

Two Minutes of Optimism
By HERMAN J. STICH

"Quicksands of Youth"

WHY SHOULD we have a profound respect for boys, who are drawn strangely to the reckless, frolic, gray, mischievous, unkempt, impulsive, dreamy, adventurous, lovable youth, who feel that sympathetic understanding of its possibilities which can come only from keeping in close touch with its heart, its energies, enthusiasms, ideas and aspirations, I commend to you "Quicksands of Youth," by Franklin Chase Hoyt.

One says are our stalwarts in the chrysalis—every man was a boy—I trust will not be contradicted—it is really so!

Hoyt is the great need of the leaders of the future.

It is the vast, open spaces—surrounding, protecting, conditioning, molding the careers of tomorrow.

It is the fearful crucible in which is being wrought everlastingly the men who will set up and upset empires and dynasties, draw and redraw continental boundaries, write books and utter words that will shape the thought of nations, make decisions that will revolutionize the commerce and industries and habits of the world, make discoveries that will strengthen the span average of human life, and enact laws that will direct the doings and the destinies of the ages.

Let us be careful with our boys, to be patient with our boys—now dealing with soul stuff—who knows what awaits around the corner? We want to be patient with our boys!

"Boy problems?" you ask, with just a trace of a contemptuous ring.

"Childhood!" you comment: "fish, tush and poo-hoo for your silly, foolish, sentimentalism!" There are no such things.

And yet it is a curious fact to observe, which any man who really knows the psychology and which Judge Hoyt points out, how faithfully the smaller children of youth mirror the larger ones of grown-ups, and how often the forces compelling children are the prototypes of those things which are destined to shape and control their future lives.

I had the good fortune and the great pleasure of spending one of the most interesting years of my life working alongside Judge Hoyt in the New York State Bar, and I know whereof I speak when I say that it is with this background of vision and responsibility, of keenest realization and appreciation of the possibilities with which each boy's life is big that, with infinite understanding and tenderness, with constructive sympathy and occasional sternness, is chipping on his great work of human salvage and upbuilding—a work that, brimming over with much service and great love, and vividly crystallized in you and I, with all its interest, humor, pathos and irresistible appeal in his gripping book, "Quicksands of Youth."

DREAMLAND ADVENTURES

The School on the Ice
By DADBY

PEGGY, Billy, and Folly Wisner were surprised to find themselves pupils in the school of Professor Tusky Walrus. When Peggy wished that they might be in school she meant a nice, comfortable school, such as she had always gone to, not a seal school on the ice in the Arctic land, with a cross old baldheaded, bristly whiskered and rusted Walrus as a teacher.

"Second class in numbers," bellowed Professor Tusky Walrus. The seals fopped around as though school were breaking up, but after a flurry of excitement they lined up once more and Peggy and Billy found that the second class in numbers was just the same as the first class in zoology.

"How many waves are there in the ocean?" asked Professor Walrus of the seal at the head of the class.

"Too many to count," answered the seal.

"Correct!" bellowed Professor Walrus. "Go to the foot of the class!"

"If one big wave splits up into small waves, what does it make?" asked Professor Walrus of the next seal.

"Lots of trouble swimming," bellowed the seal.

"Correct!" bellowed Professor Walrus again. "Go to the foot of the class!"

"How many fish are there in a meal?" asked Professor Walrus of Peggy.

"That's a queer question in numbers," replied Peggy. "One fish usually makes a meal for our whole family."

"Wrong. You are a dunce. Get out of the class," bellowed Professor Walrus, and he spanked Peggy to one side.

"How many fish are there in a meal?" he asked the class again.

"Not enough!" bellowed the seals in a chorus.

"Correct!" bellowed Professor Walrus. "Go to the foot of the class!"

There was a mad scramble among the seals to obey and a lively fight, which was only settled when Billy quietly lined them up in a circle so there would be no foot of the class.

"Third class in geography," bellowed

Professor Walrus. "Where is the best place to go in summer?"

"To the northern ocean," bellowed the seals.

"Where is the best place to spend the winter?"

"In cool waters midway between north and south," bellowed the seals.

"Correct! And how do you get from the summer seas to the winter seas?" asked the professor.

"We follow our noses," barked the seals.

That answer struck Billy as being funny and he began to laugh.

Professor Tusky Walrus glared at Billy crossly.

"If you know so much about it, how would you find your way from here to the winter playground?" he demanded.

The question took Billy by surprise. He didn't know how to answer.

"Hub! You are not so smart as you think you are!" bellowed Professor Tusky Walrus. "Get out of the class!"

Before Billy could stir Professor Walrus gave him a spank that sent him spinning to the side of Peggy.

This way of teaching school seemed odd to Peggy.

"I wish I were teacher for half an hour," she said. "I'd teach these seals

something."

No sooner was the wish out of her mouth than Folly Wisner gave a loud laugh and clapped his hands. "You shall have your wish," he cried.

"Yes," bellowed Professor Tusky

Walrus. "I am tired of being school teacher. You shall take my place."

And before Peggy could wink, there she was, the teacher of the seal school. How she got on as teacher will be told tomorrow.

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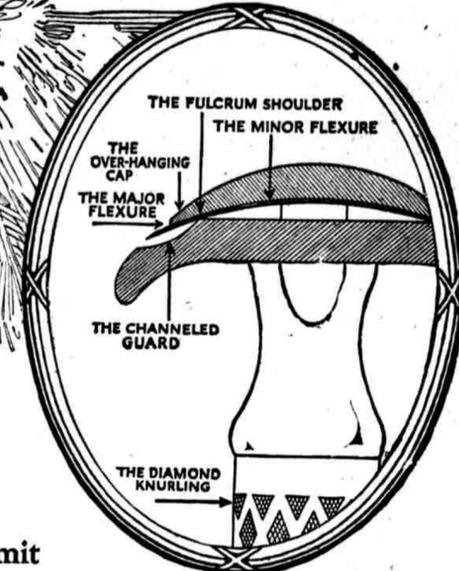
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