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PARENT-TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING

Those who were unable to attend the meeting of the Parent-Teachers' Association, Tuesday, Oct. 11, missed several interesting talks.

Mrs. P. M. MacKay, in reporting the State Convention at Grand Rapids, said that Prof. Shay's address was most noteworthy. He affirmed that the modern dance was responsible for maturing our children too early, therefore paving the way for the degeneracy of our nation, for the longer the time before the child's maturing, the longer time it had for properly developing mentally. He had based his conclusions upon a study of nations along the Mediterranean coast. The business of the convention, Mrs. MacKay reported, was devoted largely to amendments to the constitution, among which, the third, namely, that the P. T. A. should not lend its name or support to any religious or denominational interest, was finally stricken out.

Although the meeting was advertised in Birmingham for the one purpose of showing what milk will do for the child, Mr. George R. Berkaw, superintendent of the fresh-air schools of Detroit, had expected to talk over in a general way what his schools had to deal with and what could be done if a simple way for those children who are sub-standard.

Mr. Berkaw spoke in part as follows: "The first open-air school in this country was tried out in Providence in 1908. The plan had already been tried out in the forests of Germany and Switzerland. From that year till the present, the idea has spread.

"In Detroit we take sub-standard children predisposed to T. B., some incipient cases, and a few cardiac cases; some are very emaciated. We work in conjunction with the Board of Health in all cases. Many people believe that there are open cases of T. B. in open-air schools, but there are none, although teachers are kept in hospitals; for example, in the Herman Kiefer hospital and in the T. B. sanatorium, for the sake of children of open cases, who are entitled to education, just as all children are.

"Our course of treatment consists of fresh air, proper food, and rest, and the co-operation of parents. The windows of the fresh-air rooms are always open, no matter what the weather, but there are no drafts. In extremely cold weather we have radiation and try to keep the air at 50° or 60°. The children are provided with bags and blankets; they enjoy it, and show pep and vim as a result.

"As to food, we watch the weight. Every child is weighed, stripped, every two weeks. His temperature is taken once a day. He has physical examination once a month. The normal gain for a child of from six to ten years is four pounds a year; from ten to fourteen years, six pounds. Our average gain for children in all the city schools is seven pounds per child for the year. The greatest gain was 21½ pounds in ten months; some show no gain, and these get special attention. Every open-air child has a bath at least twice a week. They have luncheon at 9:45. This year, three days a week, they have breakfast food, milk, and bread and butter. The other two days they have cocoa instead of milk. At noon they have a good dinner, with meat two days a week; concession being made to Jews and Catholics as to pork and fish. They are given the privilege of coming back for a second helping. In the afternoon each has a glass of milk, with cookies or wafers, and if he wants a second glass of milk, he may have it. For our 60 children, we buy nine gallons of milk a day. The benefit from milk is one of the greatest the children can get.

"No incipient cases are classified as cured, but the children are excused and put back in the schools and lab kept on them once a month. We kept the open-air schools open during the summer, and had an 80% attendance, the children who attended being much better off in the fall than those who stayed away and returned in the fall." In response to a question, Mr. Berkaw affirmed that the majority of children are better off for a glass of milk in the morning, as many who are otherwise entirely healthy are "all nerves."

Miss Romaine, child hygiene nurse of Lansing, gave five causes of malnutrition of children, namely: 1—Faulty food habits, so that the diet is not well-balanced; 2—Lack of home control, the child too often being "the boss"; 3—Over-fatigue, due not only to too much school work, but to too much outside work or over-stimulation, perhaps too many "movies," a child of five years requiring twelve hours' sleep; 4—Physical defects, principally those interfering with breathing; 5—Faulty health habits, usually corrected automatically when the other four points are corrected. Miss Romaine stated that in milk we find all the food principles that the child needs in an easily digestible form.

"In the afternoon we see that their teeth are clean. Then they are furnished their cots, bags and army blankets, and in ten minutes two-thirds of them are sound asleep. Those who do not sleep must keep absolutely quiet. In the matter of exercise, we cut out all physical exercise and singing, and all the regular exercise they get from 8:30 to 3:15 is fifteen minutes of free play, for which we furnish balls, etc. We see that their tonsils and teeth are properly cared for. In one school a dentist is employed all day five days a week.

"We have, besides our regular open-air schools, four rooms where the children are given one-half pint of milk and graham crackers in the morning, and another half-pint in the afternoon, with a half-hour's rest after the noon hour. These rooms include convalescent, cardiac cases, etc. We have seven open-air schools in Detroit, with 60 to 70 in each center. Our aim is to establish twenty more in the next three years, although, on account of the hard times, we are asking for only four more for next year.

Miss Dorothy McMillan made the following statements: That all the school children of Birmingham had been weighed; that 30.5% of the children are ten per cent underweight, and 9% are fifteen per cent underweight. She has evolved the plan of taking the 64 children at the Barnum school, and the 122 at the Hill school, all underweight, and with the mothers of these children, forming a nutrition class to meet twice a week, when the children will be weighed and an account made of what the children are doing at home that may explain their malnutrition. Mothers attend such clinics in other places.

Miss McMillan cited the case of one Birmingham child that was 20% underweight. As soon as this child and the mother became interested, the child gained a pound a day each weighing time. Miss McMillan wants to give the underweight children a half-pint of milk twice a day. She feels sure that most of the mothers can afford and will be glad to pay for the milk furnished to their children. She said it is not a fad to do this, but a matter of patriotic duty to see that children grow up healthy.

The next meeting of the P. T. A. will be held Dec. 9 in some church, and will possibly be a pot-luck dinner. Miss Dakin will speak. There is to be, meanwhile, a membership contest in the P. T. A., the losing side to make arrangements for the next meeting. There will also be a Mothers' meeting the first Thursday afternoon in November in the Hill school.

Mrs. MacKay announced that the P. T. A. would not put the milk in the schools, inasmuch as another organization, namely, the Child Conservation League, had taken up the matter and would do so.

A Little Bit of Frosty Morn—He Slipped, Fell, and Then—Oh! Well—He's Hirsute Shorn

D. B. (Joe) Wilkinson loses (or improves) beauty of countenance by the removal of his mustache.

It was a cold and frosty morning one day last week—so the story goes—and D. B. Wilkinson, local plumber, perambulated down West Maple avenue. The sidewalk was covered with a heavy frost and D. B. had on no rubbers. He slipped, in falling scraped part of the hirsute adornment from beneath his nose.

Not wishing to become one-sided on any question, D. B. then had recourse to the razor, with the result that many of "Joe's" friends had to look twice to recognize him.

But Dame Rumor has a different story. Upon receiving orders from the Village Commission to cut down two trees in front of Mrs. E. Faint's yard, at Southfield and West Maple avenues, it is claimed that D. B., in an attempt to hide his identity, shaved off his mustache. But, when asked about it, "Joe" merely grins and shows his upper lip.

Included in the activities of the local hostesses of the past week was the entertaining for friends from out-town, which included Mrs. Moses Selle and Maude Camp of South Woodward avenue, did. Among the guests who spent several days at the Camp home were Mrs. Eva G. Patten, of Rochester, N. Y.; Mrs. Mary Hughson, of South Lyons, Michigan; Mrs. Jhon Coney of Jackson; Mr. and Mrs. Went and Mr. and Mrs. James Coney of Detroit. The affairs which the hostesses staged for their guests included several dinners followed by musical programs.

THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE CABBAGE

The Editor of the Eccentric believes that he has eaten the most expensive cabbage the world ever produced, the market price being $17.50 per pound.

It all happened when Shieve Jacobs of Detroit, was arrested by local police Lieutenant Clayton Stokes last Sunday night, for stealing one lonely cabbage from the farm of Eugene Heth, just south of Birmingham on the Southfield road. Jacobs, who spent the night in the county jail at Pontiac, paid a fine of $35.00 to Justice, of the Peace, F. S. Buck on the following day.

Heth, it appears, has been constantly molested by Detroiters who, in an effort to supply their own tables and part of the remainer of the "Dynamic City" as well, drive up and fill their cars with produce. Heth was on the lookout Sunday night and captured Jacobs with the aid of a well-filled shotgun.

So Mr. Heth, accompanied by his dad, John, knowing of the strenuous time a country publisher has in keeping the wolf from the door, wandered into our office Monday afternoon and presented us with the "evidence."

As we remarked at the opening, it was an expensive cabbage, since they can now be purchased for five cents per pound in the stores. For the benefit of the historians of the world, however, we want to go on record as stating that, regardless of the precious price paid for this cabbage, it didn't taste much different than which can be bought at the prevailing price on market.

DOMESTIC ART AT THE BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL

By Eleanor Rainey, Baldwin Beacon Editorial Staff

The purpose of this course in our school is not to train a girl for commercial work, dressmakers, etc., as in the vocational schools, but to train her to do her own sewing. She is taught to construct her own garments from purchasing of materials to trimming of the garment.

Miss Higgins, the instructor in this department, gave me this outline for the first semester's work. It includes the work from the fifth B through the twelfth B.

Fifth grade—Study of the tape measure; learn to cut straight; learn to straighten cloth; learn following stitches in hand sewing: (a) basting, (b) hemming, (c) combination stitch, (d) back stitch, (e) overhand stitch, all stitches of 4 applied on sewing apron.

Sixth Grade—6B—Sewing machine work (continued from 5A): (a) bobbin winding and threading, (b) stitching at certain widths; French seams, lace joining, sewing on lace and hems, all of two processes applied on a nightgown. 6A—Flat fell seams; Review 6B processes; all former work and applied on a princess slip; single study of commercial patterns.

Seventh Grade—2 forty-minute periods per week; 1, learn names and identifications of standard materials suitable for cotton middy blouses; 2, study of suitable designs and trimmings for middy blouses; 3, shrinking of white material; 4, setting color in blue material; 5, study of commercial patterns; 6, making of a middy blouse.

Eighth Grade—3 forty-minute periods per week—8B—1, further study of commercial patterns; 2, learn names, identifications and characteristics of standard materials for plain; 3, hygiene of clothing; 4, testing of cotton material; 5, making of simple school dress; 6, one other simple piece of clothing. 8A—1, study of explanatory guide charts of commercial patterns; 2, hygiene of clothing (continued from 8B); 3, study of four standard weaves of cloth; (a) cutting of straight of cloth, (b) cutting on bias of cloth; 4, making of a more complicated school dress; 5, construction and much work as possible this semester on a pair of bloomers.

Ninth Grade, 9B—5 forty-minute periods per week—1, lesson identification, names, characteristics (wearing qualities, laundry, etc.) and uses for standard materials used in the making of underwear; 2, review of commercial patterns; 3, study of all guide charts in relation to commercial patterns; 4, review of following: (a) French and flat fell seams, (b) lace joining and sewing on lace, (c) hems, ¼" and bottom of garment hems, (d) button-hole buttons, (e) sewing on buttons; 5, new process learned: (a) plackets, (b) bands, (c) simple drafting, (d) French hemming; (6) all processes of 4 and 5 applied on either of the following combinations: (a) combination suit and petticoat, (b) bloomers and princess-slip; (7) self trimmings: (a) simple embroidery, (b) shaped facings; 8, darning three-cornered tear in cotton material; 9, patching: (a) hemmed, (b) overcast; 10, machine attachment work: (a) gauge, (b) hemmers, (c) binder, (d) tucker, (e) ruffler, (f) braider.

Tenth Grade, 10 B—2 forty-minute periods per week—1, testing of wool; 2, learn names, identification and characteristics of the standard woolen materials suitable for dresses; 3, designing of wool dress: (a) study of tendencies of prevailing fashion lines used, fabrics used, (b) study of lines suitable to types of figures; (c) study of color harmony (1) as related to individuals, (2) as related to each other; 4, purchasing of materials and findings; 5, extensive use of commercial patterns; 6, alteration of commercial patterns; 7, testing of their commercial patterns; 8, darning of woolen garments; 9, mending holes with mending tissue; 10, making of a wool dress.

Twelfth Grade, 12B—2 forty-minute periods per week—1, learn names, identification, and characteristics of materials suitable for fine dainty underwear in both cotton and silk; 2, self trimmings: Any kind desired which is suitable to garment being made, is allowed; 3, making of underwear: two garments required, choice of (a) combination suit, (b) princess slip, (c) teddy and bloomers, (d) nightgown.

Some advice both for the students and for anyone doing their own sewing was well put by the instructor at the opening of the year. It was as follows:

Buy just as good material as you can, make your garments as beautifully as you can, and wear it as long as you can. A garment that is beautiful once is beautiful always. It is only those clothes which have nothing to recommend them except fashion, that are ugly when the style passes.

One point which is stressed the most is that a girl should not only be able to sew at school with the aid of the instructor but should be able to apply her learning equally well at home.

The L. O. T. M. lodge room was the scene on a recent evening of the installation of the new officers of that organization. The ceremony was in charge of Deputy Louisa A. Miner of Detroit. Following that part of the program supper was served in the club rooms. The following officers were installed: Commander, Fannie Shain; past commander, Jessie Hotelling; lieutenant-commander, Emma Ford; R. K., M. Parks; F. K., Maud Berry; M. at A., Olivia Clark; sergeant, Lynda Hopson; chaplain, Elizabeth Sherman; sentinel, Polly Bray, and picket, Luella Hutton.

BARACA NEWS

The Baraca class of the First Baptist church at their annual meeting elected the following officers and committee chairmen: J. Harry McBride, teacher; Rev. P. M. MacKay, assistant teacher; Raymond H. Peck, president; Walter Parmenter, vice-president; David Anderson, secretary; Percy Burnett, treasurer; Wilbur S. McAlpine, devotional committee; Paul Nutten, social committee; Donald Hall, recreational committee; Roy McAlpine, membership committee.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Welch, the Baracas have organized a male chorus which has met with marked success.

A Hallowe'en social will be held Oct. 31 in the church parlors. This event will be a banquet to the new officers at which time plans are to be formulated to carry on the work for the coming year. All young men not affiliated with any other local church are invited to attend the class which meets every Sunday at twelve o'clock.

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