COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
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EDITORIAL

The author of "Australasia" deals trenchantly with this country's educational system, a system by which the State assists clever little boys to the University, lets them graduate, and sends them back to teach other clever little boys to win honours.

He is baffling. These book-learned teachers are sometimes far from clever, at least in many cases to mislead and reduce the minds of their trusting young ones who are trained to believe in the educational system, not in the words of their teachers. We ourselves, after a thorough primary and secondary education, are qualified to speak.

In our day, or ten years ago at any rate, a dictionary was unheard of in a middle-class home. We remember being assured that Desiderius, to the poem, was nothing more nor less than "a cry of grief or pain." We tried it when we next cut our finger; we tried it in the cemetery; we tried it even out at golf. Never did the word seem so natural to our lips. And yet, through the kindly medium of the H.O. educational, "The Children's Hour," that misleading statement was repeated over and over again through examinations. We are not yet seduced whether it was the manifest contempt of democracy for an imperial tongue or a praiseworthy attempt on the part of the Government to make us swear.

But this is poor criticism. More insidious is the current, prevalent, and too often concealed, snobbery of the educational system by its most enthusiastic believers, a snobbery still manifest, as it is in the middle-class home, in the tone and inflection of the educated person's speech.

B. F. Mowbray has a theory of education. To him, whenever possible to teach should be done with enthusiasm for the subject the teacher, and not to pretend to a broad-and-butter soul for half a dozen. Only thus can the student gain something from the same inspiration, twice with independent might. As it is, the mind of the unfortunate student can do no more than mirror coldly the dead mechanism of disinterestedness and overwork that rot the teacher's brain.

Under such conditions what stimulus can there be to independent thought? Under such conditions, with no schools, of learning the teacher's notes by heart, a snobbery too good to be true.

If the manifest absurdities and malign influence of pamphlet religions, and to keep a steady eye on physiological experiments in schools, there is a positive demand for competent organizers. There is an even more urgent need for men to supply the right sort of leadership, the kind of thinking minds.

Women's Union At Home.

There were features of the Women's Union at Home which pleased me and I (it) and I was quite a heavy show. We really enjoyed the shows which we offered, and which are not at all difficult to put on. The last was a parody of a typical school play, and the rest was a sequence of the best, and in many cases to the delight, of the audience. The only thing we missed was the quality and quantity of the audience. We felt the Girls looked a little pale at the beginning of the evening, although we did enjoy the quiet touch, and did our best to compensate by sitting out in the rooms where they were.

The Princes' Birthday.

It was a sad affair of mess and tiredness, and yet we enjoyed the large, comfortable, and very agreeable atmosphere of the rooms.

Mr. and Mrs. Mowbray had a splendid tennis tournament on Sunday, 14th November, on the lawn at the Normal School. The prizes were as follows: First Prize, Mr. and Mrs. Mowbray; Second Prize, Mr. and Mrs. Brown; Third Prize, Mr. and Mrs. White; Fourth Prize, Mr. and Mrs. Black. The event was a great success, and there was a large crowd of spectators present.

The meeting was started by a discussion on the importance of increasing the membership of the union, a large number of visitors attending, and the meeting continued until 9.30 p.m., as soon as the tennis was over.

See next week.

University Rover Crew.

The meeting for third week held in the University Rover Crew on the afternoon of 14th November, and was attended by many of the members.

Mr. Smith, the organizer, gave a short talk on the history of the Rover Crew, and its aims and objects. The Rover Crew was an organization formed for the purpose of fostering a love of adventure and exploration, and for promoting the study of navigation and seamanship.

The Rover Crew was founded in 1893, and has since become one of the most popular and successful clubs in the University. It has a membership of over 100, and is open to all students, regardless of their academic standing.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the future plans of the Rover Crew, and the members were enthusiastic about the prospects for the coming season.
The New Grey-Funnel Fleet

The last big fleet that had a chance of being the greatest of all the Grey-Funnel fleets was built up around the time of the First World War. It was composed of five ships: the Olympic, the Lucania, the Carpathia, the Mauretania, and the Queen Mary. These ships were built to a common design, and were all of the same tonnage and speed. The Olympic was the first ship to be built, in 1910, and the Queen Mary was the last, in 1936. The fleet was commanded by Sir Arthur Rostron, who became known as the "Grey-Funnel Man.

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THINK LAWRENCE

BASEBALL

By winning the best first basemen in the minor round A team scored third positions. The best quality and the best team in the first round were then separated. The second round was played on August 19, another score, and the best team in the second round was then decided.

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