

### WITMER WOULD TEST SCHOOL BOARD MINDS

University Professor Proposes Psychological Test of Mental-ity of 'Archaic' Body

Dr. Lightner Witmer, professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, offers to have the members of what he terms the "archaic Board of Education" examined psychologically to determine their "intelligence, intellectual capacity, general information and initiative."

The offer is made in a statement issued by Doctor Witmer in which he pleads for reform in the method of instructing backward pupils in the schools of this city.

School teachers here will never get adequate salaries from the Board of Education, the professor asserts. He advises them to organize for higher salaries.

All the funds derived from an increase of \$3,000,000 in school taxes would advance teachers' salaries 45 per cent, he said, compared with a 75 per cent advance in the cost of living since 1915.

Doctor Witmer's Statement

Doctor Witmer's statement, in part, follows:

"It is camouflage for Doctor Garber and Doctor Wheeler, propagandists of the Board of Education and probably acting under Mr. Gratz's orders, to present an array of public school activities showing that our public school system is not lacking in kindergartens, classes for backward children, high schools and other features which are an integral part of the public school system everywhere. When you are inquiring into the productivity of a field, you will not be satisfied by the exhibition of a bushel of potatoes, even though they are big potatoes and of good quality. You will ask how many potatoes the field produced to the acre and at what cost in time, labor and money. The efficiency of the public schools is to be measured in terms of its product—the school children of Philadelphia, the majority of whom leave school to go to work at or before the age of sixteen.

"You are losing \$8,000,000 a year, largely because of the control exercised over your schools by privilege and wealth in the person of Simon Gratz, their most powerful and conspicuous agent.

**The Backward Children**

"Fifty per cent of your children who go to work at or before the age of sixteen have either failed to complete a six-year course of instruction in eight years or more or they have completed this course only after they have lost two years or more. These are the backward children of the Philadelphia public schools. It is camouflage to call the orthopedic classes, of which there are 100 in Philadelphia, 'classes for backward' children, for at least 80 per cent of these children are feeble-minded, and many of them are imbeciles of low grade.

"From the report of the superintendent of education I obtain the facts from which I estimate that at least 40,000 children begin work every year. At least one-half of these 40,000 children—more than 20,000—are let go to get to work because they are two years or more backward in their progress. If a boy or girl can earn \$8 a week, or \$400 a year, each and every backward child produced by the Philadelphia school system is costing the working people of the city \$500 in two years' loss of wage.

**Assaults Compulsory Study**

"The total loss to the wage-earners of Philadelphia is \$8,000,000. Put this down in the bill when you take the control of the schools from the agents of privilege and wealth.

"An elaborate survey is not necessary to establish the relative competency of the fifteen members of the Board of Education. Very simple tests, which I would be glad to make without expense to the city, enable an examining psychologist to assign each and every member of the board to his relative rating with respect to intelligence, intellectual capacity, general information and initiative.

"Turn from Mr. Gratz and his associates on the Board of Education to the superintendent of police and learn to understand and appreciate the significance and value of your superintendent's report for 1917. Do not ask the Philadelphia Board of Education for an increase in wage to compensate you for the increased cost of living, but join with the union recently formed in affiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

"You will never get a just wage from or through the Philadelphia Board of Education. You will get it only when you unite to demand it from the reluctant hand of privilege and wealth.

"And again: I ask the workers of Philadelphia to listen. Mr. Gratz has control over the assessment of the houses which you own or in which you live and pay rent. He says that Philadelphia is a city of homes and he doesn't like to raise the tax rate on your homes. He also controls the assessed values of the homes and business houses of the rich, and is just as anxious not to raise the assessment on

these, although he makes no boast about it.

"Indeed, the anxiety of Mr. Gratz and his associates to keep the real estate owned by men of privilege and wealth from being unduly taxed has led to such inequalities of assessment, that until he publishes the assessed values of real property in Philadelphia, you are justified in believing that the burden of taxation rests more heavily upon you than it does upon the class whose interests Mr. Gratz so zealously guards."

### BULLET ENDS FLIGHT OF ALLEGED HOLD-UP

Man Near Death After Patrolman Who Interrupted Robbery Attempt Files

Walter Thompson, who gave an address on Thirteenth street above Spring Garden, was probably fatally shot by Patrolman Miller, of the Tenth and Buttonwood streets station, when he and a companion, it is alleged, were interrupted in the act of robbing James Durran, of Jamestown, N. Y., at Thirtieth and Nectarine streets shortly after 2 o'clock yesterday morning.

According to the story of their victim, Thompson and Daniel Douglas, Ninth and Race streets, approached and asked for a match. When Mr. Durran put his hand in his pocket to comply with the request one of them said: "You might as well give us your money at the same time."

Then one of the highwaymen drew a revolver and had covered him when Patrolman Miller came round the corner. Seeing him, the men started running down Nectarine street and the policeman called to them to halt. When they refused he fired once to frighten them. This had no effect and he opened a fusillade, with the result that Thompson was shot four times in the body. He is at the Hahnemann Hospital, where he is not expected to live.

Douglas gave up the fight and surrendered.

### FAITH IN PROHIBITION

Anti-Saloon League Official Appeals for Enforcement of Law

"The eighteenth amendment is the nation's law. It is the law of the nation's God. We believe it will be enforced. We must elect men who have respect for the eighteenth amendment and fidelity to the oath to carry it out. This is the gist of a sermon by the Rev. Homer W. Topp, district superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, who spoke last night in the Third Baptist Church, Germantown.

"In the lull between July 1 and January 1, liquor men tell us, the law will not be enforced," said the Rev. Topp. "The nature of the corrupt politician has not been changed. Hence we must remember that the work is but begun; that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. I do not believe that the law's element will triumph. This element has been against local option, state-wide prohibition, Sunday closing and pure food regulations for years."

### WOULD GUARD EXPLOSIVES

U. S. Mine Director Asks Legislation to Continue Reforms

Washington, April 21.—An appeal to State Legislatures to enact laws which will continue the reforms brought about by the wartime federal statute prohibiting possession of dangerous explosives by irresponsible and criminal persons, was made yesterday by Van H. Manning, director of mines.

The federal law, passed solely as a war measure, which was meant to keep explosives from the hands of dynamiters, bomb throwers and alien enemies with evil intent, will expire upon the ratification of peace by the Senate.

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### ACTRESSES OF YESTERYEAR ADMIT MUSICAL COMEDY ART

Women From Edwin Forrest Home, Guests of Nora Bayes, Compare Modern Theatre With That in Which They Were Stars

"Musical comedy? Why, we love it!"

This confession comes from six gentle old ladies who were the fair Ophelias and the tragic Juliets and the romantic Rosalinds when the world was almost a half a century younger. They are now spending the closing years of their lives at the Edwin Forrest Home, Holmesburg, Pa. On Saturday they were the guests of Nora Bayes at her majestical performance at the Lyric Theatre.

"In the pride of their beauty they numbered among the best in the delivery of heroic interpretations. They were destitute of the trick and artifice of the modern stage. They represent the older mellow manner of acting, and yet they 'love' musical comedy.

"It's because we folks of the stage somehow always stay young," said Mrs. Carrie Lee Stoye, who is sixty-seven. "When I was very young I came from England, and I did the so-called legitimate work and I acted in the good, old-fashioned way, which I adore because it is so wholesome and sincere. But I changed with the years, so that my last role was with Fannie Ward in 'Madame President.'"

"No. The old method of strutting and fretting your little hour on the stage is a thing of the past. In the days long ago we cherished our distinct conventional method. But the new, more restrained, yet franker method, provided there is honest sincerity behind it, is the finer for these days. And mostly, I must admit, because that's the kind of acting the audiences want."

"May I say this for Nora? I think she is the most delightful, legitimate musical comedian on the stage today. She is charming."

Amey Lee, of the original Girard Avenue Stock Company, whose repertory, at one time extended down the entire list of dramatic heroines, believes that an actor cannot burlesque well unless he or she can do the "legitimate" well.

"It's like a caricaturist," he said. "He can't artfully draw a funny man at all, unless he can draw a real man well. How could he burlesque a posture, if he didn't know how to make the posture? Nora Bayes can do Shakespeare just as well as she can burlesque. I know, for I've seen her do Shakespeare."

"I think there is a kind of burlesque that is thoroughly artistic," said Mrs. John Jack, widow of the celebrated "Falstaff." Mrs. Jack's stage name was Annie Firman. She will be remembered by the older members of the family, especially for her portrayal of Lady Teazle, in Sheridan's "A School for Scandal."

"Such acting deserves a generous place on our stage. However, I know the younger actors will forgive me when I confess I have a strong affection for the sweet actors of my day, who had, besides more historic ability, a poetic vision and a zeal to create a living character."

Old in body, but very young in spirit, these melting Desdemonas of years ago smiled through the melody of songs, jokes and dancing. Miss Sydney Cowell, long associated with Sir Charles Wyndham, and Miss Ada Gilman, of the old Boston Museum, and Miss Emily Lewis, heartily endorsed the sentiment favoring musical comedy—with reservations, of course. Reservations expressed in the voiceless or modulation of their voices rather than in actual words.

"The stage today is charming—extremely charming. However—"

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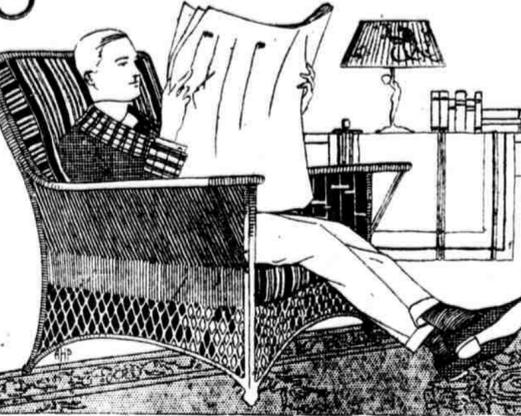
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