

Evening Public Ledger

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JULY 4 AND THE FAIR

PRESIDENT HARDING'S promise to attend the Marine O. centennial celebration on July 4 signals a sentimental claim which Philadelphians cannot gracefully contest.

HARDING AND WOMEN'S VOTE

IT KNOWS in my very heart," said President Harding at Atlantic City, "that women can only play their part truly in the affairs of the Nation if they play it in connection with a recognized political organization."

SETTING AN OLD GRUDGE

THE Pan-American Building in Washington today becomes the appropriate scene of an effort in statesmanship fraught with notable possibilities for establishing new safeguards of peace in the Western Hemisphere.

THE MERRY-GO-ROUND

ONCE way to end an international conference is to call another. The procedure has been followed with conspicuous regularity since the time of the Treaty of Versailles sessions closed in 1919.

LABOR SHOULD CLEAN HOUSE

THE damage done to the prestige of trades unionism by the Brindell disclosures in New York, where a group of labor leaders were found to have been conspiring with profiteering contractors against the general public and starting or stopping strikes for large fees, which they pocketed, was enormous.

THE ISSUE TOMORROW

THE issue before the voters tomorrow is whether contractor government is to be set up in Harrisburg. We know in Philadelphia what that would mean. Joseph McLoughlin, who was Director of Supplies under Mayor Smith, reminded the Academy of Music audience at the Pinchot meeting how the contractors work.

Senator Leslie, of Pittsburgh, who shares with Senator Vare the honor of forcing Alter into the campaign, has similar standards. According to reports published at the time, Leslie went into the office of Highway Commissioner Sadler and demanded that the specifications for highway improvement should call for a patented preparation controlled by Leslie's firm.

When Sadler refused to call for this preparation Leslie is said to have threatened him with loss of his job. But Leslie did not have power enough to get Sadler removed. If Alter is nominated he will owe the nomination to Vare and Leslie. They will seek to dictate the appointment of the Highway Commissioner.

There remains the contest for the senatorship nomination between Pepper and Burke. Pepper has been seeking to represent all the people of the State. He calls himself the attorney for the people, commissioned to look after their interests.

Burke is a labor leader. He is appealing for support to class interests. He makes no pretense to represent anything but a single group of the population. He is supported by a class organization which has sent its workers into the State to stir up the class feeling. He should be defeated for this reason alone.

This is a democracy in which all men are equal before the law. Special privileges are frowned upon by all good citizens. Every great national figure since the foundation of the Republic has denounced class legislation.

Burke has raised the class issue. He has thus proved himself unfit for a seat in any legislative body. His defeat should be so overwhelming as to discourage any one in the future from seeking to arraign class against class in this State.

MR. MITTEN'S BIG PROGRAM
ACTIVE co-operation of other interested parties with Mr. Mitten in the consideration of his latest program will depend largely upon whether the city is ready seriously to take up the solution of the rapid transit problem.

THE general impression is that it was defeated by rapid transit interests. Some such bill will have to be passed if Mr. Mitten's plan is to be adopted, for there is too much money involved, and in the light of present knowledge the result of the experiment is too doubtful for any public official to feel justified in recommending that the city buy all the franchises and tracks now operated by the Rapid Transit Company.

MR. MITTEN'S BIG PROGRAM
The solution, according to Mr. Mitten in the statement which he gave out yesterday, lies in city ownership of all subways, elevated and surface tracks; in assessing the cost of new lines proportionately upon the property benefited and upon the taxpayers at large, and in the operation of the lines by a private company which shall supply all the equipment with the assurance of a reasonable return upon the investment.

THE experiment soon to be made with the operation of the city-owned Frankford elevated line will be useful in guiding public sentiment. With some vital differences, that line is to be operated upon the plan which Mr. Mitten would like to have applied to all the lines in the city. The Rapid Transit Company, in this case, does not supply the cars to be operated. They are bought by the city and the company is expected to pay rent for their use, as their cost is to be included in the cost of the line. But it will be five years before the rental will equal the interest which the city will have to pay on the bonds.

AS ONE WOMAN SEES IT

Scarcity of Nurses in Special Cases Brings About Investigation of Cause, and a Remedy is Now Being Sought

By SARAH D. LOWRIE

I SAW a letter from a trained nurse who has had much experience in private nursing and who had been suggested through a very iterative and important position in a sanatorium for nervous and psychopathic patients.

In carefully declining to apply she confessed that she had had no chance to study nervous or mental disorders and would therefore be too ignorant of the whole subject to undertake the management of an institution given over to the care of patients suffering from such maladies. She added that her general experience had made her feel competent to manage a great variety of cases and that she had no special training against nervous or insane cases, but, lacking the original training, she had never found time to take up the subject.

It is not long ago my attention was called to still another case of nursing, with which the generality of trained nurses seem to be curiously ignorant. A child in a family that I know fell ill of a very virulent type of scarlet fever, and much depended on his state of mind in the pulling out of the disease. There were two nurses who had nursed in the family and whom the child was familiar with and liked. To isolate him with either of them would have injured his delicate and peace of mind. His mother was nursing a young baby and could not be with him herself. But neither of the nurses could undertake the case, because neither had had any experience in that particular disease, besides which one of them was not permitted by the doctor who gave her most of her cases to take any contagious ones.

EVENTUALLY a nurse was found whose training experience since graduation had been with contagious diseases in a hospital for contagious diseases. Her technique was the technique of a hospital, which differs from that of the home both in small amenities and in a lack of reasonableness. The child recovered under her care, but the whole experience to the family was more drastic and less sympathetic than seemed at all necessary. We found that there are many doctors who object to their nurses taking cases like scarlet fever and diphtheria, and consequently comparatively few nurses undertake them without reluctance. And looking further we discovered that nursing training schools do not include any experience in such diseases in their curricula.

Perhaps this recent eye-opener made me so alert on the whole subject of nursing and the modern conditions of the profession. One of two of the girls that studied nursing as a war activity have been very frank with me over what they regard as the handicaps of the training school. Apart from the poor dormitories that some of the hospitals have for their nursing staff, apart from the rather rough meals and dreary recreation quarters that most of them possess, there is often something not quite right about the way most hospitals exploit their pupil nurses. They work them too hard, they give them instruction of the theoretical kind that is far removed from hard duty, and they do not give them an all-around experience of disease, mental disorders and contagious diseases being often omitted entirely.

WHILE the whole subject of surgical cases is generally over-accented, and the whole matter of home visiting and of child hygiene and convalescent diet such as a visiting or district nurse should have at her disposal is almost entirely neglected, the young nurses just graduating, mind you, is that they have not been taught enough. It is as though they had gone to college and had not studied hard physically that they could not stand mentally.

AGAINST this lowering of the standards I found the higher class of nurses were setting their faces like flint, and scenting the wind before the trial, and they are, therefore, unconsciously influenced to the right of the case and have only a single angle of view. The difficulty of this situation is that if one starts with a biased or, more properly, an incorrect angle of view, it takes much more evidence to dislodge this false angle than it would to create a proper viewpoint if the case were presented on a whole. The more fact that the expert is testifying to an opinion based upon a whole series of facts or near-facts gives him so much leeway in forming an opinion that it would appear to an independent observer that one of the two experts must be lying, when, as a matter of fact, both might be honest in the opinions expressed.

WELL, after threshing this all out with the medical board and with a state hospital board member or two, I came on some information that would have saved me all my ignorance had I gone direct to the source of expert knowledge now available on the whole subject. The Rockefeller Foundation has had a survey committee on hospitals and nurses and training schools which has been investigating for the last three years some dozen or more of the great hospitals of the country with a view to setting a standard for hospitals of the first class. The report of this committee has not yet been made public, but a sort of forecasting is being done, and I have come under my eye in a paper drawn up by a committee composed of head nurses and teachers in training schools that is known as "The National League of Nursing Education."

THE Philadelphia League of Nursing Education has actually founded a school for the past winter with the cooperation of eleven hospitals and the enrollment of sixty-six students. It has provided for its permanent establishment. I would like to see a way out! Better and more equal training for the nurse, less duplication of work for the teaching staffs of the hospitals, and a more co-operative attitude on the part of the public and the women who are pursuing the same end, and in the end a better service for the public.

APT TO PROVE FATAL



NOW MY IDEA IS THIS!

Daily Talks With Thinking Philadelphians on Subjects They Know Best

DR. DANIEL J. MCCARTHY

On the Medical Expert and the Law
The law does not always take full advantage of the possibilities of expert testimony, especially that of physicians, in ascertaining the whole truth, according to Dr. Daniel J. McCarthy, professor of medical jurisprudence at the University of Pennsylvania.

Why Testimony is Biased
Most frequently testimony is biased because the experts retained by either side have only the biased side of the case presented to them before the trial, and they are, therefore, unconsciously influenced to the right of the case and have only a single angle of view.

Experts and Legal Procedure
The court was also unsympathetic to such procedure. Judge of the case, Judge Sulzberger would have insisted on his own account for such elucidation, and many other Judges also take this method to get a complete opinion.

What Do You Know?
1. What is the azimuth?
2. What famous expert once ran for President of the United States?
3. How does the azalea get its name?

Answers to Saturday's Quiz
1. The first Civil Service Reform Act in the United States was passed in 1883.

SHORT CUTS

Just at present China's open door is revolving one. Let every voter knuckle down tomorrow and shoot straight.

The Genon conference and the contractor gang may adjourn tomorrow. In the matter of scraping an acquaintance nobody can beat the barber.

"Prince Shin, of Korea, dies." "The in, Shin!" said Death and Shin kicked off.

Backward, turn backward, oh, Time (to speak); let us be boys again just for the week.

Father Penn has decided to hang a note to the Johnson collection by hanging as directed.

What peevish the tariff tinkers is the not even the exporters are pleased with the bill.

Ever so many middle-aged guys the week will make a bluff at wishing they were boys again.

Guff and bluff are taught as art, Mr. Pennell. Art must be a close relation of Politics.

A Budget Commission followed by a bonus is a case of saving up the pennies to one big jamboree.

Here and there it may be noted the mother, having been feted, has returned to her daily grind.

General Wood appreciates the fact the extended leave of absence occasionally becomes permanent.

To be really effective today's Philadelphian will have to be translated into tomorrow's Pinchot votes.

Bryan, says a contemporary, is still intoxicated by a new idea. And, it is added, he has been sober for years.

It must be admitted that the news that hit the earth show a pleasing diversion in their choice of landing places.

Walt Whitman's home on Mifflin street, Camden, is to be preserved for posterity. May mickle luck attend the plans of the medical and legal professions for the honor of both.

Alter says Pinchot has no sense of humor. Perhaps the Forester expects to do all his laughing on Wednesday morning.

Senator Reed is campaigning in Missouri with a circus tent and a brass band. We presume he does his own clowning, juggling and knife-throwing.

Strange as it may appear, there are, and there, reputable citizens who identify themselves with nothing more than good intentions.

Allegation is made that Stillman Beauvais \$15,000 for love notes. If this would at least prove the guide to a peculiarly malodorous species of skull.

Soldier dead at Oteen, N. C., has \$10,000 to kindly Y. M. C. A. man. The big news will be when a buck private leaves a big fortune to his second lieutenant.

Back your wishes with a vote. The devil gets his experience as a contractor road builder because average citizen gets themselves with nothing more than good intentions.

Danish explorer has traversed northernmost point of Greenland. Expedition suggests the query of a small boy after successful game of solitaire: "What are you going to do now, pop?"

Esteemed content, says there is completely self-sufficient substitute for man. Referred to League of Women Voters (A more careful reading shows the substitute to read "self-sufficient mechanical substitute." No matter, Stet.)

This is really Old Boy's Week, for the boys are due to become standardized by the sun-dried and dehydrated by exposure. Boy Week is going to individualize, and moisten 'em with the spray of Fountain of Youth and momentarily rejuvenate them. Say, fellows! He's the Old Boy! Go, but he needs you.