

DEAN ELLIS' VIEWS

WHY SHOULD TEACHERS DO MEDICAL INSPECTION?

That is a Department of the Boards of Health Act Concerned in—If Needed, Specialists Should be Engaged.

Kingston, Nov. 29th.—(To the Editor.) In last night's Whig there appeared an article which, to some extent, is a repetition of others that have been printed at various times during this autumn. The matter contained in these has now taken that form that it can no longer be allowed to go uncorrected. The statement is made, for instance, that a petition was presented asking for better teaching in the matter of physiology and hygiene, for those who are training for teachers. The whole statement regarding this position is entirely false. No petition was presented in any way affecting the work of the faculty or relating to it and neither directly nor by implication, can any such meaning be attached to any communication that came before the senate. I need not say more about this at the present time, because I have taken steps to bring the matter before the proper authorities in order to determine to what extent a member is at liberty to misrepresent a department in order to advance his own theories.

Apast from that altogether, there is another side to the question. Why should teachers be trained to do medical inspection? Two answers are given to this. First, The community will not bear the expense. Second, The duties that rightly belong elsewhere, and that are not needed, there has been entirely too much of this in the past.

A further element in this case is that for most people medical inspection is a disgusting and repulsive operation. I turn for instance, to reports of this work, and I find that some of the most common headings are "Pedicularia, caries, impetigo, favus," and others of this kind. These look well enough in print, but when translated into English, the words, "Lousiness, rotting teeth, itch, eruptions skin diseases and running sores," do not sound nearly so attractive. Those who are advocating this course, therefore, do well to stick to Latin. We are just now troubled with a scarcity of teachers. It surely would be an indictment to men and women entering the profession to know that they have to examine every child that came to school for vermin, skin diseases, foul teeth and dirty clothing. So far as contagious diseases are concerned I must be very abrupt, but I do not understand how the immature student without any basis of medical knowledge, can be taught to diagnose such diseases as scarlet fever, measles, and small-pox. I am told by medical men that it requires a long course of practice to gain facility in this work. Now we have the proposition to hand it over to boys and girls, with only the merest apology for preparation for any such duties.

It is claimed that the faculties are deficient, in that they do not give instruction in physiology, hygiene and anatomy. I do not see why they should not equally be called upon to give instruction in architecture, drainage and sewage disposal. As a matter of fact, the students are now worked to their utmost capacity to get, in one year, the training necessary to do their class work efficiently. It, therefore, rests with the proposers of all other schemes to find time for the new work without trenching upon that which is necessary for the proper service belonging to the teacher. In other words, shall we put on a two years' training course in order that students may get this knowledge? Anyway, it is no more professional training than is elementary algebra or Latin. If it is taught at all, therefore, it should be outside the faculty and in the preparatory course. Reference is made to the normal schools, but it must be kept in mind that the normal school teachers are being trained to deal with pupils at an entirely different age from those with which almost all students in the faculty will have to deal, and this is an essential element in the case. Further, we have constant and just complaint about an overloaded curriculum and presumably it is to be lightened by thrusting in extra work.

The department provides that the teacher shall be competent to look after the hygiene of the schools, and this is strictly professional, as a part of school management. Yet ventilation and heating belong to physics, not to medicine. Lighting is also a matter of physics and fatigue in school is a strictly pedagogical subject. I submit, therefore, that the man who for twenty years has been managing these things in schools, and who has made himself familiar with the teaching of the authorities (whose statements regarding heating and ventilation are frequently not borne out by the experiments) is more competent to guide young teachers than the man, medical or otherwise, whose experience has not been gained in actual class rooms under conditions that prevail in the ordinary school.

To my mind the logical solution of such a problem as medical inspection is the prevention of the propagation of disease by the careful care of themselves in a civilized community. But so long as the state does not interfere in this matter medical inspection may be a necessity. There is no question that it should be carried out by officers who are competent, who will be paid for their services, and who might by arrangement use the schools as convenient work places. At present we have boards of health which are the most autocratic bodies in our country and rightly so. If this matter is to be dealt with, it should be by the board of health, aided and abetted by the teacher, and it is the business of the state or the community to make such provision as will secure efficient inspection by that board. Truly yours, W. S. ELLIS.

THE REGULATIONS

Surprising Answer of Teacher in a Bilingual School.

Continuation of investigations into Educational Conditions by Star's Representatives—Teacher's English Hard to Understand—Toronto Losing Trade in Northern Ontario.

Toronto Star. Warrenton, Ont., Nov. 25.—In the words of the attorney-general, bilingual schools are illegal, so that "if any are found they must cease to exist," there is a revolution coming in the educational system of New Ontario. Of the villages of the north country Warren furnishes a fair example. School matters in the villages differ from those in the larger towns, such as Sudbury, or Sturgeon's Falls, or North Bay, and also from those of the purely rural school sections, and Warren is a fair type of the villages. It is situated on the main line of the C.P.R., about midway between North Bay and Sudbury, and has a population of about six hundred souls, four hundred of whom at least are French. It used to boast of mills, but when the timber disappeared they vanished. Most of the residents are farmers. There are two schools in the village, one English and the other French and English. In the bilingual school two teachers are busy with the forty-odd children, three of whom are of Anglo-Saxon descent.

Both the teachers are French, and neither has the regular qualifications. One has a district certificate and the other a merely temporary one. "You teach French in the school?" "Certainly," she replied. "More French taught than English?" "No, they are both the same?" "Could you teach more English?" "No." "Why?" "The inspector wouldn't allow it." This answer was perfectly sincere. Perhaps she noticed a look of surprise on the newspaper man's face. For she added: "Then there are the regulations, you know."

A request for further elucidation brought the enlightening explanation: "The regulations state as much attention is to be paid to teaching French as to teaching English." It was not surprising to learn that French is taught equally with English through every class, right up to the entrance examination. The children leave the school with a much better knowledge of French than of English. During the last half-dozen years but two pupils have succeeded in passing the entrance examination. These passed the year in which there was a regularly qualified teacher.

Close to Warren, three miles away, is the school section of Hugel, and the story told to the Star by one of the farmers there was as follows: "We wanted to start a school here forty years ago. There are fifteen families, and in the winter it was too far for our children to go into Warren. We confidently expected we would be aided by the government fund for poor schools."

"Well, we got our school up at a cost of about \$400. Then there was the question of a teacher. To get a thoroughly qualified one was an impossibility. We couldn't afford to pay the salary. "We received an application from an English girl. She had no certificate, so before she could teach she had to get the inspector's sanction. "I don't know why he objected to her, but he did. Most of us are French, and we expected French to be taught. This girl could speak French very well, and was able to teach our children all the French they needed. The inspector still refused, so the matter was taken up with the education department at Toronto, and we secured her certificate. "Look what followed. Since the school was built the money we got from the poor school had amounted to \$100, and we had trouble in getting that much. Compare that with what took place in Warren, where the poor school fund contributed \$200 for a mere addition to the school, and the people in Warren are far better able to do without help than we are. We are still in debt. However, we saw where teachers from Quebec had no difficulty in getting permission to teach, so we couldn't see why this girl, who was far better qualified, shouldn't have the same privilege. We won out, but it was costly victory. Today the school at Hugel is closed because no teacher is available. They did have one for the first week in the school year, but she left. Most of the children, fifteen or so, are staying at home. "The school being closed is a good thing, in one sense," one of the farmers philosophically remarked. "What we save in the teacher's salary will about pay the debt of the school!"

Close to Warren, there is another school called "Dunnet and Kirkpatrick, No. 5. It is a bi-lingual school with thirty pupils, ten of whom are English. The teacher is French, but speaks English "pretty well," one was told. The school has been open but two years. "The teacher has a temporary certificate. She attended the summer training school at Sturgeon's Falls the year before. We consider her far better qualified than many others in New Ontario."

In the bi-lingual school at Warren, the Roobon readers, Constant's composition, and other French books are used with the sanction of the inspector. In "Dunnet No. 5" the authorized bi-lingual books are used. "What sort of English is being taught in the schools hereabouts?" one of Warren's leading citizens was asked. "That's the trouble," he answered. "What they are being taught isn't English at all. Candidly, I am of the opinion that if better teachers can't be secured, it would be a good thing to drop the pretence they are making at teaching English. One has difficulty in understanding the teachers themselves when they speak English, so what can you expect of the children?"

FREED FROM OATH

Boer War as Seen from the Inside.

John Hays Hammond Says Much Sympathy Has Been Wasted on Kruger.

Boston, Nov. 30.—Released by a lapse of time from an oath not to talk on South African affairs or reveal any of the "inside" events leading up to the Boer war, for three years, John Hays Hammond, the American mining engineer and multi-millionaire, who was conspicuous in that war, broke his silence for the first time at a dinner of the Clover Club. Mr. Hammond says that the Jameson raid was the result of the activities of a reform association formed at Johannesburg, and consisting largely of Americans.

"I want, especially," said Mr. Hammond, "to correct a misunderstanding. It has been said that we were acting under the British flag. That is false. Much sympathy has been wasted on 'Oom' Paul Kruger. He was opposed to progress, believed the world was flat, and that the devil had a tail. His propositions were such as no man of the Anglo-Saxon race would have tolerated. The Americans voted to take up arms against him. There was a spy in our camp and for his benefit we voted that if we were commanded to fire, shoot down our commanding officers. As a result, no Americans were made to enlist. "The reform movement against Kruger was not an English movement. Jameson came into the field against our wishes and against the wishes of the British high commissioner. I sent word to him to get back and when he persisted, the only thing to do was to bluff Kruger into thinking we had more arms than we really did. We did so, and Kruger sent over an olive branch to Johannesburg. They agreed to all but two things, and that was that no contract should be accepted with a Roman Catholic or a Jew. This we flatly refused. "Kruger played false with the reform committee after the Jameson raid, broke all his promises, and as he had secured the arms in Johannesburg, through Sir Hercules Robinson, he arrested the entire committee. He gave the men to understand that if they pleaded guilty they would be let off with a fine. Instead, they were sentenced to be hanged within twenty-four hours. An emphatic despatch from Secretary Diney caused Kruger and the Boer council to hesitate, and after an all-night session the council voted to commute the sentences to life imprisonment."

"There is no question as to the valuable service these noble beasts perform every winter," said Mr. Bourgeois, the present provost of the St. Bernard Hospice. "You must remember the hospice is situated some 8,000 feet above sea level and is the second highest inhabited building on the globe. The mountain passes on which the monastery stands, is one of the principle highways between Switzerland and Italy. Over 20,000 persons traverse the road every year, nearly two-thirds of this number accomplishing the journey during the winter. This makes the journey then an invariably poor laborer either coming to or returning from their work on the other side of the mountain. "We, of course, get a lot of tourists in the summer, but I imagine many of them would be surprised if they attempted the road in mid-winter. The gold is intense and the pass is seldom free from snowstorms. The latter are terrible things to face. The wind often rises to a hurricane, and sometimes blizzards come on that last many hours and even days. "At the moment we have some sixteen trained dogs in the kennels; there are also about a dozen younger ones. There is certainly no comparison about the able work they perform and the many lives they save every winter. The stories told of their wonderful sagacity are not exaggerated. Last winter was a very trying one with us, and on one occasion the hospice was crowded with 1,000 weather-bound travellers. The dogs had a very busy time and frequently remained out in the bitter weather for twelve, fourteen and sixteen hours at a stretch. During these long hours they suffer from severe rheumatism as a result of the exposure and have to be sent down to the valleys below to recuperate. "I could tell you many wonderful stories of rescue our dogs have effected. Our most famous animal, perhaps, is Oliver. He has a record of fifty-six rescues. He is very fond of going out and prospecting on his own account. At the beginning of last winter he found and guided to the hospice a party of twelve travellers, among them three women and two children. The path was blocked by an avalanche and the dog had to make a wide detour before the monastery was reached. Shortly after this he accented a traveller we were looking for and who was buried twenty feet deep in the snow. Had it not been for the dog the man would have perished. Once he found a child on the verge of death. He carried it in his mouth for three-quarters of a mile to the hospice."

To Quit Office at Once. Charlottetown, P.E.I., Nov. 30.—At a meeting of the executive of the Palmer government it was decided to resign as soon as departmental matters were put in shape. This course is taken owing to the two by-elections on November 15th going against the government, and putting the liberals in the minority. Mr. Matheson, conservative, therefore, will shortly be called upon to form a few administration.

THE REGULATIONS

England in Olden Time Very Much Given to It.

A London journal stated not long ago that the British boy "has quite given up being kissed by his father, and he is kissed by his sister and his aunt only by compulsion." No doubt he is disgusted when he reads of Nelson's sons, as he was dying: "Kiss me, Hardy."

The English were for a long time inveterate and promiscuous kissers, so that they excited the wonder of visiting foreigners. A Venetian gave this report of London ladies early in the sixteenth century: "If they meet a friend they take his hand and kiss him full on the mouth and go into some tavern and eat with him. And their people do not take it ill. And they are most beautiful ladies, and most pleasant. "There was this free kissing everywhere, openly in the street and in the church. Samuel Kiechel warned his countrymen to do in England as the English did. "A guest does well to take his hostess in his arms and to kiss her; who does it not is looked upon as ignorant and ill-bred." Books of travel written by visitors of various countries, abound in evidence of the habit that is now regarded as dangerously microbes.

But Englishmen, apparently, drew the line in Cooper's time, for when Mr. Grenville, standing for parliament called on Cooper to secure his vote and influence, and the poet told him he had neither vote nor influence, he did not embrace him. "He squeezed me by the hand, kissed the ladies and withdrew. He kissed, likewise, the maid in the kitchen, and seemed, upon the whole, a most loving, kissing, kind-hearted gentleman."—Boston Herald.

A Young Man Bought Gift—Didn't Deliver It. The first time the young man entered the cigar store he noticed only that it was a girl who sold him the cigar. The next time, and the next, however, he noticed that she was not only a pretty girl, but that she had a very pleasing smile. The girl and the smile became quite an attraction for him, so much so that he made it a point to buy all his cigars there, and his smoking habit grew considerably. It worried him to think, though, that the girl's smiles were given to all customers; so just before he went on his vacation he asked: "How is it that you can stand here all day and smile to everybody?" "Oh, I sell to everybody, but the smiles are only for you," she replied. When he returned from his vacation about two weeks later he carried a small gift as he went to buy his cigar, but he thought that he would make his return visit a surprise, so stepped stealthily up to the door of the store. Another young man was at the counter, and he heard the other man ask: "Doesn't it tire you to smile at all your customers?" "Oh, he heard her reply, 'I sell to all; the smiles are yours alone.' "The young man's sister was surprised when she opened a small express package a few days later—Kansas City Star.

Why Geyser Bob Paused. When Raymond Hitchcock, the popular star, who is now appearing in the musical play, "The Red Widow," at the Astor Theatre, was at Yellowstone Park last summer, he engaged "Geyser Bob," one of the famous drivers in the park, as his guide. "By the way, Bob," queried Hitchcock one day, "how did you get your nick name?" "Well," answered Bob, "I clung up 'Old Faithful' one day, and got too near the crater, and fell in." "Gee, that's great stuff," commented Hitchcock. "What happened?" "Why," said Bob, pointing to the "Beehive" geyser, half a mile away, "I came out of the 'Beehive'—over there." "Well, well," said Hitchcock, urging him on, "how long did it take?" "Oh," came the reply, "if I had come straight through it would have taken me only about ten minutes; but I stopped on the way for a hair cut and shave." "Get out of my theatre," said George M. Cohan, when Hitchcock told him this tale.

Complex American Legal Problems. No country has such complex and varied problems to cope with as the United States. Conditions arising from the reason of the heavy tide of immigration from all countries, including Gentiles, Jews, Greeks, Turks, Mohammedans, those of all religions and those with none; those coming to promulgate socialistic doctrines, the perplexing Chinese and Japanese questions in the west, the abolition of slavery, the rights of the colored, the organization and rise of federations of labor have raised perplexing questions which have demanded the attention more or less of the criminal arm of the law. A knitted garment for women that a New Yorker has patented can be used as a scarf, shawl or sweater.

INCREASE IN TEA PRICES

THE REASON WHY!

The ever-increasing consumption of tea throughout the world—particularly of British Grown Tea—has created a demand much greater than the supply, which among other causes, prevents really good tea being sold at former low prices.

Russia and Australia are buying tremendously of British grown teas in place of China teas, and the consumption in Great Britain is larger than ever. The shutting out of over 15 million pounds of colored China Green Tea by the United States Government, the increased use of tea due to higher prices of coffee, the greater acreage given over to the planting of rubber in Ceylon, the shortage in the Japan crop this year and the labor problem in all tea-growing countries are all factors which account for the much higher primary markets.

The present revolution in China may also mean much smaller crops there next year, and present indications are for still higher prices in the future. All these conditions either mean a lower quality at the same prices, or the same quality at higher prices. Our experience shows that the tea drinking public prefers the latter. "HONEST TEA IS THE BEST POLICY"

Thomas J. Lipton, Toronto, Ont. STOPS BLOOD FLOW TO BRAIN. Surgeon Deflects It in Injured Head. Demonstrations in advanced surgery were made in many Philadelphia hospitals by famous surgeons for the benefit of delegates assembled to attend the annual congress of surgeons of North America. An operation considered fatal until modern surgery lent its aid was performed at the University hospital to deflect the flow of blood from one part of the injured head of a patient. Its purpose was accomplished by Dr. John D. Deaver by the ligation of the internal carotid, the principal artery of the neck supplying blood to the greater part of the brain, the orbit, internal ear and the forehead and nose. The operation stopped the supply of blood to the brain through this channel, relieving the congestion. A sufficient amount, however, to maintain life is still conveyed by the external carotid and its branches, and as the injured portion of the skull heals nature will adapt itself to the changed condition, and the arteries which have been forced to dilate until the normal supply of blood is distributed in all parts of the head.

MANY NEW STATIONS. Grand Trunk Pacific Called Upon to Build 150. Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 1.—Owing to the large number of branch lines constructed by the Grand Trunk Pacific this year, the company has had to build no less than one hundred and fifty new stations. Of these ninety-eight have already been established, twenty-seven are in course of construction, while the balance of the number contracted for will be finished in the spring.

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