TO CURE SELFISHNESS

Here Are Three Practical Rules for This Great Work.

Dolly, at four, is still magnificently unconcerned with the needs and rights of others. What ever she wants for herself at the moment, she superbly reaches out and takes. We had thought it would be so pleasant for her to play with little Polly when we invited her mother to bring her for the afternoon. But the whole visit was spoiled for the grown-ups by the constant need of umpiring the children's quarrels, which, we had to admit, were usually due to our Dolly's unwillingness to share her toys with Polly. There is no doubt that our precious Dolly is a very selfish infant. What are we going to do about it?

"I'm afraid she takes it from me," sighs Grandma. "Well do I remember how my dear Mother struggled with my selfishness! You see I was the only girl and wasn't used to sharing my things. I'll never forget the time Amanda Jones came over to spend the night with me. The next day was Sunday and when we were dressing for church Amanda discovered she had torn a great rent in her stocking. There wasn't time to mend it, so Mother told me to give her my other pair. I had only two pairs, for we mostly ran barefoot around the farm, and I hated to let Amanda wear one of them. I couldn't think of any way to prevent it but to put on both pairs at once. When Mother found out what I had done she was struck all of a heap. 'Why, you selfish little hussy! What made you do that?' said she. 'My legs were cold!' I whined—and it was one of the hottest July days. 'You take those stockings off!' says Mother, 'and I'll warm your legs for you.' And I tell you it was a red-hot switching I stood up to. I got it through my head right then that selfishness was considerable of a sin."

Not Used to Sharing.

But with all due respect to Grandma, the real value of her contribution lies in the remark, "You see I was the only girl and I wasn't used to sharing my things." She had not been provided with the kind of experience which would have made generosity a habit. She knew her mother loved her and hated to punish her and was doing her very best to train her properly and so held no resentment. But times have changed, and modern parents, even though still pitifully untrained for their job, have come to realize that it is too bad to have to scold or punish a child for misconduct which under better training could have been avoided.

One thing is very clear. Dolly has not yet had practice enough in sharing things to have developed the habit of sharing things graciously. This practice it is our duty to provide. Why have we failed so far and how shall we set to work to correct our error? Dolly is not the only child but she is the baby, and so much the youngest that the others have no interest in her possessions. Her clothes and toys are hers to do with as she likes and no one else ever wants the same things at the same time. Of course it is harder to avoid selfishness in the case of an only child, an only girl or boy, or the peted baby of the family, but the difficulty does not excuse us from the necessity for training. When we consider how many homes are made wretched by the selfishness of individuals, by their apparent utter inability to take into account the rights of others, we have no wish to add to the sum total of wretchedness by neglecting the training of Dolly. So we shall begin by seeing that she has more opportunity to play with other children.

One enterprising woman who feared that her only daughter was becoming selfish adopted another little girl as a playmate for her. "I was worried at first," she reports, "for fear I couldn't help being partial to my own child, but it hasn't worked out that way at all. I believe I love one just as much as I do the other and I'm thinking now that I ought to provide them with a brother."

A group of five neighbors met this same need intelligently by "pooling" their little children five days of the week, each mother in turn taking charge of morning play, mid-day meal and afternoon nap. Of course this plan had its difficulties, but it did provide a better environment for the children and a good deal of needed relief for the mothers. It has an advantage over the family group in bringing together children of the same ages and interests.

Developed from Within.

The ideal arrangement would be to give a child practice in living with both a family group of varying ages and interests and a social group of the same ages and interests such as would be found in a nursery school.

Failing any of these possibilities we still can try our best to make the group such as it is function as nearly as possible as if it were ideal. We can get Father and Mother and Auntie and the boys to play with Dolly as if they were her equals instead of always yielding to her and giving her every advantage.

Providing a child with the right kind of group and stopping at that, however, will not make him unselfish. Unselfishness has to be developed from within. Dolly must learn really to wish Polly to be happy too. It is not so wise to teach her that she should give Polly the "biggest half" of the apple as that she do her best to divide the apple fairly. If there is any slight advantage, she will give it to her guest as a matter of course, but the emphasis should be laid on securing the best possible division for the whole group. Besides being helped to get an experience of her own in sharing with others, Dolly will instinctively imitate the example of the grown-ups in her world. When she sees Father planning to let Tom have the car to-day because Dick had it yesterday and Harry wants it to-morrow she will begin to think in terms of the good of the whole group. When she helps Mother bake and pack the cookies for Sister's picnic, she begins to enter into the joys of others.

The rules for fighting selfishness then are: First: to provide for a child's group of sufficiently similar interests to give him proper practice in sharing with others; second: to keep before his eyes by example and precept the importance of planning with reference to the rights of the whole group; third, to help him to cross the thin barrier that separates selfish from unselfish joys so that he may come to know a little more of what it might mean to love his neighbor as himself and be a little nearer release from the wretched tyranny of self.

Arthur H. Taylor

Who at the recent examination in piano playing held under the London College of Music, England, passed with honors and with the highest marks in Toronto in the advanced intermediate grade. He is eleven years old and has gained two first-class and two honor certificates during the two years he has been at the piano.

They Were Equal.

A celebrated tourist was taking an early spring holiday in the hills of old Scotland, accompanied by a Scottish gillie.

To while away the tedious hours after dusk the traveller was in the habit of talking to his gillie.

One evening he was explaining the wonders of television and other modern inventions, when he suddenly asked this question:

"Have you not heard of wireless?"

"No," replied the Scot.

So the traveller began to tell him all he knew about wireless. But the man appeared neither interested nor surprised, and the tourist warmly inquired the reason.

"Mon," retorted the Scot, "I'm an awfu' lear masel'."

Lough Bray.

A little lonely moorland lake,
Its waters brown and cool and deep—
The cliff, the hills behind it, make
A picture for my heart to keep.

For rock and heather, wave and strand,
Wore tints I never saw them wear;
The June sunshine was o'er the land,
Before, 'twas never half so fair!

The amber ripples sang all day,
And singing spilled their crowns of white
Upon the beach, in thin pale spray,
That streaked the sober strand with light.

The amber ripples sang their song,
When suddenly from far o'erhead
A lark's pure voice mixed with the throng
Of lovely things about us spread.

Some flowers were there, so near the brink
Their shadows in the wave were thrown;
While mosses, green and grey and pink,
Grew thickly round each smooth dark stone.

—Rose Kavanagh.

Aeroplanes to Save Trees.

In an attempt to exterminate the shouting beetle, which is doing extensive damage to plantations in South Africa, it is probable that aeroplanes will be called into use.

The pest is spreading rapidly over the Union and thousands of acres of eucalyptus trees are threatened with destruction. Aeroplanes will be used for the distribution of an arsenical dust over the trees. This methodhas proved very successful in merica.

It is also hoped to help to save the plantations by introducing parasites which will kill the shouting beetle.

A young whale about 20 feet in length was washed up on Ramsgate beach.

EARTH REVEALS OWN HISTORY

Fossils Found in Rock Layers Tell Story of Ancient Days

This diagram represents the successive rock layers and the types of fossils found in them. Fossils of ancient man and of mammals occur in the more recent layers. As older layers are reached, fossils of older types of life are found.

Secrets of Science

By David Dietz.

We have just been considering the forces which bring about the changes upon the face of the earth—the forces which wear away the land and the forces which uplift land again.

These forces, so geologists tell us, have been at work since the close of the formative period when the earth cooled into a body with oceans and protruding continents.

Let us go back to that point now and pick up again our account of the history of the earth.

The geologist reads the history of the earth in the layers of rock which compose its present surface.

Other scientists, who call themselves paleontologists and specialize in the study of the ancient forms of life which once inhabited the earth, piece out the account of life on the earth from the fossils in these rocks.

The history of the earth is truly a record in the rocks.

Geologists now believe that the earth has gone through great cycles.

First the forces which wear away the land planed the continents down to low flat formations, depositing the debris in the oceans. At such periods, the water displaced by the debris flooded the continents, covering large portions of them with shallow warm waters.

North America, and more particularly the United States, were flooded sixteen times in this way.

Then came the times when the land was uplifted, and the continents rose high above the sea-level, and were marked with great mountain chains.

This, however, would quicken the flow of the rivers and make the climate colder, thus speeding up the action of the forces which wear away the land and beginning a new cycle.

At such times, too, sedimentary rocks which had formed in the shallow waters would be lifted high above sea-level and bent and buckled out of their original level layers.

The ancient life is known to us from the fossils found in these layers of rock.

For they are the remains of the animals and plants which inhabited the earth at the time when these layers of rock were formed.

The fossils include remains of shellfish and similar animals which live on the ocean bottom, fish which swam about in the water and whose skeletons sank to the bottom when they died, and the skeletons of land animals whose remains were carried down by streams into the ocean.

There these fossils were covered up by the accumulating layers of sediment and incorporated into the sedimentary rocks when the sediments became cemented together.

Reading the rock record is no easy task. It is not found complete in any place. A few layers are found in one place. Other layers are found in other places. Practically all of them have been bent and twisted out of shape by the great earth movements.

But with infinite patience and skill, geologists and paleontologists have pieced them together into a complete story.

Next article—The Geological Time-Table.

HELPING HAND FOR THE EMPIRE

The Imperial Institute at South Kensington, London, can aptly be termed the godfather to the British Empire. Its job is to keep an eye on the Empire's raw materials and, by expert advice, assist in the big effort being made to-day to make the Empire self-supporting.

For instance, supposing it is wished to exploit virgin country in South Africa for cotton growing. The South African Government will send samples of every crop of the cotton grown to the Imperial Institute. There they will be tested and examined in every possible way and a report made as to their quality.

Further, the Institute then obtains the expert professional advice of certain cotton brokers in the City, and as a result of the two reports the samples are graded to the existing commercial grades of cotton.

In addition to the report sent to the Dominion, advice may also be sent as to how the quality of future crops might be improved. Should any samples be sent to England that are far below standard and there is little chance of improving them, the advice of the Institute is to "drop it."

* * * *

Samples of tobacco pass through the expert hands of the Empire's godfather in the same way. Empire tobacco has made great strides during the last two or three years, but in the opinion of many smokers it is not up to the standard of American tobaccos. The reason for this is because there has not yet been time for the leaf to mature fully.

The Imperial Institute examines the samples of tobacco and also the burnt ash, and from the examination is able to give valuable advice on how to improve the crops. It is certain, then, that before long Empire tobacco will be in every way equal to that grown in other parts of the world—and also much cheaper on account of the lower duty!

* * * *

A new supply of timber may be wanted. A responsible person, by inquiring at the Statistical Department of the Imperial Institute, will be able to get accurate figures on timber in all parts of the Empire, its quality, quantity, the conditions, and so on.

The Minerals Department assists in the exploiting of such products as metals and rare earths. From samples of rare earths or sands, the Institute may find that such things as gas mantles, white paint, and dyes may be made.

At present Empire silk is being given a great deal of attention. There is any quantity of wild silk in the Empire which, if spun and woven, makes silks equal to any in the world. Unfortunately, however, the raw silk is in the form of silkworm nests, and is very matted; a satisfactory process of spinning it in the Empire has yet to be found.

A Frenchman knows of a process, but until he parts with his secret, or it is re-discovered, the development of Empire silk—which will mean cheaper silk—will be retarded.

Are You An "Arrant" Anything?

The gay and delightful name of a serial story that has appeared in various newspapers—The Arrant Rover—is even more interesting than it sounds. For it might be translated "the roving rover." To the student of language it suggests some of our tautological compounds, such as a ledge hammer, hedge fence and greyhound, which really signify hammer-hammer, fence-fence, and dog-dog.

"Arrant' 'is at the bottom only another form of "errant," which of course means "wandering" In older writers the two forms are used almost indifferently, and we read of arrant knights, arrant preachers, bailiffs arrant, and "planets or errant stars." But the once rather common phrass "arrant thief," arrant robber," and the like, in which the original sense was "roaming," came to be interpreted "out-and-out thief," and so on. Then the adjective was applied to other words, not always in disparagement. We speak of "arrant humbug," "arrant nonsense," an "arrant miser," an "arrant Puritan." "Arrant" is like many of our intensive words, in having begun life with a very different meaning from the present one.

The twin word "errant" is most familiar in the term "knight-errant," which suggests to modern ears the romantic quest for adventure and generous, high-spirited redressing of wrongs and championing of causes. In one form the word has rather gone downhill; in the other, it has gone up.

How Oranges Help.

Oranges have many claims made for them, including those of improving the complexion, easing sore throats, soothing the nerves, helping to cure influenza, and curing insomnia.

Colder Than Arctic Winds.

The coldest temperature on record was reached in a scientific laboratory; it was over 500 degrees below freezing point as registered on a Fahrenheit thermometer.

The Things I Love.

A butterfly dancing in the sunlight,
A bird singing to his mate,
The whispering pines,
The restless sea,
The gigantic mountains,
A stately tree,
The rain upon the roof,
The sun at early dawn,
A boy with rod and hook,
The babble of a shady brook,
A woman with her smiling babe,
A man whose eyes are kind and wise,
Youth that is eager and unafraid—
When all is said, I do love best
A little home where Love abides,
And where there's kindness, peace and rest.

—Scottie McKenzie Frasier, in "Things That Are Mine."

State Service.

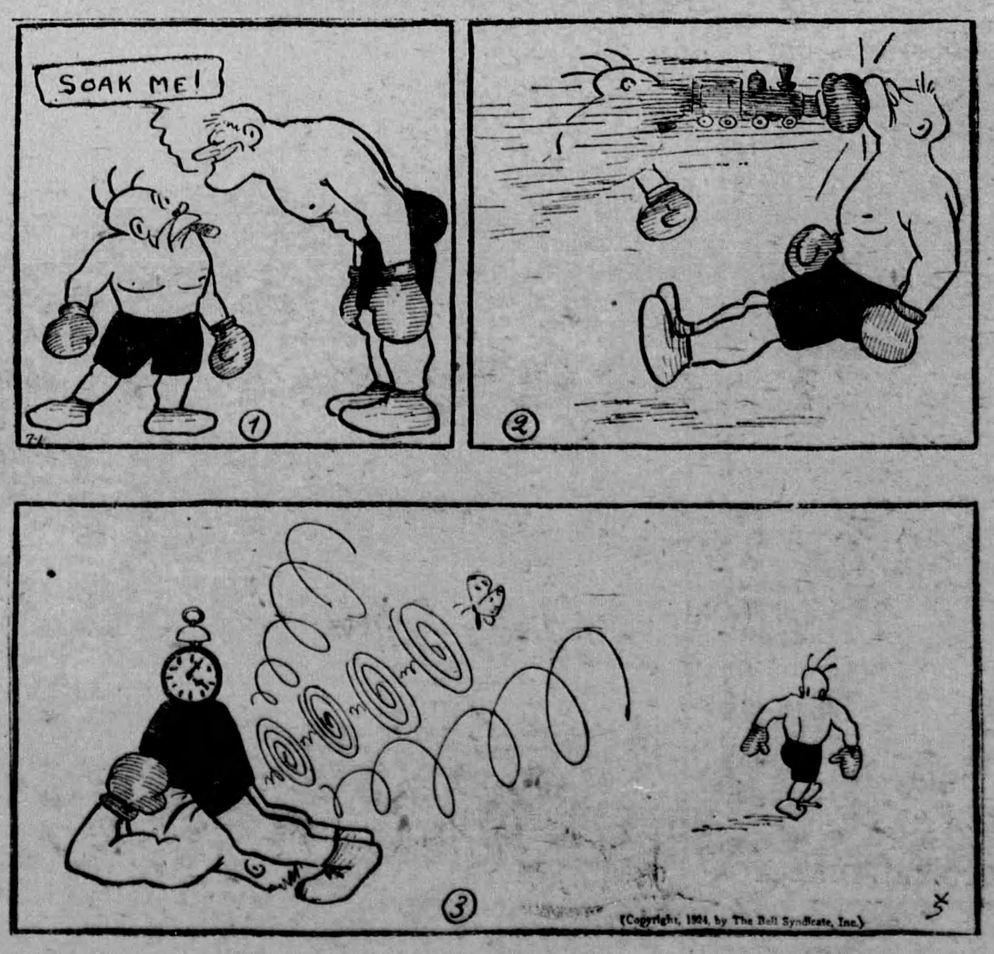
Mrs. Goodsole—"So you are an ex-service man? How many service stripes did you have?"

The Mendicant—"I never counted 'em, lady. They was all over me clothes."

Good Work is Art.

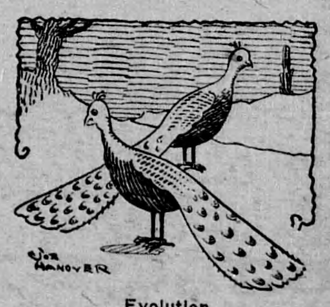
A common thing, like a table or a cup, is turned into a work of art, not by sticking ornaments on to it but by putting intelligence and thoroughness into it. You cannot make it good without in some sense, making it beautiful.—L. P. Jacks, in "Citizenship and Art."

ADAMSON'S ADVENTURES



Try This in 1926.

Make new friends, but keep the old,
Those are silver, these are gold.
New-made friends, like new-made wine,
Age will mellow and refine;
Friendships that have stood the test,
Time and change are surely blest,
Brow may wrinkle, hair turn grey,
Friendship never owns decay;
For 'mid old friends kind and true,
We once more our youth renew.
But, alas! Old friends must die,
New friends their place supply,
Then cherish friendship in your breast,
New is good, but old is best.
Make new friends, but keep the old;
Those are silver, but these are gold.



Evolution.

First Peacock—"What worries you?"

Second Peacock—"I hope we shall never degenerate into a race without tails."

Apples Are Best.

Two fond beliefs have been dispelled by a statement made by a doctor in a recent lecture.

We used to believe that the only way to preserve o child's teeth was to encourage it to use a toothbrush vigorously. Some of us also imagined that, while apples were good for the health, it was unwise to eat them last thing at night.

Now, however, this doctor tells us that a piece of apple after each meal and at night is better than any toothbrush. It will certainly be more popular in the nursery. But the doctor's further advice—that children between five and ten should visit the dentist once every three months—may not commend itself quite so much to the kiddies.

Invented Steel Pens.

The name of Joseph Gillott will always be remembered because he substituted the steel pen for the quill. He was an English watchmaker and jeweller, and one day accidentally split one of the fine steel instruments he used in his work, just as he was called upon to affix his signature to a document.

No quill being at hand, he took up his spoilt tool and, scarcely expecting it would be a substitute of any use, began writing his name with it.

To his surprise he succeeded admirably. He found the fine split steel more efficient than the pens to which he had been accustomed. Quick to see the possibilities of this accidental discovery, he began to manufacture steel pens. He amassed a fortune by doing so.