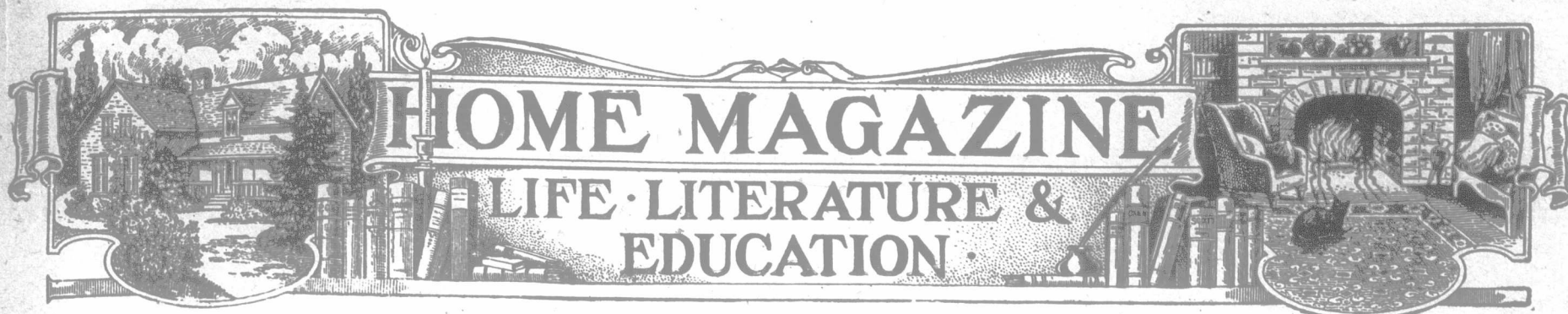




Your Lad And My Lad.

BY RANDALL PARRISH.

Down toward the deep-blue water,
marching to throb of drum,
From city street and country lane the
lines of khaki come;
The rumbling guns, the sturdy tread, are
full of grim appeal,
While rays of western sunshine flash back
from burnished steel.
With eager eyes and cheeks aflame the
serried ranks advance;
And your dear lad and my dear lad, are
on their way to France.

A sob clings choking in the throat, as file
on file sweep by,
Between those cheering multitudes, to
where the great ships lie;
The batteries halt, the columns wheel,
to clear-toned bugle-call,
With shoulder squared and faces front
they stand a khaki wall.
Tears shine on every watcher's cheek,
love speaks in every glance;
For your dear lad, and my dear lad, are
on their way to France.

Before them, through a mist of years, in
soldier buff or blue,
Brave comrades from a thousand fields
watch now in proud review;
The same old flag, the same old Faith—
the Freedom of the World—
Spells Duty in those flapping folds above
long ranks unfurled.
Strong are the hearts which bear along
Democracy's advance,
As your dear lad, and my dear lad, go on
their way to France.

The word rings out; a million feet tramp
forward on the road,
Along that path of sacrifice o'er which
their fathers strode.
With eager eyes and cheeks aflame, with
cheers on smiling lips,
These fighting men of '17 move onward
to their ships.
Nor even love may hold them back, or
halt that stern advance,
As your dear lad, and my dear lad, go on
their way to France.

—Chicago Daily Tribune.

The Time For Speech-Making.

WITH November arrives the time
for practice in speech-making.
Every rural district in Canada
should have an Oratory Club, and now
is the time for organizing it. Once a
week is not too often for meeting, since
the responsibilities must be passed about
and there are usually enough men and
boys in a neighborhood to ensure that
no one person will have to speak too
often.

Appoint President, Vice-President, Sec-
retary-Treasurer, and a Committee
(which may be changed every month)
to get up the programmes. One or two
speakers should be secured for each
evening, and a short time taken after each
speech for discussion. Occasionally,
with "sides," may be introduced.

For speechmaking other than in de-
bates it may be advisable to let the
speakers select their own subjects, as,
almost unconsciously, each will be sure
to choose the one on which he can speak
best.

There should be no limit to the range
of topics—agriculture, world-events,
neighborhood advancement, special lines
of work, literature, music,—anything
should be permitted, providing the
speaker knows what he is talking about.
For the closing meeting, a supper may
be a feature and "outside talent" may
be enlisted.

There was never a time in the history
of Canada when practice in public-

speaking was so necessary. The Universi-
ties and Colleges, with their organizations
for training in this have been drained to
the limit. The men who, in the near
future, would be, naturally, the spokes-
men for the public, are on the battlefields
of Europe; who can say whether they
shall return, or in what condition they
may be when they come back? Yet
the work of the country must go on,
and it must fall upon the older men, and
with double weight upon the young men
of to-morrow who are but young boys
to-day. Both the older men and the
boys must be trained, or the work will
not be so well done. For, without question,
the winning of any case depends upon the
clearness, forcefulness and logic with
which it is presented. Most men can
think fairly well; they should train
themselves also to express themselves
well.

Too long the farmers have permitted
themselves to be dumb so far as public
speaking goes. Of late years, it is true,
a move has been made in the right
direction. Young Men's Clubs have
been organized and before the war the
members, in some districts, were giving
themselves splendid drill in speaking
and thinking on their feet. Some of the
men connected with the various farmers'
organizations in the east, and the Grain-
growers' Association of the west, have
proved themselves orators of no mean
order. But the practice should be more
widespread. Every farmer, whether
eighteen years of age or eighty, should
be able to express himself, in public
if necessary, clearly and fluently. That
this may be achieved, the training
should begin in the public schools, and
continue indefinitely, every winter,
through the Oratory Club, or the Club
under any other name which will give
the opportunity.

This is not a thing for the young men
only. Such training should never cease
so long as any man is able to be a factor
in his community.

So begin the Oratory Club and begin
it soon.

Making a Speech.

MAKING a speech is like construct-
ing anything else that is made
up of parts, for a speech has a
beginning, a middle and an end. The
beginning of the speech states clearly
the subject to be discussed. The middle
of the speech contains the discussion of
the subject while the end of the speech
comprises the conclusion that follows
naturally from the discussion.

The speaker should know what he is
going to talk about and should have
clearly in his mind what he is aiming to
accomplish. If he is a debater he should
know whether he is attacking or defend-
ing a position. If he is on the defence
he should take up the best ground he
can, and have his arguments so well in
hand that he can turn them upon his
opponents no matter when they may
deliver their attack. If he is on the
aggressive he must have an open eye for
the weaknesses of the defence, and pour
his forces into any breach that bids fair
to mean victory for him. He will do
well to try to draw his antagonist to
where the defence is the most difficult to
sustain.

If on the other hand the young orator
is assigned a subject other than one for
public debate his duty is to gather in-
formation upon it from every available
reliable source. This done, his next duty
is to arrange his facts, very much as a
carpenter arranges his materials for
house-building. Each part of the speech
fits into what comes before it and what
comes after it. It is splendid practice
for one to arrange his speech on paper,
to lay it to one side for a while, and then
to re-consider it with one's mind fresh
and open.

The arrangement made, the next work
is the clothing of each thought with words
that express the meaning so clearly that
the meaning is unmistakable and in a
manner so interesting that the audience
finds delight in listening. An argument
gains in weight by being followed by an
illuminating illustration. Story-telling is
not speechmaking, however, nor is an
illustration an argument. Illustrations and
stories unless handled judiciously very
easily become a source of weakness, they
may obscure one's meaning rather than
make it clear. Aptness and brevity are
the main tests for either a story or an
illustration. Then there should be de-
velopment in a public utterance. A speech
must move on or one's audience will weary.
Nothing so wearies an audience as hearing
a speaker say the same thing over and
over again. An argument or a senti-
ment once clearly and briefly stated should
be allowed to go by its own momentum.
Mere repetition simply weakens it.

This naturally raises the question
of the use or the non-use of notes in
public speaking. In this particular much
depends upon individual taste. Time
and experience together with honest
self-criticism will make clear to the
embryo orator the method that serves
him best in his public speaking. There is a
suggestion that he will find helpful. Let
him set down the points he wishes
to make in his speech. Then let him
speak without notes and see if he has
omitted anything or gained anything
by the use or the non-use of manuscript.

The supreme test of a speech is the
effect it has upon the hearers. Some
speakers aim to amuse and develop into
entertainers. Some find delight in
sentence-building and become mere
rhetoricians, others aim never to speak
without saying some good word that
means hope or light or inspiration to any
who may listen. The entertainer inevi-
tably grows flat and stale. The mere
funny man ultimately becomes an of-
fence to the serious minded, while an
earnest speaker with a message character-
ized by timeliness, pithiness and con-
ciseness is like a breeze from the heather.
To become such a speaker is no easy
task, but the attainment of an end so
desirable is worthy of the highest human
endeavor. To reach this high plane is
to enter into fellowship with the choicest
spirits this earth has ever known.

O. C.

A Few Subjects For Discussion or Debate.

1. Resolved that an educational life offers more inducements to real success than a commercial life.
2. Resolved that agriculture, being both educational and commercial, affords opportunity for the ideal life.
3. Resolved that education is more beneficial to mankind than money.
4. Resolved that coalition govern-ment is better than the party system.
5. Resolved that militarism has failed.
6. Resolved that war can never satisfactorily settle differences between nations.
7. Can this war of 1914-15-16-17 be the last war?
8. Who is the wisest statesman of the present age, and why?
9. What is Democracy?

Among the Books.

A Book for Every Man and Every Debater.

A book "for the instruction and in-
spiration of the men and women
who are in possession of the
franchise", hence one of especial value
to neighborhood clubs and debating
societies (which should invariably be
educators to higher citizenship), is *The*

Dawn of a New Patriotism, by John D.
Hunt, published by the Macmillan Co.
of Canada, Publishers, Toronto.

This book gives explicit instructions
for carrying on public meetings and
debates in parliamentary form, also
valuable hints on public speaking and
conversation in clubs, etc. Possibly
the headings of a few chapters may serve
to indicate, better than much explana-
tion, the content of the rest of the book:
*Democracy and Citizenship; The Careless
Average Citizen* (taking citizen in its larger
sense); *The Responsibility of Citizenship;*
Remedies for the Evils of Society; Greece;
Rome; The King and the Parliament;
Development of Government; Recent Pro-
gress.

A book sure to be valuable to every
voter, every man who takes part in
public life, and every debater.

Getting and Keeping Fit.

BY L. D. MILNER.

Outside—the chug-chug of a standing
automobile, the rumble of carriage
wheels, the quick trotting of horses' feet—
inside, the soft "swish-swish" of the full-
starched skirts of the nurses' uniforms,
the subdued tread of their rubber-heeled
shoes, the indistinct murmur of distant
voices and, permeating everywhere, the
peculiar odor of mingled anaesthetics
and antiseptics one always associates with
hospitals.

I listened almost feverishly for the
quick step that heralded the approach of
my own doctor; feverishly, for to-day I
was going to ask to go home, "home"
being represented by one small attic
room, which no amount of ingenuity or
stretch of imagination could ever make
over into that wonderful thing, a bed-
sitting room, because it was situated on
the third floor of just a second-rate—
perhaps I ought to say third-rate board-
ing house. That was home, but being
there meant working, and working meant
money—and I needed money.

"My dear child," the doctor exclaimed,
when at last he came and the question of
my leaving had been put to him, "you
don't know what you are asking me.
Why, if I were to allow you to do as you
suggest and return to your work at the
office, it would simply mean that you
would be back here in a month's time—
your condition worse than ever." I had
anticipated the doctor's reply, but my
answer to it was forestalled by his adding
with a shake of his head, "No, no, little
woman, you'll have to spend a summer in
the country somewhere—that will make
a strong girl of you." He smiled as he
went out—a smile that was meant to be
reassuring, and I settled down among the
pillows again to think things over.
"Spend a summer in the country!" Why
didn't he say spend a summer in Europe
or on Mars? All of them would be equally
feasible, the difference being that I'd
always wanted to go to Europe, whereas I
hated the country, where nobody ever
saw anything or did anything but simply
stagnated (as I thought).

I went—I had a glorious time—and
because there may be some other girl
situated as I was, having to take an
enforced rest on a depleted pocket-book
or some other woman not getting all the
enjoyment she should out of country life, I
am writing this.

A few days after the doctor's visit I
became acquainted with a patient in the
hospital, a farmer's wife, a refined well-
read woman, who, upon learning that he
had prescribed country life for me, in-
vited me to spend a month with her. I
don't remember very much about that
first month now. I slept a great deal,
and ate a great deal and, when I wasn't
doing either of those things, I was busy
making friends with Molly, the small
daughter of the house and Laddie, the
beautiful Collie, who was all but human.