

WHY OUR BOYS AND GIRLS GO WRONG

Results of an Inquiry by Milwaukee Alderman and Remedies Suggested

AGENCIES ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE

Bad Home Influences, Cheap Places of Amusement and Lack of Opportunities for Wholesome Enjoyment Given as Leading Causes.

An investigation has been made by a special committee of the Common Council to discover why boys and girls of Milwaukee go wrong.

Among the agencies which Milwaukee people hold responsible for the corrupting of young people and which they believe are equally active in other large cities are the following:

Undesirable home influences. The indifference or the blind faithfulness of parents in many homes of the better sort.

The penny arcades, their tendency to promote flirtations and the opportunity which they present to the petty thief.

The five cent theatres and other places of cheap amusement conducted without proper supervision, not so much because of the nature of the entertainment itself, but because they promote the habit of hanging about the streets and forming chance acquaintances.

Sensational displays on the billboards. Poolrooms and bowling alleys which allow young boys to loaf in them.

Lack of supervision of boarding houses which advertise rooms to let to young girls.

The inadequate enforcement of the compulsory education and child labor laws and of laws prohibiting the sale of liquors to minors, the sale of cigarettes and the attendance of young girls at saloon dance halls without their guardians' presence.

Inadequate laws restricting disorderly houses and poor enforcement of such laws as exist.

Lack of opportunities for wholesome enjoyment, such as public playgrounds and social centres.

As remedial agencies constructive rather than stricter prohibitive legislation is likely to be recommended to the council.

"Give the boys a place where they can play ball without keeping a lookout for the policeman," suggests H. H. Jacobs, warden of the University of Wisconsin Settlement, situated in the heart of the Polish district, "and you have taken a long step toward the solution of the problem. Give them a good club with gymnasium facilities under intelligent and sympathetic supervision and they will desert the gang which meets in alleys and which is a training school for thieves and worse."

In this statement is found the keynote of the majority of the recommendations. Among the propositions favored are the following:

The erection by the city of neighborhood houses equipped with reading rooms, rooms for games and dances and club work, bath rooms and reading rooms, the houses to be in charge of experienced workers.

The opening of the public schools after school hours as social centres and gathering places for supervised clubs.

The establishment of properly equipped and properly conducted municipal playgrounds so located as to be easily accessible to the children, and the use of the public school grounds as playgrounds open to the public after school hours.

The establishment of a parental school and of ungraded classes for backward pupils in each of the city schools.

A curfew law. The establishment of a municipal children's theatre where fairy tales and wholesome juvenile plays may be presented, and the abolishment of the penny arcades and questionable 5 cent theatres.

Stricter enforcement of all laws protecting youth and of those providing for the punishment of adults who contribute to the delinquency of children. Additional restrictions in the child labor law. Segregation of sexes in factories or shorter working hours for women, so that men and women do not leave together.

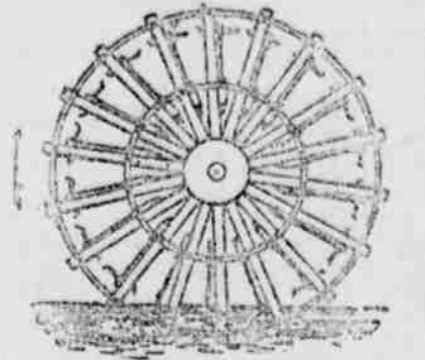
Physicians' Fees Fixed by Law. A German antiquarian has found documents showing that in ancient Babylon, 4,150 years ago, the sum due to doctors for treatment were exactly prescribed by law. They varied according to the social position of the patients.

REMARKABLE PADDLE WHEEL.

New Device Feathers the Water Like an Oarsman's Blade.

An automatic feathering wheel for a paddle-driven steambout has been invented and perfected by W. N. Croxon of Seattle, who has patented the invention. The new wheel has an automatic tilting contrivance, so that the buckets enter and leave the water without depressing or lifting it in the operation. The new buckets are shaped corresponding to a spoon ear, which enables them to exert a greater force in propelling the vessel. By means of lateral wings on the outer edge they are able to enter the water with the least resistance, and held by a stop pin while the pressure is exerted, when an automatic spring releases them and they assume their former inoperative position.

The concave form of the bucket creates greater pressure against the water. The position of the buckets while out of the water and moving concentric with the wheel shaft edge through the air diminishes air resistance. The manner in which the buckets enter the water edgewise avoids the loss of power involved in the downward pressure of the water.



New Paddle Wheel.

The automatic tilting of the buckets entering the water throws off the back wash and eliminates dead weight. All air or concussion from the buckets entering and leaving the water is avoided. In starting the wheel without a load the buckets are only thrown into working position by its movement either forward or back.—Seattle Times.

Prying Him Up.

When resourcefulness and a moderate amount of assurance are needed, there is no one more competent than a commercial traveller. The latest exploit of the "drummer"—and one which does him credit—is told by a writer in the Kansas City Journal.

On a very hot afternoon in Topeka recently a number of around-town chaps who do not seem to have much to do were lounging in the chairs in front of a leading hotel. Several travelling men came out of the hotel, and finding all the chairs occupied, expressed themselves with more emphasis than self-restraint.

"Let's dump a few of them out," suggested one. "Hold on a minute," replied another. "Watch me get a chair."

With that he walked over to one of the loungers and in the most courteous way said, "Will you please tell me whether that is a drug-store across the street?"

"No," replied the loungeur, "that's a bank."

"Oh, is it? Well, say, what is that nice big building just down the street here, two corners away?"

"That's the post-office," was the reply.

"You live in this charming city, then?" asked the drummer.

"I do," said the loungeur.

"Well, then," replied the travelling man, "I'm a guest at this hotel and hoping for accommodations. Suppose you get up and give me that chair."

Automatic Lamp Extinguisher.

An inventor residing in South Dakota has invented a simple device, which may be attached to an oil street lamp such as is used in a village or town, to extinguish the light at any hour set. The device consists of a sleeve which is arranged to slide over the wick, to extinguish the lamp. This sleeve is connected by a rod to an alarm clock. A pinion on the winding key of the alarm engages a rack carried by the rod. When the hour arrives for the light to be extinguished, the alarm mechanism is disengaged, causing the key to turn in the usual way and thereby feed the sleeve upward, so that it covers the wick and extinguishes the flame.

The Bibulous Bee.

No creature is more apt to become a hopeless dipsomaniac than the honey bee. The flowers deliberately trade on the weakness and make their honey intoxicating simply to give the bee an irresistible taste for it and induce the deluded insect to make continual calls at their bar.

A Reward Withheld

With troubled eyes and a strange feeling of dissatisfaction, James Houston looked upon the small unhappy group by his fireside. His three children, Mary, aged 12; Alice, 10, and little Donald, only 7, were sulkily withstanding the gracious advances of his wife Gertrude, their new mamma. Since her homecoming, a year back, she was untiring in her efforts to win these childish hearts, but they steadily withheld the love which they felt belonged only to their pretty mother, who had left them for a happier world.

Gertrude Houston's lovely eyes filled with pain and disappointment and she left the little group and went to her husband's side. Nurse Spencer took the children out, and she looked wistfully after them, then, turning to her husband with a sigh:

"It seems like a hopeless task. I never wanted anything so much as the affection of these little ones, and yet I can't seem to touch the right chord at all. If they only knew how much I have given up for them, how many years of lonely weariness I endured, do you think they would ever understand?"

He answered with a sigh and a look of tenderest devotion. "Gertrude, no one can withstand you long. Don't give up, dear!"

A year had passed and sadness filled the Houston home. Mr. Houston's health had been rapidly falling, and the last hope was a serious operation, and the result of this was feared. They were in the library; the same old constraint existed between Gertrude and her little charges, and the same sweet patience in the woman's face. She left the room to give some orders, and the father called the children to him, and in a kind, earnest voice, pleaded for their hearts for his wife.

"My dear children, this may be the last time we will be together. During the past year I have watched with pain the earnest efforts of your mother to gain your love and your steadfast repulse. Why is it you cannot give her even a little affection? Is she not kind to you? Does she not do everything to please you? Dress your dolls? Help you with your lessons? Fix your kites and your train of cars? What is it? Do you dislike her? If I should not come back to you she would care for you with the same loving attention, yet you will not even give her a smile or call her mamma—"

"Oh, father, how can we call her mamma! Our mamma has passed away and Spencer says we must never forget her! Every night we talk about her and wish her back again—and sometimes pray that we may be taken to her," and tears filled the big, serious eyes of Mary, and the others remained silent.

"Many years ago, before you were born, Mary, I came to Philadelphia. My father had just died, and I came to live with your Aunt Marjory. Your mother was there, a sunny faced girl of 18. Her hair was light like yours, Alice, and her eyes big and blue. Her winning smile soon captivated my boyish heart, and I thought I was in love with Helen. The summer flew by, and in the fall your mother's cousin Gertrude came to stay with us. She was entirely different from Helen; she was tall and dark, with eyes like the night. She was older than your mother and more serious, and they were fast friends. Soon I began to feel indifferent towards Helen, and yearn for Gertrude's society. I did not know what to do; I knew where my honor was, and I knew where my heart was, and worst of all—I knew where their hearts were—with me!

"One bright afternoon I told Gertrude of this love for her, and instead of hearing a like response, she treated me with cold displeasure, and with withering scorn, told me what she thought of me for speaking thus to her, when I had already won Helen's heart!

"We had been walking in the woods, and were returning to the city; as we were passing an unfinished house I was struck by a falling brace. I was unconscious for a time, and when I opened my eyes, I gazed into the white face of Gertrude—and there read her secret. For one brief moment I was wild with joy—but only for a moment. When she saw that I was regaining my senses, her attitude became totally indifferent. I was ill for a long time, and when at last I was able to leave my room, she had gone and with her all the sunshine of my life! She left a note telling me not to seek her until my debt of honor had been paid.

"And so I married Helen, your mother. God knows I tried to be a faithful and affectionate husband to her, and she now knew Gertrude had left without a word, and never wrote or came to see her after we were married. And so she died, in the belief that she was the only one in my life. And all these years your mother Gertrude's heart was breaking. After three years I found her and brought her here. It was because she loved your mother so well that she sacrificed a life's happiness, and now, my children, can't you give her a little of that love she so nobly left untouched for you.

There was silence in the darkened room and then sobs. When Gertrude returned after her duty was done, there were three wet little faces and outstretched arms to greet her. And when the last great grief befell them, they wept together for the loved one who had brought them together.—KATHERINE FITZPATRICK.

SELLING SUPPLIES TO THE ARMY

The Way to Get Business is to Send Catalogues to the Posts

THE METHOD OF PURCHASING

Our Army is Located in Some Three Hundred Widely Scattered Military Posts and All Are in the Market—Bills Received before Payment.

The two chief supply departments of the American army are the commissary and the quartermaster's. The former furnishes all food stuffs, toilet articles and similar supplies.

The latter with few exceptions furnishes all other things needed in the service, principally camp and garrison equipage, ranging from railroads and steamships to cooking utensils and household articles.

In short, says the Bookkeeper, the quartermaster's department covers nearer the goal of a well managed department store than any other branch of the service.

Our army is located in 300 or more widely scattered military posts in the United States, Alaska, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines. At each permanent post or temporary camp there is a commissary and a quartermaster officer who are charged with the supply of the troops serving the post.

These officers may not buy the requisite supplies for their respective departments in the open market, except in very rare instances. They must obtain them through depot commissaries or depot quartermasters situated in the principal market centres of the country upon written requisition duly approved by intermediate commanders.

These requisitions state specifically what is needed, and here is where the catalogue comes into helpful use to the officer or his subordinates. From it he chooses the make, description, quality, etc., of the particular items he wants, oftentimes naming the maker and giving the catalogue number from which the information is taken.

Hence the purchasing agent at the depot in the large city, going into the market to buy, calls for the identical article asked for, and as though obeying the mandate of the modern advertiser "accepts no substitute." Large depots continually carry ordinary commodities in stock, such stock often aggregating \$1,000,000 in value. The list usually ranges from road rollers and other heavy hardware to carpet tacks and washing soap.

The Government, it is said, is inevitably the last institution to adopt modern conveniences or new inventions. To-day, when vacuum processes are cleaning the interiors of our homes, the old unsanitary corn broom still sweeps the barracks and the officers' quarters at the military garrison.

It is also quite true that in these days of extensive advertising the army now and then indulges in a few conveniences of the age. When the bicycle held full sway as a pleasure and business conveyance no quartermaster found it possible to get one for official use. Now they are regularly supplied upon requisition, as are automobiles.

All firms doing a national business should send their latest catalogues each year to the quartermaster of each military post as well as to the quartermaster depots in the larger cities. Most maps show the name and location of our garrisoned posts, this falling, application should be made to the War Department for a list showing them.

When once you get the army in the habit of buying your products, as is now the case with reference to certain brands of soap, washing powder, lamp chimneys, stationery, inks, paste, plumbing supplies, etc., it will go on buying them to the exclusion of all other makes for an indefinite period, or until your quality degenerates or is succeeded by more modern contrivances. Uncle Sam is a customer hard to lose once you have made good to him; also the pay is sure yet sometimes slow.

In this latter regard settlement of bills should never be pressed, as it usually requires weeks, if not months, to get vouchers supporting payments ready for the disbursement. Contrary to good business sense, the Government requires a signed receipt before making payment. It frequently occurs that a business house may not receive its check for a long period after signing a receipt certifying that payment has been made in full. Comparatively little of what the army buys is bought under annual contract. Purchases are usually made at frequent intervals on circular proposal, any one having the right to bid.

Filling Buttermilk.

The great Dr. Metchnikoff has a buttermilk bug to believe that sour milk can do so much for man. Buttermilk is good, wholesome diet, mainly because it is so filling; a little of it goes a very long way, especially if taken every day, and therefore is a fairly good thing for old folk and the too fat, for most old people over-enjoy the pleasures of the palate, and a pint of sour milk gives the stomach just about the fullest, tightest sensation it can get from any sort of food.

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