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ECCENTRICITIES

Being a few stray notions by G. E. A. Sometimes they are popular approval; then, again, they are quite insane (when they don't).

Governor Crossback was in Birmingham last Thursday morning. He was interested in looking over a proposed right of way for the new Grand Trunk railway road. He walked over the route between Royal Oak and Northwood to see how accurate a paper drawing may be from the true "lay of the land." It is related that he saw the inaccuracies of the situation, and that the cost of acquiring the right of way will be much less than he was led to believe some months ago. Perhaps the Governor's observations are correct; if they prove to be, he is due for commendation for having personally visited the vicinity of future State operations, and thus saved the taxpayers much money.

Out in one back yard is a bed of lilies of the valley, planted several years ago. Every year these dainty flowers bloom beneath our dining room window; we do for them to keep them free from weeds—a Greater Power sustains their life. A few weeks ago these flowers were frozen beneath a blanket of snow; under the refreshing smile of Old Sol they are now two inches above the ground, and soon will bloom. They will look pretty, and will give off an agreeable fragrance, but their small, People are something like these flowers; give them a smile of gladness, help them to do something above their frigidity will vanish in the warmth of human responsiveness to friendliness. They become steadfast friends, fine things to possess. Ever try it!

Dr. Spencer, president of Hilldale College, is a firm believer in the modern youth. At the recent Rotary Conference in Bay City two weeks ago he said: "You folks today are opposed to the automobile petting party; you think that modern boys and girls are different than their ancestors, but they are not. Before the advent of the automobile your granddad, when he made his first fall on your grandmother, hired the finest horse in town, one that you had to keep a firm hold on the knees; about the fourth or fifth call, however, he picked out the oldest Dobbin he could get—one of those kinds that you merely wrapped the buggy lines around the whip, knowing that the old mare would bring you safely home."

It is very difficult for most of us to appraise properly the value of the good things that we do. A little act of kindness may sometimes make a large ripple upon the surface of another's life. You who have motored out West Maple avenue, two or three miles from the village limits, have probably seen that large row of evergreens along the road. When they were first planted they are almost probably did the job in but a few hours of his time. Yet, now, how much are they worth? W. N. Whittemore, local landscape and horticultural expert, told us a few days ago that these trees, if planted in your yard, are worth \$500 each. Thus, to this generation, these evergreens are worth much more money and in spiritual inspiration; how much would a little tree that you may plant this year be worth to your grandchildren? Little acts do today, like little trees, are worth much to posterity.

Much is being said for and against the use of intoxicating beverages these days. From parliament to pulpit the air is resounding with "this and that" about the situation. As we view the problem it resolves itself simply into this question: "Is an intoxicant necessary to the health, happiness, and progress of mankind?" If it is, then let those who favor the repeal of the Volstead Act set forth their arguments to substantiate their claim; if it isn't, then let those who favor prohibition bring on their arguments. After all, there is much difference between the effects of intoxicating liquors and narcotic drugs; and who is there who favors the indiscriminate sale and use of the latter?

Birmingham's latest addition in the realm of out door sports is the announcement that the local tennis club is to have its own clubrooms, equipped with showers, lockers, etc. Verily this old Plety Hill doth flourish and grow these days.

The plans of the local Y. M. C. A. to bring together students of the high school together with Birmingham business and professional men, to the end that the students may obtain some practical knowledge of the vocation they intend to enter, is a splendid idea. The intelligence vested in each of our bodies is inestimable in its potential capacities; the subjection of youthful minds to experiences of life—whether they be actual or related in conversation—is wonderful soil for the planting of text book and school room learning. Let's have more of these interviews.

Music recitals in Birmingham are becoming more frequent, as are similar expressions of intellectual growth. We venture to say that Birmingham people are spending more of their time for mental and spiritual things than any other community of its size in Michigan. This is symbolic of the kind of people who live here. That is one of the things that makes Birmingham and vicinity a desirable place in which to live.

Occasionally we are kidded about some incorrect statement that may appear in The Eccentric from time to time. It is our wish to publish the truth about anything or anybody as well as possible. In these days, when "strenuous" hurrying news-gatherers are often filled with much inaccuracy, much of which should be credited to misinformation given to the reporter. From practical experience we know that most reporters seek truthful facts—children are stupid, intentionally "colored." This is especially true in the smaller communities, where the newspaperman lives close to his readers.

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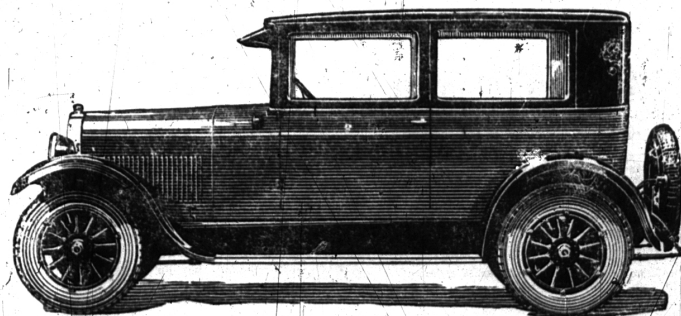
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