

WINNETKA TALK

ISSUED SATURDAY OF EACH WEEK

by
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Winnetka School Facts

Spelling:

The method of teaching spelling in the Winnetka Schools consists of—

- having children study only words they cannot spell.
- grading words scientifically, so that the easiest are learned first.
- selecting words scientifically, so that that only useful words are taught.

Health Contagion

CHICAGO'S Department of Health is to be congratulated upon its Weekly Bulletin issued on Dec. 8, under the editorship of Herman N. Bundesen, M. D., commissioner of health. It is entitled, "Health Contagion," and contains some excellent advice, which many could profit by heeding. "Let's talk good health," it starts off by urging on the outside sheet, continuing, "That is the best way to start good health contagion. Let's stop the dreary tales of sickness and untimely death and spread cultures of the germ of good health. . . . To a considerable extent your health is what you think it to be. Jolly yourself into saying each day, 'I'm certainly feeling fine today.'"

And the other three sheets do not belie the introduction just quoted, for in large type at the head of the main article are these words: "Yes, Sir! That's Our Job: Keeping Well People Well and Making Health Contagious." The reading matter under this caption urges that it is about time that we abandon the salutation, "How are you feeling today?" from the standpoint that, first and last, it has probably done a great deal of harm in reminding people to think of their ills. "Isn't it much better to suggest the health idea rather than the disease idea?" it asks, and a few lines further on it says that "we are approaching an epidemic of health."

Just a few more sentiments may be gleaned from this pamphlet to advantage, for it is really full of good things. For instance, who would want anything better than this: "The trouble with, 'How are you?' is that at times it may carry the harmful suggestion that in some persons it encourages a tendency to self-analysis. When one begins to 'feel his feelings' even a healthy person may be led into a chain of thought regarding sickness, and the search for a sick spot is often the cause of fruitless worry and wretchedness. . . . The truth of the matter is that much of

our ill health is mental, and occasionally it is merely an unconscious bid for attention and sympathy." Of course, interblended with these estimable pieces of advice are others based upon medical beliefs, but notwithstanding this fact the general tone of the whole is conducive to dissipating many a popular fallacy.

Note: The above editorial, appearing in the Christian Science Monitor, is here reprinted at the request of many of our readers.

The Parent's Share

PARENTS certainly should be included in a campaign designed to cut the toll of auto deaths. Children who are to be taught to observe such rules of caution as will make them safe upon the streets will require more teaching than they can receive in the school period. Admonition must be constant and, to make it so, the home must contribute its part to the training.

Responsibility for the automobile accident is seldom all one sided. Except in the case of the intoxicated driver there is far more than likely to be some extenuating circumstance, partially or wholly, to excuse the man at the wheel of the car which figures in a tragedy of the street or highway. Often the blame rests entirely upon the pedestrian, for we with our too general habit of cutting corners, of stepping into the street with the mind filled with other matters than the traffic, court trouble.

Playing in the streets or dropping without warning from the back of truck or other car accounts for the accident to the child in most instances. Nobody deliberately runs down a child. There is always something that obscures the vision, except as we have said, in the case of the driver who is intoxicated. Constant watchfulness and caution on the part of children is the price of their safety. To bring a child to a habit that results in constant watchfulness and caution is a full time job. Neither mother nor teacher can do it alone.

Worthy of Notice

TWO features of our north shore school system are worthy of special notice. They are examples of the effecting of a closer relation between grade schools and high school and between grade schools and parents. The closer the bond between grade schools and high school the better for the cause of education in New Trier township. The more intimate the bond between grade school and parents the better for both home and school.

The practice that Mr. Clerk follows of visiting the various grade schools in the township cannot be too highly commended. His discussions, with the graduates, of high school subjects and methods gives the students an introduction to the work that they intend to take up in the fall. This introduction bridges a gap that otherwise might cause loss of time and an awkwardness that would prevent the students from entering at once into high school life.

The value of effecting a closer connection between parents and school is so obvious that it needs no emphasizing. The Parent-Teacher associations, whose peculiar function it is to unite parent and school, are doing a fine work in this field.

Shore Lines

BEG YOUR PARDON

A serious typographical error appeared in the line last week and we wish to apologize for the same. In the poem at the top of the column the word 'poppies' was converted into 'puppies' by some inspired person. Of course we read proof on the line when it appeared around the editorial department in the form of a page proof, but we aren't supposed to be much of a proof-reader in any event, and expect to find the typography perfect by the time it appears in a page proof. We hope that Lady Gray won't be so angry as never to send us another poem.

GEMS FROM THE NEWS!

She never swam the channel
Or made a hole in one,
The winning of the tennis crown,
Is a thing she hasn't done.

She's not the athletic type,
More of the clinging vine,
But a champion in a way,
With her All-American line.
—NEW TRIER NEWS.

Hubby: "Of course, my dear, it's only a rough idea of mine but do you think there is such a possible thing as a typographical error in your recipe for this pie?"
—NEW TRIER NEWS.

Mistress (instructing new butler):
"Now how do you address the baronet?"

Butler—"Your lordship."
"And his lady?"
"Your ladyship."
"And an admiral?"
"Er—your flagship?"
—NEW TRIER NEWS.

PERSONAL

It was very kind of you, Wolverine, to write us such a nice letter so soon after the appearance of your recent poem with its heaven-inspired title. You interest us strangely,—we'd hate to see you go back to any place like Michigan. We understand they smoke Camels and—er—the rest of it—up there. We have been driven to the same thing lately ourselves, so we understand how you feel.

BACHELORS

If bachelors paid extra taxes
For supporting an Old Maids' home
I don't think they'd tarry,
But quickly would marry—
No longer so wildly they'd roam.
MISS ANONYMOUS.

MORE BACHELORS

Angling in Life's river,
Cupid drops his line.
On the hook he fastens
Some gold-digger fine.
Bachelors, silly fishes, soon dart up above,
Then he pulls and fries them
In the fire of love.
PRUDENCE CHURCH.

We expected to find a number of queries about the 'puppies' mistake in our mail this week, but, though we heard of much comment, none reached us directly. What did reach us was several scathing denunciations of bachelors. We seem to have laid ourselves open to much criticism by admitting that we belong to that miserable class. What gives us the big kick is that while women will not admit that a man is anything more than a despicable brute, a hopeless savage, a poor prune, or an absolute oil-can, they still seem indignant when one of us does not want to marry them. And besides, how does anyone know, speaking of our own case, that we could possibly find a girl who would have us?
THE SLAVE.