

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Doubtless most people are agreed that the radical discoverer and student of degeneracy, as pronounced a dozen years ago, went too far with his expert findings. To-day in Great Britain there are antagonists to the chief principles and the chief deductions of the old-fashioned degeneracy. For example, the new theory is that degeneracy is a disease and has been the handmaid of evolution. Man must adapt himself to his environment. If a poor, weak-minded, slovenly shadow of a man is discovered in the darkened slums of the great city, it is to be decided that he is degenerate, or that, following the law of evolution, he merely is adapting himself to environment. There are portions of Africa, for example, in which sturdy black tribesmen in ages past have grown to the environment. The question is asked, How far would the white races of the northern hemisphere degenerate, weaken, and die if forced to take up residence in these sections of the dark continent? And the fact that these white people did die, would it be degeneracy or rather nature's attempt by slow degrees to eliminate the newcomers?

Tuberculosis has been called a degenerative disease. The fact is that these nations most exposed to consumption are most resistant to it. The black man dies in the proportion of 1 to 1 of tuberculosis. Is this degeneracy, or is it evolution? Slum life has been declared most conducive to degeneracy in crowded civilization, yet the Chinese and the Jews have crowded most in such environments and have not degenerated. They exist in the theory of evolution is that the fittest subjects must survive. If puny children result from unhealthy parents in congested slums, the question is asked, are these children puny because of heredity, or for the reason that slum environments are imposed? And if children survive the parents and the slums, are they degenerate, or potential fitter parents adapted to a greater measure to a slum future? In brief, the exponents of the new theory of adaptation along the lines of evolution are declaring that the only element expressive of degeneracy in modern civilization lies in the death rate from want or from diseases against which there is insufficient resistance.

The French Academy has founded a new "grand prize" for the purpose of encouraging and rewarding what may be called idealism and moral beauty in fiction. The prize is to be \$2,000, and it will be bestowed annually on the author of the best novel or other piece of work of the imaginative sort which "is inspired by lofty sentiment." The academy has annual prizes for good work in history, poetry, oratory and the practice of virtue in conduct, but all that has been heretofore done for fiction has been limited to the "crowning" of novels and short story collections that it has found admirable. This is now deemed insufficient, hence the prize. There are cynical writers who say that the prize will stimulate mushy sentimentality and mediocre melodramatic "goodness" rather than genuine idealism. It is added that the "crowning" of novels has been a hindrance instead of a help to unknown authors with the discriminating public, for many of the crowned novels have been insipid and shallow. This, however, is a criticism of the personnel of the academy rather than of the idea itself.

Imagination, lofty sentiment, truth and beauty are not incompatible with strength and sincere artistic purposes. If the academy is a bad judge of genuine art and beauty, another agency should set up a similar prize in competition with it. The point is that there are prizes in France for works of fiction that reveal force and originality, even if bizarre and unwholesome, and a prize for idealistic fiction of high merit is a proper offset. Life is not all rosy, bleak, pathological, and realism should not spell pessimism and gloom. Truth is not all painful and shocking; it is often elevating, consoling, sweet. If there are to be prizes at all, the new prize of the academy is eminently desirable, even if high-minded men and women of imagination and the gift of style may be dependent on the capricious and beautiful whims of financial considerations.

On the Farm

WATERING THE MILCH COW

Did it ever occur to you that a cow giving a large quantity of milk must drink more water than one that is dry or one that gives a comparatively small quantity? If you will stop to think a moment you will readily see that it is logical to suppose that it requires a great deal of water to produce milk. Eighty-seven per cent. of milk is water. Of course, if a cow gives only a gallon of milk a day—eight pounds—she would only require about seven pounds of water to produce it. But a cow giving three gallons a day would require 21 pounds; six gallons, 42 pounds. That water must come from somewhere, and especially so if she is fed principally on dry feed as most cows are.

There is no theory about the water consumption of dairy cows. It has been demonstrated that the amount consumed bears a certain ratio to the milk produced. Missouri Chief Josephine, the cow that produced 100 pounds of milk a day at the Missouri Experiment Station last year, drank 12 gallons, or 293 pounds, of water a day through the winter months. The practical side of this question is an important one. You know that to warm 100 pounds of water on a stove heated from the freezing point to 100 degrees F., with burning fat, for instance, would take a considerable amount of fat and that it would be expensive. Whether you heat water on a stove or allow a cow to heat it in her stomach, the same amount of heat is required. For this reason it is better to give the dairy cow warm water than ice water. It saves feed, it also saves a shock to the delicately organized system of a high-producing cow. If you want to get maximum returns from your milk cows next winter, do not compel them to break ice in the water tank. If you have no better way of supplying water several degrees above the freezing point, get a tank heater. The cost is nominal, the expense for the fuel is very small and it is correct to say that even a small herd of good milk cows will pay for a tank heater in a short time.

AIR THE COWS BREATHE

Prof. King puts the question of the importance of pure air and right methods of ventilation in a graphic way when he says: "We can live five weeks without food, for five days without water, but only about five minutes without air." When we look at the provision the average farmer makes for pure air for his cattle, take it all through the country, we can see how well informed he is on this question. There has been a fearful amount of ignorance among us farmers on the importance of ventilation of cow stables. Not only have we bred tuberculosis and other diseases by weakening the bodies of our cattle, but we have as well reduced the amount of milk they would produce. Thus we have been punished in both ways for our ignorance. And there are a big lot of farmers who are working yet for more punishment. It is almost impossible to arouse any interest in such men, to become intelligent on this subject.

SHEEP ARE PROFITABLE

Sheep require less attention than any other farm animal. They do not have to be curried or brushed or washed; neither do they have to be tied with halters or confined with stanchions. All they need is good feed, clean water and absolutely dry shelter, and for this care they will return a better profit, considering the investment, than any other animal on the farm.

DISPUTED ONCE

The case before the Court was one involving the ownership of a tract of land, and the solicitor for one of the parties to the suit was cross-examining a witness.

"Now, Mr. Grimshaw," he said, "the property on which you live was originally a part of the twenty acres in dispute, was it not?"

"Yes, sir."

"And your title is based on the original title to that land, is it not?"

"Yes, sir."

"How long have you resided there?"

"Over twenty-one years."

"Have you had—now, mark me—have you had twenty-one years' undisputed possession of that property?"

The witness hesitated a moment. "Remember, Mr. Grimshaw," said the lawyer, raising his voice, "that you are under oath. Have you had twenty-one years' undisputed possession of that property?"

"It has been disputed once, and only once," answered the witness. "I found a nest of bumble-bees in my back-yard one day last summer."

In the general laugh that followed this answer the lawyer subsided.

PURIFIED HIS BLOOD

Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills Healed Mr. Wilson's Sores

When the sewers of the body—bowels, kidneys and skin ducts—get clogged up, the blood quickly becomes impure and frequently sores break out over the body. The way to heal them, as Mr. Richard Wilson, who lives near London, Ont., found, is to purify the blood. He writes:

"For some time I had been in a low, depressed condition. My appetite left me and I soon began to suffer from indigestion. Quite a number of small sores broke out all over my skin. I tried medicine for the blood and used many kinds of ointments, but without satisfactory results. What was wanted was a thorough cleansing of the blood, and I looked about in vain for some medicine that would accomplish this."

At last Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills were brought to my notice, and they are one of the most wonderful medicines I have ever known. My blood was purified in a very short time, sores healed up, my indigestion vanished. They always have a place in my home and are looked upon as the family remedy."

Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills cleanse the system thoroughly. Sold by all dealers at 25c a box.

Young Folks

LITTLE GREAT-GRANDFATHERS

"My teacher wants each of us to plant a tree to-morrow," said Arthur. It was the evening before Arbor day, and the family was at tea. There were Great-Grandfather Lane, or "Granddaddy," as they called him, Mr. Bell and his wife, and their four boys—Phil, Rob, Ned and Arthur.

"So does ours," said Phil, "but I shan't."

"Nor I," said Ned and Rob together.

"Last year," said Phil, "I planted a maple, and it died; year before last I planted an oak, and look at it now—just a little weeie thing; and the year before that it was an apple-tree, and it hasn't had an apple on it yet. Catch me weeding my time on such nonsense!"

"That's so," said Rob. "What's the use of planting things that take longer to grow than you do yourself?"

"You seem to take a good deal of pleasure in those elms on the lawn," said Great-Grandfather Lane. "Don't I see Phil climb the big one and put up some birds' nests yesterday?"

"Yes, sir," replied Phil. "Mother wanted me to make the nests. She says we can't have too many birds round. And I think so, too. I like the birds."

"And there are a good many in those six trees," said the old gentleman.

"Yes, sir," Phil agreed, "hundreds, I guess. There are fourteen pairs of robins and four pairs of orioles."

"And there are lots of blue-birds," said Rob.

"And a thrush," said Phil. "Oh, I like to hear the thrush!"

"I like the shade of the elms," said Mrs. Bell. "How pleasant it is."

"They are the finest trees in the neighborhood," said Mr. Bell. "I was thinking to-night, as I came down the street, what beautiful trees we have on our place."

"But they must be very old," said Phil. "The man who planted them had no good from them."

Great-Grandfather Lane laughed. "I thought I had enjoyed them as much as anybody," he said.

"Why, did you plant them, granddaddy?" cried Arthur.

"I did, when I was just Ned's age," answered granddaddy.

"Ten years old," said Ned. "And now you are eighty."

"It is a good while," replied the old gentleman, "but I am still alive, enjoying my trees."

"Then those trees are seventy years old," said Arthur, running to the window to look at the great elms with a new interest.

"It is seventy years since they were set out," replied granddaddy, "but they were several years old when I transplanted them. It was such a day as to-day. It was helping father over in the wood-lot. We came to six pretty little elms, growing under a pine, and father said:

"It is a shame to cut these down. Nathaniel, don't you want to set them out in front of the house?"

"So I planted them, and then I took good care of them. I gave them food and drink; and kept them trimmed and clean. They used to be called 'Nathaniel's elms' while I was a youngster. On that first one you will find a large A cut in the knot-hole half-way up the trunk. That is your great-grandmother's initial—Amanda."

"I'm going to climb up and find it to-morrow," said Phil.

"And if we set out some trees now, our great-grandchildren will be climbing them when we are eighty years old," said Ned; thoughtfully.

"I'm going to cut all my children's and grandchildren's and

great-grandchildren's initials on mine," said Arthur.

"I wonder what kind of trees we had better plant," said Phil. "We don't want all elms."

"Your great-grandchildren will get some apples and acorns," said his mother, smiling.

"Oh, why can't we plant all kinds of fruit and nuts?" cried Rob. "Won't our great-grandchildren have the good things to eat? My I can see them now, shinning up the trees and laying in the plums and cherries!"

"I dare say your heirs would like a few shade-trees, also," said their father.

"I would put out some rose-bushes, too, if I were you," said their mother. "There may be some great-granddaughters."

"We'll set about it to-morrow," said granddaddy, briskly. "We'll put in an elm first. I may live to see some of those initials cut; for the elm is a quick-growing tree. Youth's Companion."

NEW YORK'S NEW FIRE ALARM

MOST MARVELLOUS ELECTRIC DEVICE

Detects Fire at the Outbreak, and Sends in Alarm Without Human Aid.

New York City is to have a system of fire protection which will not only revolutionize all previous methods, but will make this the most thoroughly protected against fire of any city in the world.

The new system is styled the air alarm. Its basis consists of a small hollow wire of copper alloy, one-eighth of an inch in diameter, and containing a tiny insulated wire.

The hollow wire acts as a conductor for the air whose expansion causes a fire alarm to sound. The tiny wire is known as the trouble wire. If for any reason the hollow wire is cut or broken, the result is that an electric circuit is also broken, which causes the little wire to send a "trouble" alarm to the headquarters of the company.

Fire headquarters hears nothing, unless there happens to be a REAL FIRE at the time the wire breaks, or is cut.

Loops of this inconspicuous hollow wire are strung around the molding of the rooms, houses, tenements and buildings to be protected, the loops ending in a detector which consists of a disc, containing a delicate triaphragm.

If a fire starts in a room, the air in the hollow tube expands under the influence of the heat and operates a sensitive diaphragm in the detector, causing it to close an electrical circuit which sets in operation all the marvellous fire alarm machinery.

All the older systems are largely defective, due to the use of what is known as a "thermostat" placed at intervals on the ceiling. These are constantly exposed to the effects of the air and the electrical contacts become oxidized, or CLOGGED WITH DUST.

And when needed fail to operate at all, or only after a raging fire is in full blast.

Briefly, the new system scores its main success in the principle that the best way to solve the great fire hazard problem of the day is to deal with a incipient fires instead of conflagrations.

The new system gives an almost instantaneous alarm. If a pair of curtains catch fire, or even a newspaper, an effective alarm is given within ten to forty seconds. Moreover, another alarm is rung on a box outside of the building, which also indicates the exact location of the fire. Therefore, the alarm goes on, and directly into fire headquarters, where the exact location is also announced.

Shiloh's Cure quickly stops coughs, cures colds, hoarseness, throat and lungs. 25 cents.

CHOICE OF AN EMPLOYER. German Servant Girl Method of Selecting a Mistress.

A domestic servant at Heidelberg advertised for a position as cook and maid of all work, announcing that she would be glad to receive offers of employment in keeping with her special talents, writes a correspondent of the London Daily Mail. Forty-five replies reached her.

Forty were cast aside as unworthy of notice either because of insufficient wages or because the would-be mistress lived in an "undesirable" locality or higher than the second story.

The five ladies on whom the servant decided to bestow her favor temporarily, received written notice that she would do herself the pleasure of calling on the succeeding Sunday between 2 and 4 o'clock.

She devoted the afternoon to informing herself as to the manner of living of each family, the regular periods at which rises in wages might be expected, the amount of entertaining done, the character and value of gratuities and presents

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by post. Four of them got the following note next morning: "I regret to be compelled to inform you that my choice has not fallen upon you."

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