

WHAT CONSTITUTES COMPETENT DRIVER

REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED

Technical Expert Tells Simple Rules to Govern Handling of Automobile; Steady Nerve Necessary

(By H. Clifford Brokaw, Technical Advisor, New York City West Side Y. M. C. A. Automobile School).

There never has been a time since the automobile became a factor in modern life when so much consideration has been given to what constitute the qualifications of a competent driver. It is generally agreed that one of the first qualifications in proper operation of a motor vehicle is a fairly thorough knowledge of the machine itself, at least familiarity with the various controls which must be used.

Should Concentrate

Secondly, the competent driver should either concentrate on his driving or should have had such a thorough training through years of experience that he is able to drive practically as automatically as he walks. The number of people who arrive at a stage where driving becomes automatic is very few compared with the average driver it is necessary for him to give more or less concentrated thought to the business of operating the car. Many accidents are caused by people who allow their minds to wander away from the main business of keeping the car where it belongs. This is especially true of those who undertake to drive with one hand while the other hand is engaged, for instance, in lighting a cigarette or lowering or raising the window of a closed car.

A driver must have a certain amount of confidence in himself and in his ability to drive a car and successfully cope with any ordinary situation which may arise in connection with such an operation. A person who lacks confidence is more apt, other things being equal, to become involved in an accident than one who is fairly sure of his ability.

Judge of Speed

A good driver must be able to judge the speed of his car, as well as the speed of other cars. He must have a fairly definite idea as to the distance it will be necessary for him to go before bringing his machine to a stop traveling at various rates of speed. It often happens that a driver can judge speeds, quite accurately on highways with which he is familiar or on unusually level roads. However, when this same driver finds himself in unfamiliar territory his judgment on speeds is apt to become less accurate. Especially is this true when driving through hilly country or on oiled roads.

The efficient driver must be able to make up his mind quickly at all times and his judgment must be particularly rapid when he finds himself in an emergency from which an accident might easily follow. Many accidents do occur on account of a wavering decision on the part of the driver.

Steady Nerve Needed

A steady nerve is another requisite in good driving. Not only should the operator's nerves be steady but he should have the nerve to go through with the decision he makes. For instance, if a person finds himself in a difficult situation and makes a decision which he considers to be the best under these circumstances, he should then have the nerve to carry out his decision without hesitation. Of course it is taken for granted that he will have the power to make a wise decision in the first place.

The competent driver should have a sense of safety. He should be constantly operating on the basis of taking no chances which will place the life or property of anyone in jeopardy. He should have the appreciation of life and property which will tend to develop this sense of safety.

It is important for a driver to know the rules of the road and having learned them to do everything possible not to break them. It is usually an easy matter for a person living in a city to secure a copy of the traffic regulations and this ought to be done.

Operate With Smoothness

A good driver should be able to operate his machine with a smoothness which will insure comfort in traveling for the occupants of the vehicle. In this connection he will also have some consideration for the automobile itself from the standpoint of abuse and consequently insure a longer and more satisfactory use of his car than would otherwise be the case.

Consideration of others is one of the most important matters for a competent driver to adopt in connection with his driving. If every driver would observe the commonly accepted courtesies which ought to be a matter of habit, the menace of incompetent motorists at large on our highways would be greatly reduced. Drunkenness is one of the most frequent causes of automobile tragedy. A man who has been drinking should, out of consideration for the safety of others if for no other reason, see to it that some one else beside himself operates any automobile in which he may wish to travel.

Ten Simple Rules

These are ten simple rules, the practice of which almost any automobile driver can accomplish with very little difficulty. In the general inter-

est of society at large and the future of automotive transportation in particular, every motorist should be thoroughly sure he is competent to operate an automobile before going out with his machine on our very crowded highways.

EARLY CHRISTIANS WERE NOT PACIFISTS

Had to Be Militant; If Not There Would Have Been No Christian Religion

If Christians in the beginning had been pacifists there would have been no Christian religion declares the National Republic in commenting on Edward Bok's lament to the effect that so many "militant" hymns are sung in the churches.

Edward Bok laments the use in America, and especially in American churches, of songs which speak of battle. He deprecates the repetition of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and hymns such as "Onward, Christian Soldiers" and "The Son of God Goes Forth to War." He believes it inconsistent for Christians to be fighting men.

If Christians had been pacifists from the beginning, there would now be no Christian religion. All Europe would have been as completely Moslem as were eastern Europe and southern Spain centuries ago but for the fact that there were warriors in Christendom. In a world of strife non-resistance means extinction.

Confucius taught a pacifist philosophy, and centuries ago it was accepted by China's teeming millions. It might be assumed from this that the career of China has been peaceful, yet in no other area of similar size in all the world have so many people met death by violence and nowhere else have men suffered more from oppression. Peace has been purchased in China at the price both of safety and of justice. The Chinese passively accept oppression; therefore they have been oppressed. They have not formed the habit of fighting for their rights; therefore their rights have been ignored. Government has been by the strong; the armed. Military chieftains ravage the land, because the people have never learned to resist. Government has for centuries been notoriously corrupt and unjust, because the Chinese have been taught stoical submission. And yet China is not a symbol of progress, and the level of human welfare is lower there, perhaps, than anywhere else in the world.

WARNING AGAINST OBSTRUCTED VISION

Windshield Stickers Are Cause of Many Accidents, Says Motor Expert

Windshield stickers are made the object of the latest campaign conducted by the accident prevention department of the Chicago Motor club. "Chambers of commerce and trail associations, especially in the west, induce tourists to plaster stickers all over their windshields with the result that visibility is decreased and the driver is likely to cause an accident. The collecting of stickers from various sources has become a fad, and should be discouraged. Organizations using this form of advertising should discontinue it for the sake of safety."

The bulletin also condemns the use of stickers on rear windows, for the reason that these stickers disconcert the drivers following, and because unobstructed road vision is needed by the driver in backing.

MME. GUIOMAR NOVAES MUSIC CLUB SOLOIST

Brilliant Woman Pianist to Appear in Winnetka Program Next Season

The name of Guiomar Novaes has been synonymous with brilliant pianism since this young South American made her debut in this country a little less than ten years ago. Mme. Novaes is to be one of the artists in the 1926-27 series of the Winnetka Music club. Mme. Novaes was born in 1895, in a small town near Sao Paulo, Brazil. When six years old her parents placed her under the guidance of the well known piano teacher, Luigi Chiffarelli-quent public appearances. At fourteen li. So rapid was her progress that she gave her first recital when she was but nine, and thereafter made fre-

the Brazilian government sent her to Paris to compete in the entrance test for the competitive scholarship to be awarded by the Paris Conservatoire. Arriving in Paris on the last day of examination she found herself one of 388 contestants. The compositions in which the candidates were to be judged were the Schumann Carnival and Chopin's Ballade in A flat. Mme. Novaes came off with first honors, and was placed under the instruction of Isadore Philippe. At the end of the second year she was awarded the Premier Prix du Conservatoire.

Mme. Novaes made her debut in her seventeenth year. Numerous engagements followed in England, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. In 1916, upon the advice of friends, she came to America, and gave her first recital in Aeolian Hall, where she created a veritable sensation.

Her next season in the United States will be her tenth. Her audiences constantly increase, and sold-out houses are the rule when she appears.

Mme. Novaes has perhaps succeeded to Carreno's place, in her bigness

of style, warmth, tenderness, and calm dignity combined with brilliant technique. Every concert by the pianist is an experience, for Mme. Novaes never gives a "routine" performance.

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—Emerson

THE man who declared that the pen is mightier than the sword told only half the truth. The tongue is mightier than the pen.

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