to get the guillotine.

However, there is alleviation for the stars in news from Moscow, which says that even the Soviet has laid off 22 per cent of the cinema workers. And Hollywood must remember, too, that along with the cut in salaries Warner-First National studio cafeteria dropped the price of luncheons from 60 cents to 50 cents.

So the poor dears who only get $200,000 a year after the decrease can still live—they'll get along.

WOMEN OVER 60 ARE LONDON MANNEQUINS

Three ambitious women of sixty or more are studying to be mannequins at a fashionable school in the West End of London.

All are married and two are grandmothers.

There is nothing surprising in this, because three grandmothers between the ages of 56 and 60 were the most admired mannequins at a recent big dress parade. Their services are so greatly sought after that it is difficult for them to fit all their engagments.

"The women whose family has left home finds life rather dull" one of them explained. "I began as a mannequin after my sixtieth birthday, and have been busy ever since. Naturally, women of my age don't want to see their frocks displayed on a young girl."

WILD LIFE VANISHING

That the wild life of our land is rapidly vanishing we all know or ought to know. In spite of all the laws passed to conserve this wild life, the forces warring against it are threatening its extinction. Deforestation, pollution of waters, fire and the increase of hunters and fishermen backed, says the Nature Magazine, by improved machines for traveling and killing have all contributed to this growing scarcity. Hope is expressed that the special Senate Committee on conservation of wild life will be able to check this rapid disappearance of the nation's undomesticated birds and beasts as well as its fish. This Committee reports, "While there has been a steady decrease of game and game fish there's a corresponding increase in the number of hunters and fishermen. These are estimated to number about 13,000,000."—Dumb Animals.

RULES FOR SAFE DRIVING

1—Concentrate on driving. Most accidents are the result of inattention.

2—Drive with a fire grip on the wheel.

3—In traffic and at intersections have your foot ready for the brake.

4—Don't pass on hills, curves, intersections or when another car is dangerously near.

5—Play safe. Never hesitate to use your horn.

6—Use intelligible hand signals. Your Stop light is not enough.

7—Govern your speed by the condition of the weather and the road.

8—Don't endanger lives to "get even" with another driver.

9—Obey traffic signals and the rules of the road.

10—Don't permit any one to touch the wheel while under the influence or liquor.

African Diamonds

Abandoned Mine of the Kimberley Group.

(Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)—WNU Service.

DISCOVERY of new diamond deposits in Tanganyika has made the colony the focal point of enthusiastic prospectors in search of the glittering gems.

The African diamond industry is only slightly more than a half century old. Today the continent produces nearly nine-tenths of the world's supply. It was in 1870 that the windy, dust-swept region of Griqualand, South Africa, suddenly changed from No Man's Land to Everyman's Land, when diamonds were discovered there. Later, it was annexed to Cape Colony within such meticulously drawn boundaries that inside one farmer's house the family dined in that colony and went to bed in the Orange Free State.

"Playing jackstones with diamonds!" Somehow that electrifying caption was overlooked by news reporters in 1866, when, at Hopetown, on the Orange river, the presence of diamonds in South Africa was signaled by a child, who was discovered playing with a casually picked-up gem weighing 21¼ carats.

At once the South African diamond fever was on. Ships lost their crews, overseas shopkeepers their clerks, police forces their "bobbies," the underworld its crooks; and perhaps the church lost a curate, and certainly Natal lost a budding cotton planter—he had once felt drawn to the ministry—in the case of an invalidish young fellow named Cecil John Rhodes. All raked up the price to get them to Griqualand's "desert of drought and diamonds."

Future Kimberley was soon a scene of canvas tents, of wagons converted into huts, of prospectors sieving the diamondiferous earth, and of "kopjewallopers"—those who bought other men's finds on speculation—hurrying to and fro among the sorting tables.

Also, there appeared the resourceful "I. D. B." (illicit diamond buyer), who, co-operating with what might be described as the diamond-stealing industry, smuggled out stones in contravention to the law. Stowing gems in cigarettes, pipes and hollow shoeheels by no means exhausted his ingenuity. The hungry-dog trick—that is, feeding a starved animal on meat containing diamonds and subsequently retrieving them by cutting him open—was much in vogue.

Controlling the Output.

Under desert conditions, food was often more precious than diamonds, and baths, if you could afford that luxury, were taken in imported soda water. Despite prophecies of a brief year's life for Kimberley, the first two decades showed a production of six tons of diamonds from the Griqua country. Indeed, by 1880 the possibility of South African stones swamping the market was so apparent that Rhodes and his group formed the price-and-output-controlling De Beers company.

Modern Kimberley abuts on a three-mile-wide circle which contains, within barbed-wire barriers, mines, housing "compounds," process sheds, company stores, hospitals, public baths, and kitchens—in fact, everything necessary to the industry and its 5,000 Bantu miners.

These Bantu "boys" are voluntary recruits, who mine for six months annually, returning to their kraals with the wherewithal for meeting taxes, for buying wives with lobola (cattle dowry), or for less serious investments, such as concertinas and mouth organs. In "above ground" hours they are seen cooking their food, or purchasing at cost price at the stores, or depositing their wages with the company's savings department. Often these deposits represent such considerable annual aggregates as $230,000 paid in by 12,000 miners.

Each week in the Kimberley mines some 70,000 tons of "blue ground" (hard, diamondiferous earth) are blasted out, crushed, fed into running water, rotated in steel drums, jiggled along in troughs, and washed across tablelike surfaces coated with petroleum jelly. The rotary process, by centrifugal force, separates the ground-up mass into different-sized units. The jiggling process washes away barren elements from the water-borne "concentrate," of gravel-like appearance; and, finally, the diminished residue flows across the petroleum surfaces, to which only the diamonds adhere.

Not at All Exciting.

Yet "diminished residue" is putting it but mildly, since these 70,000 tons of blue ground will produce only about 10¼ pounds of diamonds—say, a ratio of 14,000,000 to 1.

We might address the cleanser, who, broad blade in hand, now and then scrapes off the diamondiferous petroleum and throws it into a vat of boiling water.

"Scraping off millions of dollars worth of diamonds in this way, isn't it rather exciting?"

"Why, no," he will probably answer unemotionally—and everyone knows what familiarity breeds—"it's about like handling mortar with a trowel."

Inside the sorting room, to which visitors are admitted after an eye has scrutinized them from behind a slid-back panel, men were poking diamonds through graduated holes in small screens to ascertain the stones' diameters. On one table alone lay 18,500 carats-weight of gems, worth approximately a million dollars. Feeling as dizzy as Ali Baba in the treasure cave, one asks tremulously of a sorter:

"Putting millions of dollars' worth of diamonds through screen holes, isn't it a bit thrilling?"

"Oh, no," he answers, suppressing a yawn—again that familiarity complex—as he popped a one-inch diamond through the screen, "it's about like shelling peas."

Kimberley town itself is as simple and homelike a place as you'd find in the suburban area of some American city. It has produced nearly $1,300,000,000 worth of diamonds in half a century. It's difficult to see how the city could adequately have expressed its wealth production save by paving its main street with gems; but in truth it has been its fate to have created fortunes that too often flitted from South Africa to the attractions in London and Paris.

Yet there was an exception. At least one Kimberley digger, Cecil Rhodes, could amass a fortune, yet scorn to use it in the common way. Great wealth constitutes a trust, to be administered in the wider interests of humanity—such was his view. And that he did, according to his lights, within South Africa and for the British empire.

You may strike his trail along the twisting street—it follows the route of bygone diggers' footpaths from claim to claim—that leads you to the long-abandoned "New Rush" mine. Here is the vast, extinct crater, almost a mile around and a quarter of a mile deep, that once spewed diamonds into Europe's capitals; and here, too, if you've eyes to see them, swarm old-time miners' ghosts, with avid eyes and avaricious hands, sifting the earth and clawing at fortune. Tomorrow, for them, the fleshpots of Paris and London!

Many Used in Industry.

Not all diamonds are destined to shine forth from jewelry that adorns men and women. More than half the world's production of the stones, in quantity, is used in industry. Some form bearings for watches, chronometers, electric meters, and other accurate instruments and laboratory apparatus. Some, in which tapered holes are drilled, are used for drawing fine wire of platinum, silver, gold, and rare metals.

Other industrial uses for diamonds are as drills for glass, porcelain, and similar hard substances; turning-tools for lathe work; engraving points; and as cutting edges for rock drilling and sawing. For industrial purposes only the less nearly perfect and less valuable stones are used.

The United States is the world's greatest diamond consuming country. Normally it absorbs nearly the equivalent of the entire South African output. If all the diamonds produced in the world in 1929 could have been combined into a single cube it would have been five and a half feet across each face—a crystal block as tall as the average man and weighing more than a ton and a half. If the rough stones have been brought together and dumped into bushel baskets they would have filled two dozens of them, heaped up.

In recent years a wealth of the gems has been literally scooped up from the earth in the regions of alluvial diamond deposits. Until this change in mining methods came about, the greater part of the diamonds had been mined for decades by laborious digging to great depths in the "pipes" of extinct volcanoes. Then came the slow work of separating the stones from earth and rock.