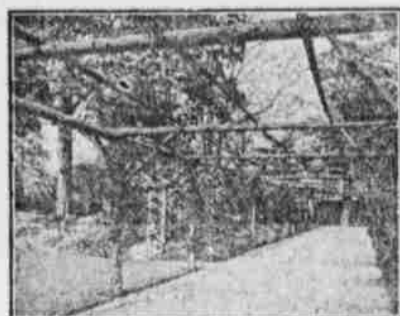


PURPOSE OF PARKS.

They Should Be For All the People All the Time.

Prospective home hunters are more likely to locate in a town that has a park than one without any, provided the place is satisfactory in other respects. Even a few acres tastefully laid out with lawn, flower beds and a playground for the young folks will be a pleasant spot where both the poor and the rich can spend many happy hours.

A small section of a large city park is devoted to a rosary with a beautiful rose walk. This idea can easily be carried out in a small park at a



A ROSE WALK.

moderate expense and in the gentle month of roses it would form a charming beauty spot.

Open spaces about a railroad station laid out like a park please the passer-by and add greatly to the appearance of a town and its approaches.

What parks are meant for and their value to mankind is concisely described by a writer in the Los Angeles Times who says:

"Parks are, or at least should be built for use, not merely to look at. A park is a piece of the country within the town, or a piece of land within the town where the people have all the freedom and influences of rural parts. For this reason as little restriction as possible should be placed upon the use of parks and every reasonable provision made for the accommodation and convenience of the public. No 'Keep Off the Grass' signs should deter any one from taking a roll (or a nap if he feels like it) upon the lawns, and plenty of seats should be provided for all who care to use them.

"There have been park boards who seemed to think that the parks were given them to juggle with and the public had no rights which they were bound to respect, but the shoe is on the other foot; park commissioners have no greater legal rights than the public in general. A piece of land

within a town is not a park, nor will it ever be until used. One of the leading park men of the United States has made the point that a great collection of buildings does not make a city or town, but a great collection of people does, and they find the buildings convenient, almost necessary. The people who use the land constitute the park for without them it would be useless.



PARK AT A RAILROAD STATION.

and however highly embellished would be a dead thing unless some one could see it in detail and enjoy it.

"Not only should parks be used wherever found, but they should be found everywhere, for it has been proved that purely city and town conditions cannot produce what is best in man kind and therefore parks are a prime necessity. The best that is in human kind has been produced by association with nature and her influences. Man kind confined to cities altogether artificial would quickly degenerate. Therefore parks are a vital necessity."

Town Betterment Suggestion.

As Boston has its "1915," so Abington, Mass., has its 1912. Since Abington is a good deal smaller than Boston, it seemed unnecessary to allow quite as much time to make it "the finest ever" as the larger city had done. Besides, in 1912 the town of Abington will celebrate its two hundredth anniversary. The village improvement committee has taken up the matter and has sent out a printed letter to the townsfolk suggesting several simple things which can be done by almost everybody for the betterment of his own property and which, if done at all generally, will mean a great enhancement in the town's attractiveness by 1912. The committee itself will, as far as possible, look after the public places, such as the grounds about railroad stations, the schools and the triangles at the intersections of the streets.

The Serpent's Venom.

A physician while talking with a group of friends remarked: "It is common to hear people speak about poisonous serpents. Serpents are never poisonous; they are venomous. A poison cannot be taken internally without bad effects; a venom can. Venoms to be effective have to be injected directly into the circulation, and this is the manner in which the snake kills. Their venom taken internally is innocuous."

The Weapon He Needed.

An excited citizen burst frantically into the police station. "My life is in danger!" he cried. "I've just received a threatening letter from the Black Hand, and I want a permit to carry a weapon."

"All right, sir," replied the captain. "I'll give you a permit to carry a fan—that's the weapon you need; something that will keep you cool."—Chicago News.

An Odd Apology.

This is the classic apology of a celebrated statesman of the last generation: "Mr. Speaker, in the heat of debate I stated that the right honorable gentleman opposite was a dishonest and unprincipled adventurer. I have now, in a calmer moment, to state that I am sorry for it."

The Elevator Man's Joke.

Hobbs—I guess the elevator is out of order. What is that sign on the door? Dobbs—The elevator man must be a bit of a wag. It says, "Please pardon me for not rising."—Boston Transcript.

Language of Switzerland.

It is a curious fact that the people most celebrated for love of country should in a manner be without a language—that is, a mother tongue. The Swiss have three official languages—German, French and Italian. About three-fourths of the population of the mountain confederation speak German, while the remainder divide four other languages among them, chiefly French and Italian, these languages being found, as a rule, in districts in close proximity to the countries where in those languages are the principal tongue. In Switzerland documents and notices are printed in both the French and German languages. In the national assembly members deliver their speeches in either French or German, for nearly all members understand both tongues. The decrees and proclamations of the president are translated by an official interpreter and furnished to the press in both languages.—New York Press.

Her Goodby.

She was one of those very gushing, effusive ladies who occasionally infest newspaper offices, and she had been admitted into the sanctum of the managing editor of the paper on which Homer Davenport was cartoonist, recites the Saturday Evening Post. Mr. Davenport was in the room at the time. When the time came for her departure she first grasped the hand of the managing editor, saying, "Goodby, Mr. Niles, goodbye!"

Then, turning to the assistant managing editor, she also shook him effusively by the hand, exclaiming, "Goodby, Mr. Rilsa, goodbye!"

Davenport came next. There was no escape for him. "Dear Mr. Davenport, goodbye!" cried with all the delicate shading of a tragedy queen.

There was silence for a moment after she had gone. Then Davenport found his voice. "Where is she going?" he asked.

"Up to Ninety-third street," replied the assistant managing editor.

"Suffering cats!" drawled Davenport. "What should have happened if she had been going to One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street?"

She Handed It Back.

A noted doctor believes in training children to reason for themselves, and this policy he carries out with his own child, a little girl of eight, and he tells a story in connection with her with great glee.

"My dear," he said to her, "I saw something today that I hope I shall never be pained to hear of you doing."

"What was that, papa?" the daughter asked.

"I saw little Mary Goodgirl stick her tongue out at a man today."

The child, evidently thinking that it was an occasion to tell of the faults of the other girl, said:

"Papa, I saw Mary"—

The doctor interrupted and told the child she must not gossip and if she knew anything that was not nice about anybody she must keep it to herself.

The child looked at her father and then said quickly:

"Well, papa, why did you tell me about Mary?"

The physician was so surprised he could not answer.—Philadelphia Times.

A Timely Warning.

"Your dog seems a very intelligent animal," remarked an inexperienced sportsman to a gamekeeper.

"Yessir," was the ready response "Wonderful intelligent 'e is! Yes, 'e other day 'e bit a gent as only give me a 'arf sovereign after a day's shoot!"—London Scraps.

Beautiful the School Grounds.

While all our cities and towns are making a mad scramble to build or improve parks it may be as well to pause and consider if school grounds are not sadly in need of planting and general care. Cities often have beautiful parks and bare, inhospitable and unsatisfactory premises about the schoolhouses. Children schooled amid pleasant and ornation surrounding will make a generation of adults who will demand the finest parks and other public improvements.

Long in Consideration.

The prospect of the Cape Cod Canal now under construction antedates the revolutionary war.

Of No Value.

Cowards do not count in battle; they are there, but not in it.—Euripides.

Chigger Has Multiplied.

Since its introduction from America the chigger has spread far and wide along the west coast of Africa and is now a greatly dreaded pest.

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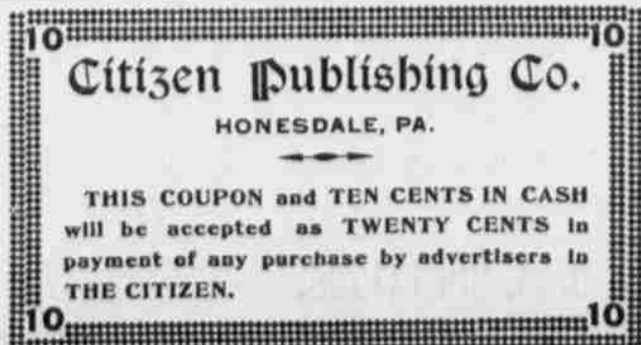
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