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### Absent-Mindedness

Miss S. G. Mosher.

Many people think that forgetfulness and absent-mindedness are the same thing. They are not. The difference between the two was once explained to me by a professor of psychology as follows:—When you simply can't remember a thing, that is forgetfulness. But when you are thinking very deeply about some subject, the sub-conscious self steps in, and carries on the ordinary routine automatically, and that is absent-mindedness.

I am never absent-minded during business hours. I used to be, and got into some awkward positions as a result. So I made it a hard and fast rule, during business hours, to think of nothing but business. But at six o'clock every afternoon, I lock all thoughts about business up in a certain compartment of my brain, and commence thinking about interesting things on my way home, and the result is that I often pass my own sister on the street without knowing it.

At an examination once, I was trying to remember the rules of syntax, about which the examiners seemed to have a morbid curiosity. As I had never known these rules, it was difficult to remember them at a moment's notice, but I tried so hard, that when the time came to hand in my papers, I could not think of my own name. The examiner kept saying "Put your names on your papers, please," and hand them in at once. How could I put my name on when I didn't know it? Finally all the papers but mine were handed in, and still I didn't know my name. I walked up to the examiner's desk, and asked to see the list of candidates, explaining that for the moment I did not know my own name, but that I would know which was mine if I saw them in print. He seemed to find this simple request very strange, but finally showed me the list, and I had no trouble in identifying myself. The examiner advised me, however, to see a good doctor without delay. "Someone," he said, "who really understands mental diseases." He evidently thought that in my case a little learning had proved a dangerous thing.

Once, however, my absent-mindedness got me into what might have been a very serious difficulty. I was living in Boston at the time, and whenever I got away from the office earlier than usual, I used to go over to East Boston, to see my cousin, who lived in a flat there. As my cousin had no telephone in his flat, I could not let her know when I was coming, and sometimes I found that she was out, and I had to wait quite a while in the hallway of the building. But one day we discovered that the key of my office would open the outer door of my cousin's flat, and after that whenever I found the place shut up, I used to let myself in with my own key, and often had tea ready by the time my cousin returned. Well, when the hot weather came, my cousin was taken ill, and the doctor ordered her home to Nova Scotia for the summer. So she gave up her flat, and I knew she went home, to be sure I did, for I saw her off on the steamer and for months I never went to East Boston, as I had no other friends living there. But one afternoon I got away from the office very early indeed. Instead of at once going out to Dorchester, where I boarded, I decided to go downtown and do some

### Bee-Keeping as a Business

As bee-keeping is naturally a rural pursuit, it follows that the great majority of bee-keepers own or live on small pieces of land, which they cultivate to some extent as an adjunct to their regular business of keeping bees, and the income from this source must, of course, be reckoned as a part of the proceeds of the business. The bee-keeper may perhaps keep a horse, a cow, a few hens, and several hogs, the proceeds from which very materially add to his income, and yet not destroy his just title of specialist. We cannot truthfully say that the farmer is any less a farmer, or that he does not pursue the business of farming, because he does some odd jobs for a neighbor with his team or some work in a different line in the winter months when there is a slack time on the farm, says O. C. Fuller, of Turbotville, Pa. Therefore, we shall have to consider bee-keeping as a business on these same lines. General farming or any other occupation that takes up the greater part of one's time will not work with bee-keeping, and is therefore not admissible as an adjunct to the successful cultivation of the honey bee. It is advisable that farmers keep a few bees to fertilize the blossoms of the field, orchard and garden. The bees thus kept generally supply the farmer's table with honey, and he often has some to sell besides, although the amount is not equal to that taken by the specialist, and is almost always inferior in appearance, due generally to neglect and failure to give the proper attention to the bees when storing. But with all this neglect, almost allowing the bees to shift for themselves, we frequently hear farmers say that their bees are the most profitable thing on the farm.

If bees are profitable when kept on the farm as a side issue, then they must be very profitable when kept without another hampering occupation in the way. I venture the assertion, without the risk of contradiction, that there is no other rural pursuit that will bring the returns in ready cash that bee-keeping will, taking into account the capital invested and labor involved.

Bee-keeping has always been considered by some as an uncertain and risky business, due to the fact that flowers fall to yield nectar in some seasons, and to the heavy winter losses which have frequently taken place. To the first I would say that we do sometimes have poor seasons when bees do not gather a surplus of honey for their keepers, but those seasons come only occasionally, and the profit secured from the bees in the good seasons ought and will carry the bee-keeper over the poor ones. In speaking of the winter losses, I would say that they are not so great now as they were in former years, largely due to the fact that bee-keepers are learning more about the wintering problem. By giving proper protection during winter, other conditions being equal, there need be no great fear on that score, if the bee-keeper thoroughly understands his business. I, therefore, believe that the investment of capital in the bee business is attended with no greater risk of loss than if invested in any other legitimate business venture.

If we have once decided to make bee-keeping our business, and have any hampering prejudices or superstices, we must begin at once to amputate at both ends if we expect to have a full measure of success. There are critical times in every apian year when the apiarist cannot possibly be bothered with any other work and must put in full time with his bees.

A successful bee-keeper can never afford to procrastinate, for procrastination is the thief of honey and money to the apiarist. If we put off for a single day the giving of more surplus to the bees, when needed, it means the loss of many dollars in a large apian year.

As the success of failure of any kind of business depends largely upon the qualifications and general make-up of the individual that undertakes it, so is it in bee-keeping as a business. It does not require a man or woman with greater physical strength than the ordinary man or woman possesses, but it does require, that is to say, that he should have a large amount of push and energy in his make-up and at the same time have a mild, patient disposition, but be quick to act in an emergency. The bee-keeper should also be of a mechanical turn, as many little things about the apian year (and there are many), could be made by one handy with tools, thus saving the expense of buying.

A person that has a nervous temperament, who is easily excited, and fears about the apian doings every bee that may happen to come near him, will never succeed as a bee-keeper—much less as a specialist. Therefore we cannot close our eyes to the fact that many failures are due to the inadaptability of the individual to the business.

With the proper qualifications and a thorough knowledge of the subject, I cannot see an excuse for failure. It should be understood, however, that bee-keeping as a business does not offer the opportunity to become very wealthy. It does, however, offer the opportunity of an independent life and a good living, with a fairly steady surplus for a rainy day. Fortunately, the perfection of a man's business bears but little relation to the size of his fortune, and the bee-keeper, with the hum of the bees over his head, finds happiness deeper and sweeter than ever comes to the merchant prince with his thousands.

### TRAIN FOR BUSINESS

Most men train their brains and at most entirely neglect their bodies. They go and work and work and work, and their judgment and clearness of thought depend on much on the body as on the brain itself. Any man can prove this to his own satisfaction by attempting to do a really big business problem while suffering with an acute attack of indigestion or a violent spell of biliousness.

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**The School-Children's Friend**  
(continued from page 2)

for which he had always had such hungering and craving? It is one day when he was twenty years old, a school-teacher whose name was Barrett, surprised him by saying: "Horace, you must go to college."

"What a strange idea to put into the head of a young man who had neither money nor opportunities!" "Why, Mr. Barrett," said Horace, "I don't know of such a thing." "I have never studied Latin, and as for Greek, I have yet to see the first book in that language. It is useless to think of such a thing."

"Not so useless as you suppose," answered Mr. Barrett. "I have said that you must go to college, and I mean it. I myself will prepare you." Horace did not require much persuasion, for all his ambition pointed that way. He set to work with a will and so did Mr. Barrett. Within six months the young man mastered more Greek and Latin than most students learn now-a-days in three years. Before he was twenty-one, he passed the examinations and entered the sophomore class of Brown University.

He had no money. He had no wealthy friends to help him along. But he was resolved to make his own way. He earned what he could by doing any odd job that chanced to come his way. For a few weeks in each year he taught a country school, keeping up his studies, and assisting the examinations as they came. He took care of his own room, and he lived sparingly.

At first his classmates were disposed to laugh at him. Yet he was so gentle in his manners, so brilliant of mind, so studious and earnest that he finally won the admiration of all the students and the respect of all the professors. No other classical scholar ever passed through Brown University. At the end of three years he was graduated at the head of his class.

Long before Horace Mann left college, he made up his mind to be a lawyer. At that time all the brilliant young men in the country were preparing for the profession of law. It was the profession that would give the freest scope to the exercise of genius; it was the profession that offered the surest promise of fame and fortune.

He brought the matter before the legislature. His arguments were so clear and convincing that a law was passed providing for the general improvement of the schools in the State. More than this, Horace Mann himself was appointed secretary of the board of education, and it was made his duty to see that the provisions of the law were carried out. All his friends were astonished when he accepted the position.

"It is the work of my life," he said. He closed his law office. He sold his law library. "The bar is no longer my forum," he said; "I have taken myself to the larger sphere of mind and morals."

The salary was small. The honors were few. The labor was great. Yet cheerfully did Horace Mann take hold of the work that was assigned him, and manfully did he carry it forward. He visited Europe and studied the best systems of education there. He lost no effort to make the schools of Massachusetts the best in the world.

"We must have better buildings, better school-books, longer terms of school," he said; and for the procurement of these he toiled unweariedly.

The result is now to be seen in the high character and wonderful efficiency of the public schools all over the country. The good work which Horace Mann began in Massachusetts soon had its influence in other States. That good work, once begun, has never been abandoned or neglected, but still goes on. All that is best in the public schools of today may be traced to the influence and work of this man, who was willing to sacrifice ease, honor and fame in order to promote the welfare of the children.

Now-a-days there are comparatively few persons who remember the name of Horace Mann, and fewer still who are acquainted with his history. But every child in the public schools of the United States should know that he owes very much of his own happiness to the energy and generous self-sacrifice of the boy who braided straw and helped his mother.

"Be ashamed to die," he said once, "until you have won some victory for humanity."—From "American Book of Golden Deeds," published by the American Book Company. Copyright, 1907, by James Baldwin.

Milk, and its Relation to Public Health.  
(continued from page 2.)

rhoea, but there are still doctors who believe that its disadvantages outweigh its merits as a food for infants. The objections are carefully gone into one after another by Dr. Rosenham, but he and Dr. Schereberg say between them are able to reply very satisfactorily to them all.

So far from pasteurized milk being more difficult of digestion than raw milk, as is sometimes asserted, the heated milk is found to be more completely absorbed than the raw; the curd is softer and will therefore be easier on the stomach more like the case curd of human milk; large fat-containing curds are less likely to be formed in the stomach. "The evidence seems clear that the pasteurization of milk at 140 degrees Fahr. for twenty minutes does not appreciably deteriorate its quality or lessen its food value."

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