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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1919

English As The Universal Tongue

The world has never seen an occasion which so demanded a universal tongue as the present peace conference in France. Men of every nationality are gathered together to discuss questions of moment to them all. It is highly important that there should be no misunderstanding of the opinions expressed and it cannot but be most difficult for a full understanding to be gained.

It is one of the measurable results of the war that English has been materially promoted towards the position of the universal language. While it has not been made the official language of the peace conference, neither has French, and English is certainly much more widely understood than it ever has been before.

It is a human characteristic to think that one's own tongue is the simplest and best fitted for the expression of human thought, and so it is perhaps natural that the English speaking people should look upon the gain made by English towards becoming the universal language as a benefit to humanity. But there are certain reasons for such a notion, reasons that have to do with the very fundamentals of the tongue.

English is far more a composite language than that of any other people. It owes so much to both the Latin and the Greek that the heirs of those two languages find themselves far from strangers in the English tongue. The Teuton, too, much as we may dislike holding anything in common with him, finds the door of understanding of our language hospitably open because of the habit of the Briton to assimilate whatever came his way in the realm of speech into his own vocabulary.

For centuries French has been the polite language, the language of diplomacy, the language of the court. Today, perhaps because of the growth of democracy as a result of the war, English, that most catholic of all languages, is about to displace the established usage and take its place as the universal tongue.

The Nursing Act

The attention of the general public is so absorbed by the progress of legislation in the National Congress that the affairs of more local interest that are being discussed in our general assembly suffer materially from this pre-occupation. And there are some important matters pending in Springfield, measures which will affect the people of the state in many ways.

Among the important bills under discussion in Springfield is the Illinois Nursing Act, known as House Bill 151 and Senate Bill 116, which is designed to meet the emergency created by the shortage of graduate nurses and to fill the constant need for a nurse who has had sufficient training to meet the ordinary demands of the sick room at a wage that can be paid by the family of moderate means.

For a long time the leaders of nursing education have realized that two types of nurses were needed to meet the demand of the public. There is the need of the woman with an adequate preliminary education and a training in nursing of a high order fitting her for administrative work, teaching and public health duties and for the nursing of patients who are critically ill. There is, besides, the need, quite as definite, of the

Parent-Teacher Activities

As the actual activities of the war sink into the back ground, we pause in consternation to review the desolation and the loss. We count the loss and point with pride of the youth of the world who have earned laurels for us and for themselves at so great a sacrifice. And so in the schools we count our gold stars and pay tribute to them and to our boys who went into service. We have followed up these boys and we recall their Horace Mann school days and we wish to inscribe a tablet to their memory in the Horace Mann school. To this end we are asking each child in the school and each former pupil to give one dime to erect the tablet. Dimes may be mailed to Miss Dwyer or Miss Williams at the school, or to Mrs. W. A. Otis.

The war work committee on its last lap wishes to make known what it has done with the children this year in war work. In the early fall the children of the upper grades wrote letters to the little French children in Dr. Brown's circuit and by their generosity and self denial made it possible for those French children to continue with the cup of chocolate every afternoon. Thinking it only fair to do something for our own soldiers they decided it would be nice to send to the sick and wounded soldiers at Fort Sheridan some little greeting. So once a month they have collected magazines and once a month jellies, jams and fruits. Now each school has a

woman of average intelligence, with a lesser training in technical nursing, who is fitted for bed-side nursing.

The bill now under discussion in the general assembly is designed to meet this need by providing for the Junior Registered Nurse, the nurse with the lesser period of training qualified for the less demanding cases of illness.

By this bill the age of the graduation of the Registered Nurse is placed at twenty-two and of the Junior Registered Nurse at twenty-one. The educational requirement for both is one year of high school, but after 1924 the Registered Nurse must be a high school graduate.

The experience of the winter has gone far to develop the appreciation of the public of the need for a greatly increased force of nurses and promote interest in the bill which is designed to effect that end and at the same time protect the public against exploitation by the Registered Nurse and the nurse against exploitation by the hospital. The bills which are concerned with this matter of providing for the public safety and comfort have been referred, the House bill to the Judiciary committee, of which William P. Holladay is chairman, and the Senate bill to the Public Health and Sanitation committee, of which John A. Wheeler is chairman. Letters addressed to these two chairmen will help materially to secure the passage of the bill which is so much needed and establish the fact that the public is interested in legislation affecting the health of the family so intimately as does the measure to provide the two classes of nurses and to make the nursing course shorter with the end of an increase in the number almost immediately available for service.

French orphan, "the style" being voted on by the children. The money for these orphans was made by the children last year in plays. Their names are as follows:

Greeley school—Louis Butel, 8 years old.

Horace Mann school—lower grades—Yvone Sauchery, 8 years old.

Skokie school—Boy, 1 year old.

Mr. Cy De Vry, head of the zoological garden of Lincoln Park, gave his stereopticon lecture, "Wild Animals in Captivity" at the Assembly hall Friday morning at the Skokie school. The second grades of the Horace Mann and Greeley schools were invited. The children as well as the teachers learned many things about wild animals that they had not known before. The second grade have been studying about cave people and wild animals. Early in the fall they made a trip in automobiles to Lincoln Park. Later they wrote to Mr. De Vry and asked him to give his lecture at their school. The result was Friday morning's most enjoyable hour. As the little girl who was chairman told Mr. De Vry in closing "It was the best morning assembly that Skokie school ever had." The children are now busy writing articles about the lecture for the school record.

The Parent-Teacher association will have its second social evening at the Greeley school, Tuesday evening, March 11, at 8 o'clock. Everybody is invited. Come and join in the Community singing. Mrs. Philemon Kohlsaet and Mrs. Grace Banks Sammons will have charge of the musical program.

Captain Snell gave a twenty-minute talk at the morning assembly of the Skokie school last week. He told in detail of his trip across the ocean, gave a vivid description of his arrival at the Emerald Isle, and held the children in breathless attention as he told of his experiences, omitting all of the horrors of war.

WINNETKA WOMAN IS NOW NATIONAL FIGURE

(Continued from Page One)

give a talk. I hang up a pair of trousers, a shirt, stockings, all sorts of things, and then I say: 'You see this pair of trousers? Well out of the legs a coat can be made and out of the seat a cape and I cut out the patterns as I talk. Over 7,000 patterns have been given away. A baby's kit, for instance, will contain a creeper, band, shirt, stockings, bib, booties, skirt, dress, kimona, coat, jacket, bonnet, mittens. A boy's corduroy suit is made out of ten samples and is as good looking as any boy's suit. Winnetka averages 1,000 garments a month for the American fund for the French wounded and none of them was made from new material. Coats were often made up of portiers interlined with bits of cotton left from dressings and lined with pieces of cretonne curtains. Now that the American fund for French wounded is disbanding here the work should be kept up for home service. It is my dream to have a central distributing bureau for articles made in a conservation shop in every town and city in the country."

Mrs. Fulton is on the advisory council of the woman's committee, is head of its conservation department and is a member of the committee's speaker's bureau. The woman's committee is about to publish a little book written by her which gives necessary information for the establishing of the conservation workshops.

New Operator at Telegraph Office

Joseph Pretzel of La Salle, Illinois, took up his duty at the local Western Union telegraph office this week as night operator.

Dr. Mikkelson to Return

According to a letter received from France this week Dr. Mikkelson, formerly of Winnetka, will open an office in Winnetka in the Prouty building about April 1.

November the Holiday Month

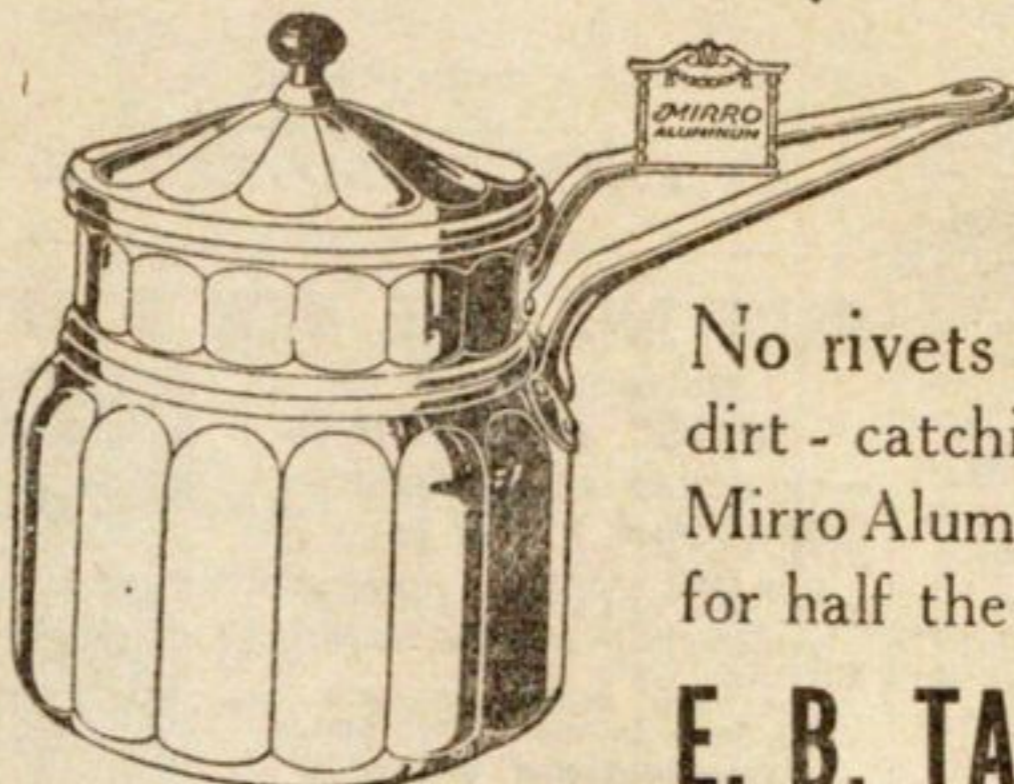
November is the popular holiday month, 26 of the 30 being held as holidays by some of the different countries. May comes next with 25 holiday days.

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