



Conducted by "SOBEL"

Vocational Training for Girls

"Everything comes to him who will but wait," is a very ancient adage, the truth of which seems to be proved by the present effort and determination on the part of modern American educationalists to introduce some striking changes in the coming school curriculum for girls.

Because the eye of the public is at last beginning to see, and the public mind beginning to realize that six million American women are really wage-earners, many of them not only supporting themselves but families, or relatives; the humanitarian and philanthropist are already in the field planning with fervent zeal an adjustment of school conditions that they doubtless hope will uproot

get away from the idea of woman's subservience to man; no, not even the wage-earning women. It is to be compulsory that girls take "a thorough course in domestic economy owing to our manner of living." Girls who are to be wage-earners, to be self-supporting and aid their relatives perhaps; not even these are to be exempt from taking the "thorough course."

The way of the wage-earning woman is hard surely. It is a matter of grave doubt whether the keen concern shown by these new educationalists is not going to make her hard road harder. Just now it is the poor who earn the wage and they will find it most difficult to subsist while the educating is in progress. It will prove a grievous burden to many a poor girl to spend time taking a "thorough course" in kitchen work before she is allowed to proceed with millinery, which she wants specially, or to take kitchen work and millinery before she gets dress-making, which may be her goal. No one will for a moment contend that a knowledge of all these subjects is not desirable, but the question the millinery wage-earner must solve is not the most delightful form in which to serve a fine dinner, but rather how to make a dollar and a half cover plain bread, already cooked when she gets it, and the few other odd scraps required to keep body and soul together in her cheap, cold, narrow, cheerless, hall bedroom from week to week. To take from her too often meagre health the time (which is life to her) to acquire "a thorough course" in domestic economy on the plea of giving her knowledge, which she does not want and cannot use, before permitting her to proceed with a wage earning training is nothing less than cruelty, even though a philanthropist proceeds to enforce it.

The probable stumbling block in the way of the philanthropist and educationist



Farm home of Alex. Anderson, Leas, Man.

some of the thorns that now beset the stony road of the rising feminine generation, whose certain portion will be compulsory labor. Without waiting to ask why it was necessary for six million women to become wage-earners, before notice was taken of their condition or any acknowledgment even of their existence in the national life, the well-wisher of the women will be pleased to know that at last some action is being taken to make a change and presumably help her out, after so many weary generations of apprenticeship to illy-paid toil. As is to be expected where there is no franchise, the present generation is entirely overlooked in the scheme of redemption. It may wend its monotonous overburdened way on to the end of the chapter, brightened only by the possibility of better conditions for its offspring.

The "new education" idea is to establish a new and modern high school for girls on the most advanced lines of vocational training. Dr. Cheesman Herrick, the principal of one of these new schools, and a strong advocate of the "new" system, says the time was when high schools considered it beneath their dignity to train cooks. Now an era of progress is arriving and the intent is to bring practical chemistry and bacteriology into the early high school course, and in this way dignify household labor and make the kitchen a laboratory—instead of a common workroom. Dr. Cheesman claims that girls should not go through secondary or high school work without taking on a thorough course in millinery, dressmaking and cooking, "which will enable them to properly perform their functions as women. He says further "that the two great occupations of teaching and clerking are overfilled," and suggests photography as a new and desirable field.

His idea is to make it compulsory for girls to take a thorough course in all these lines of labor, so that she will "find herself" and discover what she is best fitted for. Especially is he insistent that girls shall take up domestic economy; not a smattering, but "a thorough course" in this most needful knowledge "owing to our manner of living at present."

A Curious Twist

A curious twist in the mind of even the most humane of men is that he cannot

bound school regulation that enforced the music and drawing periods upon those working boys who had only two or three winter months for schooling and wanted more of "the three R's" instead of music and drawing, which they could not possibly acquire in the specified time.

Why should a woman be compelled to study millinery—or dressmaking—or domestic economy? Is the wage-earning man performing his functions of manhood? Is he a carpenter, a stone-mason, a bricklayer? Can he make furniture and grow garden stuff? Why should there be two codes for men and women wage-earners? Yet we should not expect too much at once. It is a great matter that women earners are being considered at all—even at this late date. Let us hope the new education idea will spread and the agitation and consideration coincident evolve some improvement to the wage-earning woman.

THE VALUE OF A CHILD

In the report of the Superintendent of Neglected Children, province of Manitoba, for 1909, appears a sketch under the above caption that cannot fail but to be of interest. It follows:

How much is a child worth? A man and wife in New York recently offered their baby for sale at \$300. J. G. Brooks estimates that the cost of bringing up a child from the time it is a little helpless mite in a cradle until it attains maturity is \$25,000. But these figures do not answer the question: The little baby boys Lincoln, Gladstone, Livingstone or Dickens were certainly worth more than \$300; and if it cost \$25,000 to bring up, say, General Booth or Thomas Edison, they would be big value for a low price. No one can say how much a child is worth or may be worth to society and the state but we may safely assume that almost each and every child is worth untold wealth in possibilities. In this connection the following contrast is interesting, as it shows the vast possibilities for good or evil dormant in every child. It is a comparison of the notorious Jukes family with that of the celebrated Jonathan Edwards. It tells its own story; comment is superfluous.

JONATHAN EDWARDS, born in Connecticut, 1703.—In the year 1900, 1,394 of his descendants were identified, of whom

13 Were presidents of great universities;
65 were professors of great universities;
6 were doctors of medicine;
100 were clergymen or missionaries;
75 were officers in the army or navy;
60 were prominent authors;
100 were lawyers;
30 were judges;



Cutting Pure Banner oats on the farm of R. Hawkins, Windthorst, Sask.

toward a proper conception of a woman wage-earner's career is that he has never been poor. He has never felt the body weakened from continued hunger and cold, and cannot realize what even a month's service means to such.

That educated men, advanced thinkers supposedly, should dwell upon the question and finally determine that wage-earning women should be no longer allowed to acquire but one vocational training, but will be compelled to become proficient in all lines that even remotely pertain to home making "so that they may properly perform their functions as women," even they never have a home, looks very much like a resolution to make them useful to the state rather than of service to themselves. It is like the short-sighted iron-

—"Max" was the progenitor of this family. He was a drunkard and too lazy to work. His descendants have been identified as follows:

310 were in poor-houses;
500 died in childhood;
440 were viciously diseased;
400 were physical wrecks as a result of their own wickedness.
50 were notorious for their immorality
7 were murderers;
60 were habitual thieves and spent an average of twelve years each in prison;
130 were convicted more or less often of crime.

Not one of this man's descendants ever contributed to the public welfare in any way, but, on the contrary, they are said to have cost the public over \$1,000 each, or a total of \$1,250,000. It is with feeling of relief that we are able to add that this family is now said to be extinct.

These columns of statistics are actual facts provable by public records.

How much is a child worth? How much crime, disease, suffering and expense would have been saved had the progenitor of the Jukes family been brought up under proper home surroundings, or under the guidance and supervision of a juvenile court. "The future of nearly every criminal is determined before he is past school age." That is the statement of a very celebrated criminalologist. He proceeds to state that "to nip in the bud three-fourths of the perennial crop of criminality would save the country, i.e. the United States, the enormous amount of \$450,000,000 per annum, if Dr. Eugene Smith's conservative estimate of the annual cost of crime to the country be right."

Now, if this writer be correct in his hypothesis, and, since his experience in and writings on the science of penology have covered many years and are in accord with the views of other writers and students of note, we are justified in assuming he is, it is plain to see that, if completely effective measures can be devised for the reformation of juvenile delinquents and first offenders generally, the main source from which the great criminal army is recruited will be destroyed and its number gradually diminished. The Earl of Shaftesbury, who labored so long and so well for social uplift among the poor and deprived in Great Britain, after years of experience, stated that he rarely knew of a case where young men entered on a career of crime after attaining their twenty-first year.

Here, then, it seems to appear to be within reasonable distance of the time when we may say, "At last we have succeeded in curbing the growth of the great Upas tree of human crime and misery which has flourished so long in every land throughout the ages. At last human love and human wisdom seem to have devised an instrument, strong, sharp and capable of cutting down, not the branches or the boughs, but the very tree itself." Truly we can say, not boastfully or vainly, but hopefully and bravely, the Juvenile Court is the axe of awakened public conscience laid at the root of this deadly Upas tree of crime and suffering.

GROUCH GERMS.

For the truth of the announcement, why, we really cannot vouch. But there's a woman who declares she's found the germ of grouch. The man who thinks his native land is racing to the bad; The man who snarls about his food, whose coffee drives him mad; The most unhappy oaf who thinks all women cheat at bridge. The chap who lets old ladies stand—his soul is like a midge; The grumbling wretch who sneers at love and says it's all a sham; The parlous shrimp who flouts the stage and calls each player ham; The rasping file who sees no good in any human heart; The loathsome snipe who is consumed by envy's fiery dart— All these, let's hope, and others, too, in whom the grouch worm squirms, Will soon be sunny optimists and lose their peevish germs. —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Most people have a lot of influence—with themselves.

How much worry the things that never happen cause us.

The lofty ideas of a poet may be due to living in a garret.

80 had held public office, including one vice-president of the United States;

3 were United States senators;
1 was president of a great steamship company.

Several were governors, members of Congress, framers of state constitutions, mayors of cities and ministers to foreign countries. Fifteen railroads, many banks insurance companies and great industrial enterprises have been indebted to their management; thirty-three American States, several foreign countries, ninety-two American cities and many foreign cities have profited by the beneficial influence of this family. There is no record of any one of them ever having been convicted of crime.

THE JUKES FAMILY, born 1720, U.S.A.