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CHANGES IN EDUCATION

IMPORTANCE OF GAMES

Dalton Plan on Trial

(By "Candida.")

In education, as in most things, "the old order changeth, yielding place to new." It is interesting to note the differences between the teaching of today from that which obtained a decade ago. They whose task is "to rear the tender thought,

To teach the young idea how to shoot must, if they are in earnest, deplore the fact that there is now so much to do and so little that can possibly be done in the few brief years set apart as schooldays. Miss Rees George, who for many years was headmistress of the Advanced School for Girls, and who is now teacher of English literature and French at the Methodist Ladies' College, is of the opinion that the system of present-day education is not vastly different from that of past years. There are, of course, additions in many directions, but as they are more or less in the nature of experiments it is not possible, she says, to speak with any degree of certainty regarding their efficacy.

"In examinations particularly," said Miss George, "there is far more general than special work, there is a wider range of subjects, which enlarges the scope of the student. The University sets an increasingly large number of books for study by those who intend entering for its examinations. An innovation of recent date is the selling of certain standard novels to be read by candidates. Usually they are given the choice of three or four, but at times they may make their own selection. They may be asked why they liked a certain one, thus giving them an opportunity of showing that the book was read, not only for pleasure, but also with a view to cultivating the analytical mind.

"In making a comparison between present-day education and that of former days, I do not think we should leave out of consideration the effect of the introduction of sport in its many forms into girls' schools. Much time nowadays is spent in tennis and other games, and while not necessarily a principal issue is an important secondary one, and is often paramount with the pupils.

THE DALTON PLAN.

"The introduction of the Dalton Plan is one of the latest experiments in modern education. It is followed in a few schools in Adelaide."

Seeking information regarding this plan the writer interviewed Miss Winifred Berry, M.A., who is on the teaching staff of St. Peter's Girls' Collegiate School where the Dalton plan has been tried since the beginning of 1923. Named after the town of Dalton, in Massachusetts, the plan was taken to England by Ellen Parkhurst, and further expounded by Miss Rosa Bassett. It has been taken up more widely in Great Britain than in America.

Miss Berry said:—"The chief principles of the Dalton plan are freedom in carrying out individual ideas, and opportunity for each girl to work at her own rate. It is really a sequel to the Montessori system which is taught to children up to the age of nine years.

"There are what are termed assignments for every subject which may extend over a week, a fortnight, or a month. The plan involves the abolition of a timetable, at any rate in morning school. A girl is on her honor to do all the subjects set as thoroughly and as quickly as possible, and the plan has proved most satisfactory. It is necessary that the school should have a decent reference library, as for each subject certain books are recommended for study.

RAISING THE STANDARD.

Miss Caroline Jacob, who for 22 years was headmistress of Tormore School, Childers street, North Adelaide, asked to express her opinion on the matter said she considered that the training of teachers was a step in the right direction.

Commenting on the altered names of the University examinations from Junior, Senior, and Higher Public to Intermediate, Leaving, and Leaving Honors, Miss Jacob said that in the first two the standard in Adelaide was generally considered to be below that of Melbourne, and that in order to increase it and to fall into line with the other States the new names had been adopted.

Asked for her views on the part sport played in present-day girls' schools, Miss Jacob said she was a thorough believer in sports, within limits, but she thought there was a danger of overdoing things in this direction.

Regarding the Dalton plan she had much favorably comment to make. Children respond to responsibility, she said. Miss Jacob related an instance of a lecture she had heard two girls give at Trencham School in New South Wales. Working on their own initiative they prepared a lecture on "Prehistoric Animals." This was given, with diagrams to illustrate it, and was a concrete example of the following of individual tastes.

Miss Jacob considered that too much time was devoted to public examinations nowadays. Of course parents could not always say definitely at what age a girl was to leave school, so more often than not she took University examinations "hurdle after hurdle," the intermediate at 12 years, leaving at 14, and leaving honors at 16. Many headmistresses in England made it a rule that no girl under 16 should sit for a public examination.

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THE UNIVERSITY CLUB.

RETAINING OLD ASSOCIATIONS.

The newly-formed University Club should do much to maintain old associations and friendships among men who have passed through the University. There are about 50 members, and as the first meeting was held on December 11 this must be regarded as highly satisfactory. Membership of the University Club, which has been modelled on the lines of those in Melbourne and Sydney, is limited to men. Any past or present member of the council or teaching staff of the University is eligible to join, and any person who has been admitted to a degree in the Adelaide University or to one recognised by the University. Undergraduates who have matriculated and who have completed a course of studies and passed examinations therein equivalent to two-thirds of the course of studies prescribed for any degree offered by the University are also eligible, as are the holders of the diplomas granted by the University, the holders of any final certificate in law granted by the University, and any member of the following bodies:—The British Medical Association, the Law Society of South Australia, Incorporated, the South Australian Institute of Architects, Incorporated, the Australasian Corporation of Public Accountants, the Institute of Engineers, Australia, any commissioned officer of the air, naval, or military forces, any donor to the University, and any person who has contributed to the advancement of art, science, or literature. Mr. Charles R. Hodge, who recently retired from the post of registrar of the University, and who during his 40 years' association with the institution was brought into contact with so many students, is keenly interested in the new club, and has undertaken to secure members. Rooms have been secured at the Queen's Hall, Grenfell-street, but with the advancement of the club, which it is hoped will later on be able to offer residential facilities, larger premises will be secured. The present rooms, which will be furnished during this month, will comprise a lounge and writing-room, as well as a billiard-room, and members will be able to obtain luncheon there and light refreshments. A temporary committee has been formed, which includes Professor T. Brailsford Robertson (chairman), Dr. H. C. Nott, and Messrs. W. H. Bagot, C. Edmonds, and R. M. Steele. Mr. N. J. Hargrave has been appointed honorary secretary.

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Mr. Gerald Walenn, who recently resigned the position of principal violin master at the Elder Conservatorium to practice his profession in Sydney, left Adelaide, accompanied by Mrs. Walenn, by the steamer Zealandic on Thursday.

PRIVATE SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY.

A COMMENDABLE ENTERPRISE.

An unusual class of investment for Australia is that of forestry, an industry that somehow seems, in public opinion, to be solely connected with Government enterprise. Doubtless this feeling has been created by the length of time normally required for any return to investors, together with the comparative small population of Australia, and other investments of a more glittering appearance. The Australian Forests, Limited, is believed to be the first company entirely devoted to the planting of trees on a methodical scale. An interesting table of percentages of Crown forests and privately owned forests of the world sets out the areas as under:—

	State.	Municipal.	Private.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Russia	60	10	30
Sweden	20	—	80
Germany	33	15	52
Austria	7	10	83
France	10	22	68
Hungary	16	52	32
Norway	12	3	85
Britain	3	—	97
Switzerland	6	66	28
Belgium	5	35	60
Denmark	24	—	70

Private Initiative.

It will be judged from the above that South Australians have left everything in initiative to the Government, hence the operations of Australian Forests, Limited, represent a praiseworthy effort to establish an industry of such merit. The directors propose to devote most attention to pinus insignis. A charge against past Government administration is that the State has made a hobby of this timber, to the exclusion of hardwoods. The allegation may be true; it certainly has been proved that a difficulty exists in obtaining the timber locally. The secretary of an Adelaide firm of merchants mentioned last week that they had obtained all their supplies of softwoods from Tasmania for the reason given above, without studying the question of cost. The office of the new company is located at Mount Gambier, but the capital is expected to be evenly distributed between Victoria and South Australia. Mr. H. H. Corbin, B.Sc., is the hon consulting forester for the company, and, after an inspection of the country under proposal to plant, states, inter alia, "the country is the best I know for the growth of pinus insignis, and is very accessible." The capital is fixed at £150,000, divided into £1 shares, of which 60,000 are offered to the public. With a full subscription, the company hope to plant 500 acres yearly, commencing in three months from date.

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NOTED MUNICIPALIST.

Retirement of Dr. Angas Johnson.

Dr. E. Angas Johnson, after having been for 18 years a member of the Adelaide City Council, has sent in his resignation to the Town Clerk, and his letter will be dealt with at next Monday's council meeting. His resignation from the council will also carry with it the relinquishment of the position of Chairman of the public health committee of the Adelaide Local Board of Health, which position he has held for 14 years.

Dr. Johnson was first elected as Councillor for Hindmarsh Ward in 1902 with a majority of 397 votes, and after two years retired, owing to a projected visit to Great Britain and the Continent. While away he enquired into abattoirs, rubbish destructors, and conveniences, and other municipal questions. He was re-elected to the council in 1907, and has been a member ever since. Dr. Johnson has been a most useful Councillor, especially on account of his wide knowledge of health matters. He is a keen gardener, and was mainly instrumental, with the

help of the late Mr. T. G. Ellery (then Town Clerk), in establishing many of the splendid municipal gardens, and the nursery. He has donated many rare plants to the council, and has also been a very live and enthusiastic member of the Botanic Gardens Board. Dr. Johnson has contributed many historic records and curios for the City Council museum, which he helped to found. He has held honorary positions on the Consumptive Board, the Fever Hospital, and the influenza committee, and, on many occasions, during the absence of the holder of the office has been Acting Inspector-General of Hospitals.

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An appeal will be made in March for the establishment of St. Mark's Residential College, in connection with the Church of England, and affiliated with the Adelaide University. About £20,000 will be required, in addition to the money already promised, in order to place the college on a substantial footing before opening.

THE NEWS

SATURDAY: FEBRUARY 9, 1924.

NATIONALISM

(By Professor Coleman Phillipson.)
PART IV.

In my preceding article I traced very briefly the growth of the idea of nationalism. I showed its uncertain trend in the Middle Ages; I pointed out the advance of nationalism as a result of the Reformation and the Wars of Religion, the notion of cosmopolitanism consequent on the French Revolution, and the reactionary development of nationalism resulting from the Napoleonic wars. My question for today is, what is the meaning of a nation, and what are its characteristics? All great wars, especially wars of aggression and conquest, have given rise to the discussion of this question. For example, the Franco-German War, when conflicting claims were put forth as to the nationality of Alsace-Lorraine; the recent Great War, when a great number of nationalist pretensions were advanced in nearly every corner of the globe, to the perplexity of the leading Powers and of well-nigh the whole world.

Meaning of Nation

Not infrequently the word "nation" is used ambiguously. It has more than one meaning, and it is of the utmost importance to use it with the right meaning in a given context. In the first place, nation means an aggregate of the subjects or citizens of an independent body politic; and in relation to this the term "nationality" is used generally, and always legally, to indicate the quality of subjecthood or citizenship. (Formerly "citizen" referred to an individual belonging to a republic while "subject" referred to one who belonged to countries having other forms of government; but nowadays the distinction has for all practical purposes disappeared). On the other hand, "nationality" is often used, substantively, to mean a people potentially but not actually a nation (in the above sense); that is to say, a nationality aspires to become a nation—for example, the Jewish people, the Poles before the establishment of the Republic, the Irish before the foundation of the Free State, and so on.

As I showed in previous articles, a nation is not merely the sum-total of the subjects or citizens belonging to it; it is a new entity, a personality of indefinite duration, with a distinctive part to play in the world of civilised communities. Hence the good of the nation, though it implies the good of the subjects in general, is not necessarily identical with the good of each subject in particular.