WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL NOTES

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The London district branch of the Workers' Educational Association has started a new committee.

In commenting on this the editorial says: The fellowship of the W.E.A., and its efforts to inculcate a spirit of identification, is most worth preserving. It must unite not only the members, and all classes, but also the unattached, who have a natural impulse to act in common with their fellow men. It must also have a spiritual value, which is more worth preserving than anything else. A vigorous discussion followed the address, in which the members were given the opportunity to express their views, and to notice the hold of an idea or a proposition, and the value of a plan. The committee's report, which is carried by the chairman, shows a very useful suggestion, that the pupil's vocabulary should be limited to words which might be constantly repeated.

The committee should be encouraged to set up a language school, and to have a language club, and to work in the schools and community for the education of the working-class children.
to establish such a committee as speedily as possible to look after the members of their organisations in the first instance, and all the soldiers in general. The latter part of the work could be fulfilled by means of a federation of the various committees of the organisations. The W.E.A. of South Australia will be prepared to organise the central wartime comradeship committee. In the meantime, will all members of trades unions and other bodies make it their business to see that a motion is carried by their society - "That a wartime comradeship committee be formed to look after the interests of all members in the army and their dependants."

Study Circles.

There are several forms in which study circles can be conducted. There are the home study circles, where the family can get together and study consistently any subject in which they are interested. To this circle friends might be invited, and persons desiring to inaugurate such a group should communicate with the secretary of the W.E.A. (Trades Hall). The second form of study circle is that held under the auspices of some organisation, such as a trade union, a lodge, or a literary society or church organisation. As long as a dozen members can be got together to undertake consistent study on any subject the W.E.A. will be prepared to go into ways and means for providing them with the best facilities for studying the subject they desire.

The Home Study Circle the Best.

There is no doubt that the form of study circle that is superior to all others is the home-study circle. The world has to a large extent lost the idea of the home being the centre of learning. Little effort is made to provide young people with facilities for consistent study at home. The Workers' Educational Association, by means of home study circles, will revive the family fireside as the basis of the nation's learning. Most people read trashy novels because they cannot grasp the deeper literature. Round the family fireside, however, with a few friends, the better literature of the past and present could be studied under more congenial auspices, and various aspects discussed as the subject was unfolded. Educated folk could exercise a general control over those home study groups by attending occasionally and supervising the choice of literature. These visitors could guide the education of the home-study circles. The homes will be made more attractive, the home life will grow sweeter and better, and greater knowledge will prevail everywhere. In the summer months these study circles might possibly be held out of doors.
CORRUPTION IN A UNIVERSITY.

Universities were established to promote the truth, the acquisition of knowledge, and the advancement of culture. But there are universities where it is not safe to pursue the truth. A professor who sought to expose the evils arising from the prevailing social system and advocated a new and better method of thinking was regarded as an undesirable pedagogue and is quietly sent about his business. The latest instance of this occurred at Philadelphia. The Wharton School of Finance is the economic section of the University of the city, and Professor Nearing was the assistant professor. With growing concern that the trustees of the University noted that the professor was one of the most popular professors in that department was delivering lectures and writing books and was advocating some of the most radical and stimulating conditions. The facts regarding child labor, under-payment of adult labor, increasing cost of living, and other evils were discussed. What was said was well received; and, of course, all the taxation of land values was recommended as the most pressing of all reforms for the reduction of monopoly and the establishment of a just system of taxation. The end of the term was not without formal agenda, Professor Nearing had got rid of them by refraining from renewing his engagement. The trustees have refused to offer any, and the news that the board of trustees contains several men who are associated with big business, such as J. P. Morgan and Co., United Gas Improvement Co., and Girard Trust Company. The board is more and more frequently, as death and other causes of vacancies occur, recruited by directors and large corporation representatives and other corporations dependent for successful operation upon monopoly. One who knows the trustees says: "All these trustees live in and about Philadelphia. They all have no sympathy with the aspirations of the age; they are gluttonous for gold; their corporations have secured valuable franchises for nothing from the State of Pennsylvania."

The decision of the trustees has created a storm of protest. A prominent attorney of the city wrote: "I desire to call attention to the fact that college faculty are usually appointed by the board of trustees."