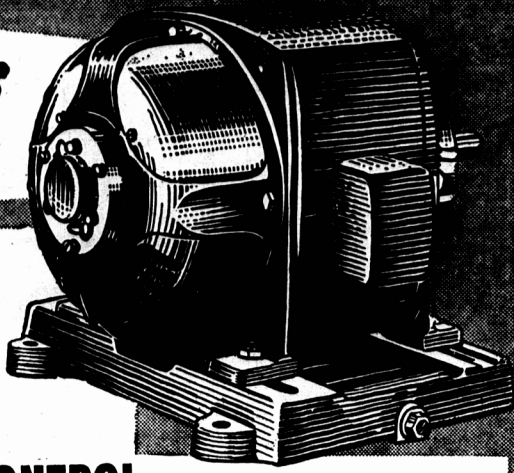


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What's Wrong With Our School System

(By Uncle Joe)

Is there a right and a wrong way of dealing with young minds in order to develop them for their best use after they are through with school?

Are we getting the best results from the system of education in general use throughout Canada? Recently the writer of this article interviewed a number of senior teachers, and here are some of the answers which they gave to my questions.

Said Mary Brown, "there must be something wrong with our present education system when one sees so many young men and women vainly trying to fight their way in a world where competition is so fierce only the highly efficient can hope to get their feet on the ladder of success. Along with a good general education, I believe our young people should be taught some useful trade which would provide them with a decent standard of living after they quit school. We could all be professional people, but there is no sane reason why every boy and girl in our province cannot profit in a larger way from the experiences of school days."

At another school presided over by a male teacher with ten year's experience with children from grades 1 to 10, this teacher said: "In many instances the process of education is a process of preparation for school. We begin with, I should say that most country children are sent to school too young, instead of being allowed to follow the path nature intended all small youngsters. Ever ready little folk tire, and they cannot possibly absorb the half of what is being taught them. For instance, when a teacher tries to give too young a pupil instruction, he soon observes the child's loss of reliance upon his own powers of observation. When this happens the pupil will swallow all things told him without question, without being able to distinguish between knowledge imparted and that which it is supposed to represent. This process often dwarfs the young mind."

"So you do not believe youngsters ought to attend school till they are a certain age. How old?" "Country children," he continued, "could start at the age of seven. We have only to go back to our own school days to remember how irksome trying to nature was. How contrary to nature!"

"Without kindergartens, learning was a real problem for the younger set in those days. It still is in most sections of the Province. Most children enjoy playing. They do not care to work and especially school work. Therefore, it would seem to me that all children, country and city alike, should receive the kind of instruction that would appeal to the young mind. When this viewpoint is reached by the majority of parents and instructors, a forward step will have been taken."

Do you think this teacher was right in his statement concerning children going to school too young? If so, there would seem to be no point in packing kiddies, of say from five to six years, off to school unless they can be taught letters of language, history, etc., without being forced to read them from formal lessons.

Out next interview was with one of our outstanding teachers, a man with over twenty years experience behind him. I arrived at his school just about closing time which gave us a fine opportunity to discuss another angle of our educational system, namely, "the cramming method." "I have absolutely no place in it," this teacher told me. "Many teachers have the idea that great knowledge can be infused into the minds of pupils in a short time if you cram them sufficiently. While doing this no thought is given to the discipline of the mind itself. Consequently, the pupil's entire experience at school ends with rote learning, result in failure and often, a result in perversion. Instead of being taught how to work out problems, they do a little thinking themselves, they often lapse into dogmatic mental dwarfs."

The final interview was with a female teacher who has spent enough years in this field to earn a retirement pension. Here's what she had to say on the subject. "No system of education can be complete which falls to give prominence to the pupil's need for mental and physical development. I fancy the acquisition of knowledge should be regarded, not as the primary object of education, but as a useful incidental result necessitated by the nature of the discipline to be received."

"I always try to impress upon my students the idea that the effect of their school work is not so much to impart to them knowledge of facts as to teach them how to acquire facts, how to investigate, how to reason and how to use knowledge once it has been acquired. But even then, most pupils leaving public schools are not too well equipped to meet life's battles. I believe there is a great need for good vocational schools in our Province."

From these brief interviews it would seem that our present educational system leaves much to be desired. Perhaps there is too much conservatism and dogmatism mixed up with education to achieve the best results. We should like to hear what other interested teachers and parents have to say on this important subject. Certainly there must be something wrong with the system when we see so many misfits among the hundreds of students graduated from our schools and colleges each year.

Early Church History In P.E.I.

(By Uncle Joe)

Mr. Abbott was a local preacher in the Old Country, and he and his wife carried on a series of revivals in Prince Edward Island prior to the coming of Rev. Francis Metherall. Mr. Abbott was the first person buried in the Union Road Cemetery.

Soon after her passing Mr. Abbott seems to have had a falling out with members of the congregation and left the Church. But this time he embraced the doctrine of the Wesleyan Methodists and invited their minister to act as spiritual adviser in the settlement. The call was accepted by the Wesleyans; but the seeds of strife already sown caused so many difficulties in the society that for a long time afterward the work of God was greatly hindered.

Among the best supporters of the newly formed Church were the Ayeis, Esserys, Yeos and Bryentons, whose descendants may still be found in the district. Crossing over to the Princetown Road we find a group of English settlers who also were descendants of the means of grace. Francis Metherall soon found his way to this settlement, where he was encouraged in his labors by men like Wonscott, Brimscombe, Oxenham, Drake and others who were farmers of the district.

Later Metherall extended his field of work to Little York, Covehead, Mill River and a part of New London. In the latter place some religious instruction had been given the settlers by the Taylors who lived at Mill River. The father, John Taylor, died May 2, 1840. The family then removed to the province of Ontario.

The fertile Vernon River Valley was first settled by United Empire Loyalists, who preferred to carve new homes from the wilderness of the island rather than live under an authority that had resisted the British Government. Among those early settlers we find such names as the Hydons, Vickersons, Enns, Van der Meulen, Tweedya, Furnaces etc.; families that did much to promote the work of the Bible Christian Church of Prince Edward Island. The Rev. Francis Metherall did valuable work in this district, and also at Georgetown, Montague River and other adjoining settlements. He was the second Presbyterian minister to preach at Georgetown.

These fields proving more fruitful than the Union Road, and surrounding communities, Mr. Metherall took his family there, and for a time lived in a house owned by Jeremiah Emman. Came the end of Metherall's first year's labor on the island, and he reported to the Conference held at Burroughton, Devon, Eng., that there were over forty members in the new society which he had formed, but that there still existed many fields requiring missionary work. In response to Metherall's plea the Conference sent to the island a man named Philip James, who arrived here in the spring of 1834. His work was to assist Mr. Metherall. Mr. James was assigned to a schoolhouse where he reported to the Conference that each must aid the other as circumstances required.

Under the new setup the message of the Gospel was extended to Sturgeon, Montague, Gullas Point and the Rustico Road. A report to the Conference, dated 1834, states: "We preached in various districts, some of which are very far apart."

Services in those days were mostly held in private homes and sometimes in a schoolhouse where one was available. The need of churches soon became apparent; but how to finance their building was the big question. Poverty abounded on all sides, but the gallant little bands of settlers resolved to make an effort and do what they could. So a plot of land was purchased on the Princetown Road for a chapel and cemetery. Finally the dream became a reality. The first Christian Church erected on the Island occupied this site for over forty years.

(To be continued)



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Neat Look Is Featured For Fall Coats And Suits

NEW YORK — Such surprise touches as linings of shantung and taffeta enlivened the Fall wardrobe collection by Brigrance, which was previewed here recently. Coats and suits with what this designer termed his "neat look" and a group of interchangeable separates for daytime and evening were featured. Colors employed were the tea tones — a taupeish brown, a deep green and a reddish brown.

The "neat look" was almost a formula in all the suits. The jackets with their well-tailored, high-collared and hip-length, nipped at the waist and with some detail or fullness below. The skirts were gored, slim but with ease for motion. Worked out in tweeds, gabardines, wools and Miron fabrics so closely striped they gave a solid effect, each was marked with detail that gave it its own individuality. Some employed square yokes, others corduroy trims dyed to match the wools. In mention two taupe gabardines had a tab fastened collar that could be worn high or low, and an orange corduroy, whose color someone suggested could be called orange pekoe, had a high collar that rolled down into a band closing resembling that on a ribbon-edged sweater.

Coats drew particular applause. Some favored a slim front with the back cut in an Empire-inspired yoke high across the shoulders, with flowing fullness below. Others were slim refiners. For young slender figures, there were slim-waisted models with swirling full skirts.

A few were well-remembered among the flowing back coats. Slim to the front, it had a high roll collar with a hand-like closing and pockets that fell in hem-deep panels. Also in this line, a taupe coat was liked with its triple bands of tucking that curved across the front.

Several items featured unexpected linings. Among these a taupe coat was a sure conversation piece with its lining of brilliant orange shantung. Taffeta rustled beneath a wasp-waisted black wool, green and black material lined a slim green wool. Offering opportunities for ensembling were a matching blouse and skirt. Dark colored linens were used for blouses teamed with velveteen and corduroy skirts. Among the evening separates, a floor-length tucked skirt of copper iridescent taffeta had a matching tucked bosom shirt. Shown as an alternate blouse was a black velvet with hoop neckline, a flange-edged décolletage that curved from shoulder to shoulder. Another striking costume combined a high waisted skirt and blouse of beige gabardine.

Further evidence of the "Neat Look" was noted in all hair styles. Nothing is added to the detail of an ensemble... rather, it is subtracted. The hair is short, close and turned up in soft curls, gently curving on the cheek. From the tip of your neat head, to the dainty shoes you wear, the "Neat Look" is stressed.

GET NEW MINISTER RADLETT, Hertfordshire, Eng.—(CP)—A former Army liaison officer with the Nighthawk Squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force, Rev. Eric Blennerhassett, is the new Methodist minister here.

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SHEET NYLON AIDS IN HEALING WOUNDS

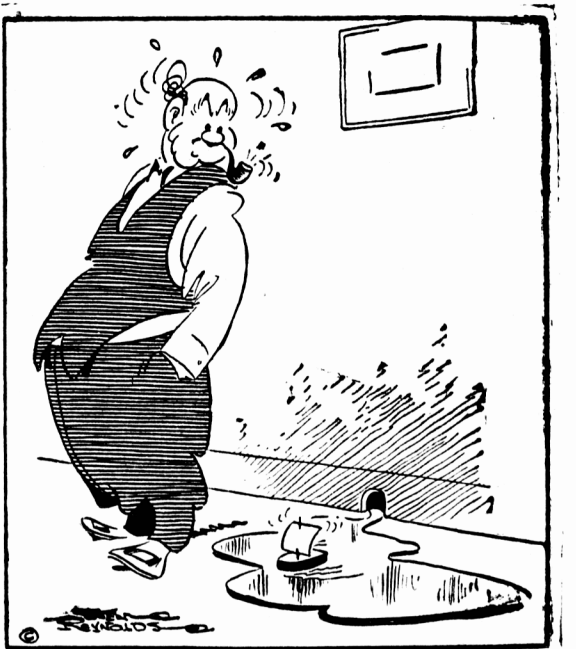
BIRMINGHAM, England, Sept. 26 —(CP)—Nylon, which gave the world new-type stockings and tooth brushes, may now revolutionize the dressing of wounds. Three young British doctors of an industrial medicine research unit at Birmingham Accidents Hospital have found that nylon in sheet form can be used as a transparent dressing which need not be removed until the wound has healed.

Dr. J. R. Squire, leader of the team which is backed by the Medical Research Council said: "The new dressing keeps bacteria, dirt and moisture out, but allows perspiration to escape so that the skin, though covered, remains healthy and dry."

"And as you can see through the dressing without taking it off, the risk of infection is reduced."

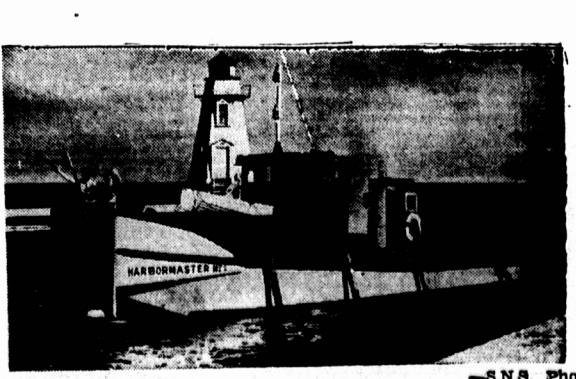
MEDICAL THEORY As late as the 19th century it was believed that studding could be relieved with surgery.

Quickies By Ken Reynolds



"Those mice are acting pretty smart—since we sold our cat with a Guardian Want Ad!"

BOAT HAS GIANT OUTBOARD?



First Canadian-made boat using a giant-size outboard motor unit is making its trial run off Lake Ontario at Oakville, Ont. Equipped with the same type of motor used on landing barges in the last war, the craft is designed to do towing work. It was constructed in Cornwall Ont., but has been completely rebuilt by an Oakville boat-building firm the last two months. The boat is equipped with a 168-horsepower diesel engine, has a speed of 12 knots and will run all day at the cost of around \$50

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