

THE RICHMOND PALLADIUM AND SUN-TELEGRAM

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Delinquent Children and Their Parents

The increase in juvenile delinquency in many cities of the United States is viewed with alarm by social workers and heads of reform societies. Many causes have been assigned for the increase in the number of youthful wrong doers, and for the most part environment and conditions outside of the home are ascribed as factors leading the youth astray.

The opinion of a number of social workers that the parents themselves are largely to blame, it seems, is unpopular in many quarters, but after all that probably is the most adequate and satisfying explanation. Parents either are indifferent about or ignorant of the activities of their children.

Too many parents are so engrossed with their own affairs, pleasures and diversions that they are perfectly satisfied to let their children choose their ways of life, as if the boys and girls possessed enough judgment and character to make wise selections and judicious decisions.

All of which suggests that the home has lost its alluring character as a center of juvenile activity and impulse. None of us will admit that the home has broken down so far as its vital position in our social life is concerned, but all are forced to confess that somehow and somewhere in the course of our national development outside forces have succeeded in fascinating the child to such an extent that parental influences have been neutralized.

This condition cannot be blamed entirely on the parents, either. Many of the features of our

Answers to Questions

(Any reader can get the answers to any question by writing to The Palladium Information Bureau, Franklin J. Haskin, director, Washington, D. C. This office applies strictly to information. The bureau does not give advice on legal, medical, financial or other subjects. It does not attempt to settle domestic troubles, nor to undertake exhaustive research on any subject. Write your question plainly and briefly. Give your name and address and enclose two cents in stamp for return postage. All replies are sent direct to the inquirer.)

Q. How much does it cost to go from Havana to Key West by airplane? —H. R. B.

A. This flight is made in 85 minutes and the fare is \$50.

Q. How much sugar does the average person consume in a year? —J. H. B.

A. During the period 1906-1910 the average yearly consumption of sugar per capita in the United States was 78.27 pounds; 1911-1915, 84.48 pounds; 1916-1920, 83.10 pounds.

Q. Who said, "My country, be it ever right, but right or wrong—my country"? —E. C. H.

A. This was a toast proposed by Commodore Stephen Decatur.

Q. Is trade between Alaska and the United States considered foreign or domestic? —R. L.

A. Trade between the United States and Alaska is considered domestic commerce, as Alaska belongs to the United States.

Q. How can I be sure that letters I send are not tampered with or steamed open? —A. N. E.

A. Moisten the flap with the white of an egg and dry thoroughly. So secured it can not be pulled open and steaming has no effect on it.

Q. Does a tree grow thicker from the inside or outside? —C. A. M.

A. The Bureau of Forestry says that trees grow around the outside. Every year a ring of wood is added on the tree.

Q. What is amber? —A. A.

A. Amber is a fossil resin of vegetable origin. It is usually of a pale yellow color, sometimes reddish or brownish; it is sometimes transparent, sometimes almost opaque. It occurs in round, irregular lumps, grains or drops; has a perfectly conchoidal fracture; is slightly brittle, emits an agreeable odor when rubbed, melts at 550 degrees Fahrenheit, and burns with a bright flame and pleasant smell.

After Dinner Stories

The negro parson was soliciting funds.

"Breddern, dis church hab got to

Deacon: "Amen, brudder, let her walk."

"Breddern, dis church hab got to

"Amen, brudder, let 'er fly."

"Breddern, it's gwine take money to make dis church fly."

"Let 'er walk, brudder, let 'er walk!"

A popular Oklahoma City salesman recently married, was accompanied by his wife as he entered the dining room of a Texas hotel famed for its excellent cuisine. His order was served promptly, but the fried chicken he had been telling his wife about was not in evidence.

"Where is my chicken?" he asked, somewhat irritably.

The dusky waiter, leaning over and bringing his mouth in close proximity to the salesman's ear, replied:

"El youse mean 'de I'll gal with blue eyes and fluffy hair, she doan' wuk no mo."

Lessons in Correct English

Don't Say:

I dare TO say they will come.

WHO shall we choose as our chairman?

Let HE who is the most deserving be chosen.

Let you and I be the first ones to congratulate him.

Say:

I dare say they will come.

WHOM shall we choose as our chairman?

Let HIM who is the most deserving be chosen.

Let you and ME be the first ones to congratulate him.

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civilization—motor cars and varied forms of amusements for the entertainment and relaxation of adult and child—which in themselves are useful and innocent, have been seized by youthful America as a means of satisfying its energy and activity; and, because the parents unwittingly and unknowingly have relaxed their supervision, they have helped to relegate the home into the background as an influencing factor in the development of the child's character.

If this is one reason for juvenile delinquency, the remedy simply is to enhance the attractiveness of the home and arouse the dormant parental care and supervision. If parents will make a center of activity out of their homes instead of letting other things lure them away, the children will soon realize the change that has taken place and look to the home as the seat of helpful counsel and mutual assistance.

After parents have re-established themselves in their own homes, the next step must be a friendly manifestation of interest in the affairs of their children and of their companions. Fathers and mothers must seek the level of their children so that they can understand and sympathize with them. If they believe that parental influence consists only in setting up a list of Don't's and of exercising dictatorial authority over their offspring they are erring just as much as do the parents who let their children pursue their own way to ruin.

The average boy and girl who loses interest in his home usually has parents who either have many characteristics of household dictators or do not care whether their children mature into creditable members of society.

Delinquency among boys and girls will disappear in proportion to the genuine spiritual qualities which parents manifest in their homes. Education, music and art cannot supply that quality for our home life. That is something we must acquire and cultivate by contact with spiritual sources; something that will keep our boys and girls on the right road to happiness and success.

This condition cannot be blamed entirely on the parents, either. Many of the features of our

TODAY'S TALK
By George Matthew Adams, Author of "You Can," "Take It," "Up"
"PIPPA"—WHO PASSED
Robert Browning once wrote a wonderful dramatic poem. He called it "Pippa Passes."

The story is of a little girl who wound silk in a silk-mill "the whole year round, to earn just bread and milk."

It was New Year's day at Asolo in the Trevisan. And this was to be Pippa's sole holiday of the year, in which she was to imagine herself melted into the four happiest personages of the town.

She springs out of her bed, goes to the window and watches—

"Till the whole sunrise, not to be suppressed,

Rose, reddened, and its seething breast

Flickered in bounds, grew gold, then overflowed the world."

Said Pippa:

"Then art my single day, God lends to heaven

What were all earth else, with a feel of heaven—"

And so the poem continues, with Pippa flitting here and there throughout the town, passing each of its various folk and seeing their happiness, envying none and "being just as great, no doubt," as they. But from her pure eyes lust and vice were veiled, while deceit and trickery only echoed smiles to her.

And as she passed and sang her songs, each life she touched with her presence at once became transformed!

The dissolute Sobald is conscience struck as he hears the ragged little girl's voice:

"God's in his Heaven—

All's right with the world!"

Pippa passes on—not knowing—and straightway finds the cottage where a soon-to-be Bride is being borne, and there sings one of her sweetest songs. Then passes on to where a Mother is walking with her son—and to them she sings, and again passes on till she comes to a tower in which the Monsignor is housed. And although within she undresses, lies down to sleep with these lines upon her lips:

"All service ranks the same with God—

With God, whose puppets, best and worst,

Are we: there is no last nor first."

She returns to her simple, airy room.

Pippa has had a happy day. The evil and darkness within the lives of others she has not learned. Her dreams were filtered things. She undresses, and lies down to sleep with these lines upon her lips:

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