

Winnetka Weekly Talk

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Resolutions of condolence, cards of thanks, obituary, poetry, notices of entertainments or other affairs where an admittance charge will be made or a collection taken, will be charged at regular advertising rates.

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SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1924

*Depress the Tracks.
Give the Business Men Fair Play.
Build a New Village Hall.
Enforce the Traffic Laws.
Build the Truck Road.*

DUNWANDRIN

That's the name of their home in Tryon, North Carolina. Now that they've "done wandering" there they live lives of peaceful activity, Mr. and Mrs. Elia Peattie, the latter not long ago a literary critic of considerable fame. What a name for a quiet, restful home!

We may as well frankly assert at once that we really don't like the name. It sounds pleasant, it's very clever, and it does appeal to us when we're a little tired. But otherwise we don't care for it. It reminds us too strongly of "Oh to be nothing, nothing!" and "I am weary of rowing," and "After life's fitful fever." There is in it too much suggestion of "We've been wandering all our life long, and now we're going to rest."

If one is ninety or more he may rest a bit by the wayside, but after all why should any man or woman believe that his or her life has been an aimless, erratic affair? Are all of us who haven't "done wandering," groping about in the dark, or, to change the figure, are we just sailing around with no destination in mind?

Inasmuch as we believe that living is sailing from one port to another with no need for a final destination, we don't believe that we'll ever be "done wandering," for the simple reason that we haven't been wandering.

MRS. EARLE BARBER

One statement made by Superintendent Washburne concerning the late Mrs. Earle Barber, of Winnetka, is especially memorable. "Her clear mental vision and remarkable executive ability gave her the power to put into practice the things that were dictated by her heart." A rare and most valuable combination! She could do what she felt. The criticism of the Idealistic philosopher, Bronson Alcott, was that he was an embodiment of "stimulation without precision." Mrs. Barber was a case of stimulation WITH precision.

What a rare combination! Most people are strong on one side and weak on the other. Where can you find a good blend of cool intelligence and warm emotion? If a man is strongly emotional he is very likely to be muddle-headed and wobbly. If he is remarkably reasonable he is probably a man of the type of Shakespeare's Brutus, logical but foolish, fated to be swept aside by another impulsive, but practical, Antony. The great fault of humanity is that these two qualities are so rarely conjoined in one and the same person.

And when they are intermingled in a man or a woman a leader has been given to the world. An interaction of heart and brain produces just those goods that the world needs. When such a person dies society suffers a real loss.

SCHOOLS AND PARENTS

There are two ways of enlisting the interest of parents in schools. One way is to invite

them to visit the schools, urge them to come over "almost any time." Scold them if they don't come, and then if they still fail to put in an appearance, lament their lack of interest in that which ought to be their most vital concern.

The other way is to set aside a certain date as Parents' Day or Night and arrange a program for that evening, attractive because of its novel and edifying features. To do as New Trier did not long ago: Announce to the parents of the high school pupils that they, the parents, were expected to come to the school building at 7:15 on the evening of Friday, May 9th, and attend their children's classes, following their children's regular programs. Then at 9:55 meet in the Assembly Hall and there listen to an address by the principal.

Which way will work? The second, without doubt. Give somebody a vague, general standing invitation to take dinner at your home. He'll accept in a general way, but both he and you know very well that he'll never come. Nobody was fooled. Both parties knew the value of the invitation.

But try the second method. Invite a friend to take dinner with you on a certain particular evening, at a specified time. He'll be there. Pin a person down to a definite specified time and you can count on his keeping the engagement.

We congratulate the authorities at New Trier High school on their unusual enterprise and uncommon common sense.

NIXIES

Are you responsible for the existence of any of the nixies? In more familiar language, Do you address letters and packages so carelessly that they cannot reach their proper destination? Do you ever exercise such little foresight as to omit the name of street, city, or state? Or do you write so scribbingly that two minutes after you've finished you can't decode your own chirography?

Some day the letter poorly addressed to you and containing one hundred dollars may turn out to be a nixie, and then you'll lie awake night after night worrying about the money that you never received.

DO UNTO OTHERS as you would be done by!

What's in a name, anyhow? We don't much care whether we say Willow street or Willow road. Once we, ourselves, tried to get a street name changed. We went around one evening calling upon those who lived on the street in question. Before we entered the first home we had high hopes of giving a beautiful name to that hitherto poorly-named thoroughfare. "How easy is will be to convince the property owners concerned!" So ran our thoughts BEFORE entering the first home. But the storm of opposition that there broke upon us changed the whole trend of our subsequent thoughts. The street still bears its original name.

In New Zealand, 90 per cent of the citizens vote. In Winnetka at the recent school election 18 votes were cast by a population of over 8,000. One would like to know the cause of such a big turn-out in New Zealand. Mrs. Blomfield, who spoke before the Winnetka league on N. Z., not long ago, said that this large vote had much to do with the political and economic success of those islands in the South Pacific, but she didn't tell her hearers how they "got out" that 90 percent.

The purchase of a store at Deerfield added the sixth unit to the chain of stores owned and managed by R. H. Schell and company. All of us who know Mr. Schell know that this latest move will be a prosperous one.

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