

NEW YORK, March 23.—The Rev. Pardoe Butler was a mighty man in debate and a most skillful propagandist. He wrote the free soil Constitution for the State of Kansas, and in the eyes of some historians he is identified as the actual founder of the Republican Party, which later flowered in that same territory into Alfred M. Landon.

But Pardoe Butler was the pioneer. His family treasures an anecdote of his return home after an oratorical tour.

"Were there any other speakers?" asked his wife.

"Other speakers?" snorted the Rev. Pardoe Butler, who was accustomed to open and close meetings himself. But then he was reminded of an incident. "Oh, yes," he said, "when I got home we heard a few words from a young Springfield lawyer named Lincoln."

Pardoe Butler preached and propagandized and founded the Republican Party, and in good time he was gathered to his fathers. His grandson, Milo Hastings, has just written a play, "Class of '29," in collaboration with Miss Orrie Lashin, secretary to Mr. Walter Lippmann.

It was seen, then, that the play selected by the WPA for production in the near future comes from a seemingly respectable background of the best the Democratic and Republican parties have to offer.

Play Points Out Confusion

BUt after a somewhat hasty examination of the B manuscript of "Class of '29" I must admit that there is merit in the contention of those who cry that here is propaganda. Roughly, the play says that there is confusion. It reports that many young people coming out of the colleges are unable to find jobs. "Class of '29" suggests that in addition to material wants unemployment confers upon the youth of America a spiritual unrest.

All this, I suppose, might come under the head of propaganda. I suppose some might call it subversive propaganda. But I am forever puzzled by those who cry out against the plain recital of facts which seem true by every test. Who dares to deny that there is vast unrest among the young men and women of America?

The very fact that Federal projects for painters and playwrights and authors exist is an admission that the river beds and even the tiny creeks have dried up. And what are the folk supposed to do when the government steps up with crumbs of comfort for those who would make books or plays or pictures? Is the author of a play for a Federal project to set down nothing but some variation of the theme of "Boy Meets Girl," and must he most carefully fashion each line and incident into a form which can not possibly offend Mr. Hearst, the Herald Tribune or the Federal Theater Veterans League?

Look Into Own Hearts

CAN anybody write anything which might not serve to offend the league? I doubt that any recognizable form of play possibly could pass muster with these battle-scarred thespians, since their notion of the drama seems to be a recurrent cue, "Let's sing 'The Star-Spangled Banner'."

My contention is that when this Administration or any other says to the ambitious young playwrights of America, "We will give you a chance to write," the dramatists must look into their own lives and hearts for their material. The fair rewards afforded under Federal projects are not precisely the bread of affluence. But if they were a hundred times as great I would still expect the recipients to say, "I'll still write my own stuff."

Even a man who sings for his supper is generally allowed to pick his own tune, and I have heard nothing more nauseating than the apparent contention that a Federal theatrical project ought to be an endowment for eggshell walkers.

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Washington Needs Census on Jobless

BY RAYMOND CLAPPER

WASHINGTON, March 23.—If you have a problem to solve, what is the first thing you try to do? You try to find out the most important facts about it. For more than three years the Administration has been wrestling with unemployment. Yet it does not know the basic fact of the condition with which it is dealing—the number of unemployed. It does not know what they can do, where they are, how long they have been out of work, how many of them have odd-job incomes, and a dozen other facts which bear upon our most immediate domestic problem. Present figures are guesses.

The reason we do not have those facts is that President Roosevelt, for some mysterious reason, is cool toward the idea of an unemployment census. He says it is not practicable, that it is too difficult a task to undertake. This does not sound like the man who dares to harness the tides.

Actually, a periodic unemployment census is practicable. At least the most competent statistical authorities in the Administration say it is. They have plans all worked out for taking such a census. They know how much it would cost—and it wouldn't cost nearly as much as the government is spending to bail out St. Louis real estate owners in order to build a second Jefferson memorial around a set of railroad tracks on the Mississippi waterfront.

WE take a general census every 10 years—a census which counts the number of acres in every farm, finds out where every person was born, whether his parents were native or foreign-born, whether the wife works, what all members of the family do, how much every business spends and takes in, and an almost limitless amount of similar information.

A sow in Iowa brings forth her first-born and the event is noted in the statistical records of the government. Our government observes follow the march of the chin-chin bug across the furrows of Illinois farms. Their advance is plotted on maps at Washington as carefully as if it were the general staff mapping the progress of an invading army.

But we can't stop to count the noses of the unemployed.

The only logical argument against using some of this white-collar labor on an unemployment census, and on periodic rechecks of such a census once it is established, is that there is some hesitation in WPA about using relief workers on doorbell-ringing jobs. One of them was shot one time. No one would wish to subject relief workers to hazardous tasks, but the risk in going from door to door on a census-taking job seems not greater than thousands of other government employees take.

ONE of the greatest difficulties in public service is obtaining competent help. Rep. Wesley Disney (D., Okla.) has introduced a bill proposing a kind of West Point school for civil service training. We maintain government academies to provide specialized training for Army, Navy and Coast Guard officers. J. Edgar Hoover maintains a school to teach his G-men to shoot at gangsters without hitting bystanders. But any one who can read and write and eadge a letter of indorsement from a Senator is eligible for a civilian job in the government. The result is shoddy workmanship.

A government training school, carrying prestige equal to that of West Point and Annapolis, might help develop a spirit of ability, distinction and pride in the daily civilian activities of the government.

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THE QUINS—TODAY, TOMORROW

Their Baby Days Ended, Dr. Dafoe Speculates on What Lies Ahead



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Merry comrades all, but far deeper than comradeship is the affection they hold for each other. It's a proud moment for Dr. Allen Dafoe, as Marie, Annette, Yvonne, Emilie, and Cecile snuggle up to him as he muses over the happiness they have brought him.

But when they say "a-veer" we know that it's an intelligent effort to say "au revoir," and when we her a distinct "b-jou" we know that within a few weeks that will have become "bon jour."

Naturally, these first words they are learning to form are all French. It is their native language, and the only one they hear from the nurses. I speak to them in English, for just between ourselves, my French isn't very good.

I speak enough to get along all right with the fine French-Canadian farmers hereabouts. I understand it and write it, but of course my accent isn't good, and it's probably just as well not to let the children hear it.

We want them to learn their language in its purest form, and have chosen their nurses and attendants from this point of view. So when I'm in the hospital I speak my own English. It will accustom their ears to the sound of the English speech without really standing in the way of their learning French as their primary language.

The routine instructions of the nurses are all given them in French, and they understand and obey them perfectly.

I HAVE been very appreciative especially since my most recent visit to the United States, of the kindly interest that has been taken in the problems arising out of the fact that the "babies" are now thinking, conscious children, and that their characters and lives, the future of their souls, are being shaped.

Of course these considerations have been in the front of our minds almost from the very start. Recognizing the very special circumstances that surround the quintuplets, any sensible person knows that no matter what might be desirable in theory, the children can never be reared exactly as single children would be.

Even if there were not the slightest public interest in them, the very attitude of neighbors, friends, other children with whom they played, would mark them out as somehow different from the others.

You have only to recall how even ordinary twins are constantly reminded of it. Human nature is what it is, not what it ought to be.

So we accept the fact that here are five little sisters, born together.

Naturally we continued the

practice, and extended it to all other relations. We are most careful here at the hospital to avoid anything that appears to favor any of the children in any way.

Yet that doesn't mean regimentation or uniformity, either. For instance, in looking at the pictures of the babies, you have probably noticed that they are always apparently dressed alike. Now that isn't the case at all.

In the first place, newspaper pictures not printed in color do not show you how different the colors usually are. And also the girls are often "dressed up" for the pictures in similar dresses because it makes a prettier picture.

But, as a matter of fact, here again we aim for variety without discrimination. Sometimes they dress alike, and again sometimes they dress quite differently.

From the early days, I have had

the advantage of the constant advice of men at the University of Toronto, who have given their lives to the study of just such problems. We are not doing any experimenting with the quintuplets and we aren't going to let the children hear it.

We have at our service the best knowledge science has been able to bring together on these problems of mental and spiritual development. And we are constantly on the alert, here at the hospital, to see that it works out properly in practice.

For instance, when we first started bathing the babies in the tub, the nurses bathed the larger babies first and then taking them in that order. There wasn't any particular reason for this; it was just one of those things you do without thinking about it.

Pretty soon we found that Marie, the smallest baby, was beginning to be sulky about her bath. She seemed to stray away from it, and, once in the tub, she did not kick and splash like the other babies.

I myself baptised the babies in the gray morning of their birth, and later they were officially received into the church.

What had happened was that she had noticed that she always was last, and she felt that somehow there was a sort of discrimination against her.

So we quickly changed all that.

We made it a point not to bathe the babies in the same order twice in succession. And within a day or two Marie was enjoying her bath just as much as were any of the others.

And so, you see that it must be clearly understood that we are

aware of all the problems that are being so sympathetically discussed.

We have been alert to these problems as they have arisen, and have made every possible effort to anticipate them by getting the best scientific and spiritual guidance that is to be had. And the bright, alert, progressive develop-

ment of the little girls speaks for itself.

NEXT—The quins' play is of highest importance. Extended play space will make it possible to observe them this summer without the babies being aware of the supervision.

MISPLAY GRANTS GAME

Today's Contract Problem

East is playing the contract at four spades, doubled. What card should North play on South's opening lead?

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♥ Q J 4 2
♦ S 7
♣ J 8 3 2

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