

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1922

THE CHILD'S BOOK SHELF

What children shall read is a question that always excites the most animated controversy. The opinions freely given upon the subject number just about even with the number of those who participate in the discussion. Columbia University is starting something in the exhibition of a two-foot shelf of books for children, both by reason of what is left out as well as of what is included. Everybody has a childhood favorite that certainly deserves position in any shelf, however small the dimensions, which lays claim to hold the proper mental food for the child's growing mind.

The very impossibility of agreement among those who have a wide acquaintance with literature suggests that no twenty-four-inch line of books can adequately provide for the reading matter of any child that has learned the joy to be found between the covers of a book. Any bright child will not be content with a limited row of books if there is included in them such as stimulate the imagination and provide a way through which new friends may be found. Delight with one of the tales of an author will certainly lead to a determination to have more, if it is a possible thing, and all things are possible to the boy or girl who is set upon the attainment of ambition to own books.

The best shelf of books for the child of today, is that which gives the most encouragement to the reader to demand expansion of it. A two-foot library that remains two feet long is useless. It is the capacity for growth and the stimulus that is given that counts.

THERE'S A REASON

A good deal of amusement is being found by some people in the fact that the states which showed the highest favorable vote for the Volstead Act in the poll conducted by a weekly magazine of large circulation are those that lie in what used to be the Great American Desert. Colorado and Kansas are particularly "dry," in sentiment as well as in climate. But there is a reason other than the chance of harmony with climatic conditions.

Colorado and Kansas have tried Prohibition and they know that it works, works for the betterment of the people, physically, morally and financially. They speak from a wealth of experience and their voices should be listened to with respect by those other states that are permitting their names to be found in the other column in the referendum.

It should not be necessary for the President to insist to the members of the Congress and heads of various bureaus that the strictest economy should mark the operation for the next year. Everything points to the need for economy in the administration of the government. It ought to be the ambition of the men who are responsible for its business methods to keep down to the minimum the expense of the office over which they preside.

CABBAGE

"Every dog will have his day," according to the immortal Bard of Avon, and everything else seems to have its week. Good Health week, Clean Up week, Gingham week, Apple week, and now Cabbage week has been added to the list for which seven days is set apart for contemplation and, in this case, consumption.

Time was when the fastidious scorned the humble cabbage. But now, with the discovery and recognition by science of the elusive vitamins, the position of cabbages in the ranks of vegetable society has risen quite in the mushroom manner that has characterized some of the new members of the human elite. Lewis Carroll used cabbages and kings to indicate the gap between the ridiculous and the sublime. Today, with the declining valuation of royalty, it stands for just the opposite. The juxtaposition has lost its incongruity.

War time price helped to establish the cabbage among the respectable of vegetables. Newly recognized food value makes it one of the most desirable.

The flippant manner in which many newspapers handle great moral questions editorially is to be deplored. No doubt the desire is to break down the issue by ridicule, but derision that seeks to obscure and belittle the importance of any measure which has as its aim the improvement and rebuilding of the social order reflects neither glory nor dignity on the newspaper world. The freedom of the press is a thing dearly bought, and should be jealously guarded by the press itself, lest it be guilty of the same intolerance which it holds up to mockery in others.



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