

# Mind Test of Teacher Advocated

Report States 1,500 in New York Schools Are Unbalanced

BY GRETTA PALMER  
Times Special Writer

NEW YORK, April 4.—"More than 1,500 of the schools' thirty-six thousand public school teachers are unbalanced mentally or emotionally, and many are hopelessly insane," Dr. Emil Altman, chief medical examiner of the public school system, declared today.



Miss Palmer

The quotation is from a newspaper. If there is a job in the world which is calculated to drive the average woman into the ranks of the deranged it is that of forcing unwanted information about the delinquencies and digits into the minds of 38.5 miscellaneous children from 9 to 3 each day.

And 38.5 is the average size of classes in New York's elementary schools, according to the last report of the superintendent of schools. Some classes have more than fifty pupils.

For there exists a serious disparity, in many cases, between the temperament of the teacher and the requirements of her job. The problem of keeping 38.5 squirming and energetic youngsters happy and intent on their books for five hours a day requires a strong and forceful personality. Unless a horse knows that the rider is in control of the situation he will not bolt or balk; unless a child knows that a teacher is sure of her ability to keep discipline he will throw paper wads, snicker and otherwise discomfit her.

The worse cases of bullying that occur in any school are those in which the class knows that they have the teacher on the run.

To avoid chaos in the classroom of a teacher should ideally be an aggressive, self-confident woman who is able to make any small ring-leader shiver at a few calm words. But that is exactly the type of woman which the average school teacher is not.

Other occupations, which offer higher salaries and more variety, attract the spirited girl who likes a good scrap. The ranks of the teachers are very largely drawn from those college graduates who are scholarly, shy and a little timorous of any tussle.

If you subject 36,000 women of this type to the bedeviling of a class of robust girls and boys you must expect some of them to crack under the strain. It seems quite reasonable to suppose, as Dr. Altman's report indicates, that mental and emotional breakdowns are an occupational disease of school teaching as lead poisoning is an occupational disease to painters.

What can be done about it? The first and most obvious step is the removal of every one of the mentally affected teachers from her post, even if it costs the taxpayers a pretty penny for their retirement funds. These women deserve every sympathy of the public and every resource of the state in their efforts to return to normal. But in the meantime we can not afford to expose our children to the authority of women who are in any degree deranged.



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## A Woman's Viewpoint

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

"I MAY be old-fashioned," says a 25-year-old business girl, "but I simply can't get any fun out of drinking parties. All my gang like them. It seems, and I often find myself embarrassed by their insistence that I take 'just another little one'. But something inside me rises up in horror and disgust when I feel myself growing thick tongue and the faces of my friends look like leering apes about me. I'll confess to you that I hate it. What is wrong with me, I wonder? I so much want to be like the other girls."

Now this young lady, I have an idea, has expressed what a good many others feel but never say. The trouble with her is that she's got some plain common sense, and it's clamoring to be used.

I should like to assure her of one thing. Heavy drinking is going out of fashion. Just as sure as you're born, there will be a return to sanity and temperance. Already, as this girl's letter testifies, young people are asking themselves what they get out of all this alcoholic stimulation.

Frankly, they get nothing but false exhilaration and headaches.

fake thrills and indigestion. If they keep at it long enough they will get grief and unhappiness. They will find themselves less efficient, less keen, less alert. Spiritual disintegration will follow and they will grow old before their time.

As has been said over and over, no man can get the best of liquor. You may be sure, therefore, that no woman can do so. It takes away the bloom of youth more quickly than the ravages of time or of illness. It softens the moral fiber and destroys self-respect.

Nor is this meant to be a lecture on the merits of teetotalism. It's only a statement of hard facts.

One necessarily does not go to the gutter over one or even several cocktails, but certainly the art of drinking like ladies and gentlemen instead of like pigs should be cultivated, and I can think of no one better fitted to pioneer in the field than our sensitive young women. Also, if one errs in the matter it is better to err on the side of teetotalism rather than over-indulgence.

## PASSION PLAY TO BE DEAN'S TOPIC

Dean Albert E. Bailey of Butler university, will speak on the Passion play at Oberammergau at the monthly meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society of Meridian Heights Presbyterian church at 2 tomorrow. Mrs. H. B. McNeely, 221 Blue Ridge road, will be hostess, assisted by Mrs. M. S. Gosman and Mrs. L. B. Warner.

Dean Bailey will illustrate his talk with slides of the 1930 presentation of the play. Others on the program will be Mesdames S. M. Ford, Sidney Blair Harry and P. A. Kappas. Mrs. John A. White is president.

## PROGRAM OFFERED FOR ADVANCE CLUB

Several members of Sigma Alpha Iota, national professional musical sorority, went to Advance today to present a program at the Musical Club meeting. They are Mesdames Everett Johnson, J. Harry Green, Harold Arnholter, O. M. Jones and Earl Jarrard and Miss Elizabeth Johnson.

## Daily Recipe

BRISKET WITH ONION SAUCE

- 3 pounds beef brisket
- Soup greens
- Cloves
- Peppercorns
- Salt
- 1 egg
- Crumbs
- 1-2 cup onions
- 2 tablespoons fat
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1-2 cups stock
- 1 tablespoon minced parsley

Wipe meat with a damp cloth. Place in a deep kettle with boiling water or part of the stock. Season with salt. Add a bunch of soup greens, some cloves and some peppercorns. Simmer until the meat is tender.

Remove the meat to a shallow baking dish. Beat an egg and spread it over the meat. Sprinkle with crumbs and brown in a hot oven. Serve with onion sauce.

Onion Sauce—Cut up onions and brown them in the fat. Make a sauce of the fat, flour and stock. Add onions and parsley and serve with brisket.

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"ANN HARDING'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH HER EX-HUSBAND" Other headline stories: "What Hollywood Did to ANNA STEN"; "Will the Jinx of the Jungle Doom This Romance?" and others.

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