

# Vest Pocket Essays

By GEORGE FITCH  
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## FINISHING SCHOOLS

WHEN a girl is too refined or too exclusive or too stupid to be sent to a public school any longer, her fond parents send her to a finishing school. These schools are so named because of what they do to father.

Finishing schools are conducted by eminent financiers. Their object is to get \$800 a year and extras per head from their students. The finishing school can take a raw, timid girl with a fair-sized bundle of money and by judicious separating the two can produce in time a beautiful young lady who can read French, play "The Rosary," talk about the drama, get in and out of a room like a princess and snub a poor relation so tactfully that the latter will thank her with tears in his eyes for the favor. It costs from \$800 to \$5,000 a year to furnish a young lady in this style, and after she is properly finished it costs \$5,000 a year for upkeep and decorations until some brave young man comes around for her. The education part comes cheap in these schools, but the extras are better than they are in the contracting business. There was once a private school proprietor who radiated a wonderful atmosphere of repose, and he used to make \$10,000 a year charging up extras for the wear and tear on his atmosphere.

Private schools are very strict in discipline, and it really seems a pity that so many efficient guards are wasted on nice young ladies all over our land while desperate criminals are leaking from their prisons on every hand. In the best private schools parents are only allowed to see their daughters once a year, and then only if their influence is deemed desirable by the head jailer.

The life of a girl in a private school is very arduous. She must rise at seven and manicure for an hour, after which she must go to chapel and thence to breakfast.



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where her father is fined for everything she drops. After breakfast she must study dancing, drawing, sitting down in a fluent and graceful manner, the names of the apostles, dramatic criticism, French for both hands and face, piano playing, shoulder shrugging, small talking, eyebrow elevating, gown wearing, father taming, housework dodging, and many other useful sciences. She is also allowed half an hour a day in which to think, though in the best schools this is considered ill-bred.

The trouble with private schools in this country is that they are not half private enough. They are too easy to find.

### Hadn't Got to That.

Philanthropic Person—"Have you never striven my friend, to attain a higher life?" Mundane Marmaduke—"Well, mister, we ain't got past corned beef an' beer yet, but whether we'll ever reach champagne and chicken I can't bloom' well say."—Sydney Bulletin.

### Use Reason.

You've got to lighten your work with some planning and thought. A fireless cooker doesn't do the business until heat is applied.

### Size of the Foot.

The foot should be as long as the ulna, or chief bone of the forearm—that is, from the small head of the bone to be seen at the wrist to the point of the elbow should be the length of the foot.

### Eeef Suet Not Indispensable.

Norway has discovered that beef suet is not absolutely necessary to the manufacture of margarine. Cod liver oil, herring oil and other fish oils are said to be excellent substitutes.

### The World Is Chee'ed.

Doctor Johnson's old schoolmate said that he could not be a philosopher because "cheerfulness was always breaking in." Our world of mankind cannot be that kind of a philosopher, either for the same reason. It may have its moods and depressions, or prove to be the utmost the reasonableness of despair; but there is an inexhaustible well-spring of vigor within it, and vigor is another word for joy.—From the Unpopular Review.

### Dark Ages.

The term is applied to a portion of the Middle Ages, including the period of about 1,000 years from the fall of Rome to revival of letters in the fifteenth century. It is generally regarded as beginning with invasion of France by Clovis, 480 A. D., and closing with invasion of Naples by Charles VIII in 1495. Learning was at a low ebb during this period.

### Important Rivers.

Just as Egypt has been made by the Nile, so Mesopotamia has been made by the Tigris and the Euphrates. The view put forward with some authority that the rivers should be kept exclusively for irrigation and not be depended upon for transport is challenged on many grounds, one of which is that irrigation and navigation can be effectively combined, and indeed made mutually advantageous for many years to come.

### Disapproves Old Adage.

In spite of the old adage to the contrary, some things done by halves are done most satisfactorily, as for example the much-used Quinsigamond bridge at Worcester, Mass. Here traffic suffered a minimum of interruption by completing and putting into use one longitudinal half of the new structure before the other half was built.

### Fats in the Body.

Fats in the body occur under the skin in the muscles and around certain organs. They act as a protection for the body against injury and serve as a stored supply of fuel, in case food cannot be taken. Fats are liquid in the body and are stored in albuminous cells.

### A Glass Horn.

An innovation in phonographs is an instrument equipped with a horn of beveled mirror glass. The claim of the makers is that the horn of a talking machine best amplifies the tone when its surface is smooth and rigid, hence one of heavy glass is preferable to one of wood or metal.

### Mineral Lake.

A lake near Biggar, Saskatchewan, has been found to be saturated with sodium sulphate, and the deposits under the lake and alongside the edge to be nearly 97 per cent pure sulphate. The mineral is used extensively in the manufacture of sulphuric acid, in photography and other industrial purposes.

### Bright Silver.

Silver will be found brighter if wiped directly from clean, hot, slightly soapy water. Silver may be boiled in a bright aluminum pan with several small pieces of zinc or in a special silver pan with salt and soda. These methods clean the silver and it can be polished afterward.

### Salute to the Flag.

The salute to the flag is given by raising the right hand, palm outward until the index finger is even with the lower edge of the forehead, and standing at attention.

### The First Private Garage.

The first private garage constructed in New York city was built in the spring of 1900 by a prominent New York automobile enthusiast, who at that time owned three motor vehicles.

### Early American Statesman.

Alexander Hamilton, one of our greatest statesmen, was sometimes called "Alexander the Coppersmith," because of the copper cents he had made in 1793, when he was secretary of the treasury. These pennies were very unpopular with the people. He was killed in a duel by Aaron Burr.

### Maybe You're Rich.

Some men are rich and don't know it—rich in health, rich in a large and happy family, rich in friends, rich in influence and standing in their communities, rich in the spirit of charity and brotherly love. These same men may be poor in this world's goods, but they're rich, just the same.—Crosman.

### Thinking of Strenuous Days.

Barber (carried away by his reminiscences)—"And when he'd looped the loop he did a nose dive that fairly took your breath away."—Boston Evening Transcript.

### Psychologically Tested.

Psychological tests are being used by the United States employment service in New York to aid in determining the work for which applicants are best fitted.



THE TANGLED DOTS.  
By Clifford Leon Sherman.

"Maybe they didn't have any I. W. W. in the olden times," said Pearl, "but I'll draw something that struck regularly." "Yes," said Harris, "and if that is the Hickory-Dickory-Doek Clock, just remember that a mouse ran up instead of a..."

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