

THE DISPATCH.

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School Psychology

Perception

It has been noted that sensation must necessarily furnish all the raw material of knowledge, but it must also be borne in mind that mere sensation in itself is of little value. For instance, the infant has the possibility of seeing almost as soon as it is born and consequently may be said to experience sensations of sight; yet such sensations are meaningless to the infant. There must be adjustments before sensations can be of any value, and we should remember that what is often called a sensation is in reality a PERCEPTION.

Perception may be defined as an experience which is due not merely to the stimulation arising from an object present to the senses, but also to past experience with that object or similar objects. Thus every conscious experience must have an element of meaning. For instance when an orange is placed before a child for the first time, the purely visual experience tells him nothing beyond a sensation of a certain color. But let the child handle, examine, play with and possibly eat that fruit! Then when he sees an orange again he experiences not only a vague sensation but a TRUE PERCEPTION OF AN ORANGE, which comprehends its color, its form, taste, feel, and make-up.

It is obvious that at the basis of every experience there lies a perception and that all knowledge rests on correct perceptions; hence the greater the experience or knowledge of any individual the wider must be his range of perception. Now the world of the little child is very narrow and indefinite with no true ideas of time and space. It is imperative, therefore, that the child be taught a correct understanding of his physical surroundings at as early a date as possible. It is truly astounding what fantastic and erroneous ideas children often entertain. A few years ago, Professor G. S. Hall made out a test of questions which he submitted to the young children just entering the Boston city schools. In discussing the results he says: "The high rate of ignorance indicated by the tables may surprise most persons. Skeins and spools of thread were said to grow on the sheep's back or on bushes, stockings on trees, butter to come from buttercups, flour to be made from beans, oats to grow on oaks, bread to be swelled yeast, trees to be stuck in the ground by God and to be rootless, meat to be dug from the ground, and potatoes to be picked from trees. Cheese is squeezed butter, the cow says 'bow-wow', the pig purrs or burrows, worms are not distinguished from snakes, etc." "So that while no one child has all these misconceptions, none are free from them, and thus the liabilities are great that in this chaos of half assimilated impressions, half right, half wrong, some lost link may make utter nonsense or mere verbal cram of the most careful instruction, as in the cases of children referred to above, who knew much by rote about a cow, its milk, horns, leather, meat etc, but yet were sure from the picture book that it was no bigger than a small mouse.

It is hardly conceivable that any normal child of school age in a country district or small town should exhibit such dense ignorance regarding his physical surroundings. Yet it is highly probable that most small children believe that rain is stored up in heaven in barrels, and conceive of thunder as a rolling of barrels or God groaning, along with many other fantastic notions too numerous to mention. From these considerations some general conclusions may be drawn. 1. The ordinary child possesses next to nothing of scholastic value when he begins school. 2. Parents can best aid by making their young children familiar with natural objects. 3. Every teacher in starting with a new class or in a new locality should carefully explore the children's minds in order to estimate how much sound knowledge each child possesses. 4. The child is most familiar with the ordinary objects in his locality. 5. Throughout the primary grades teaching by means of objects should be introduced as much as possible.

Food Shortage And Increased Production

Will Woodstock heed the warning of the coming shortage of food? As yet little or nothing has been done about it, at least there is no organized effort to meet such a calamity. Woodstock, the centre of such a fine agricultural district, should be first to set an example, and it is not yet too late for this town to take its place among the many cities and towns of America, that are actively carrying out plans for increasing food production this season.

Now is the time to prove the benefit of Industrial Education, and the utility of our agriculture school and school gardens. Under proper organization and direction, the larger boys of the town schools could do much to increase food supply by gardening the idle land about the town, fields such as the golf links might be changed from spots for pleasure to enclosures of utility; The household science classes might start a campaign against waste and improper methods of household economy, and altogether abandon for a time science and cultural value for the purely practical and urgently necessary.

There is now less than a month in which to plant garden products for this season's harvest. All over the civilized world the cry is raised for "more food," weekly the ocean bed receives hundreds of thousands of tons of the necessities of life. In the face of such facts, what are we, as responsible citizens, and our officials in particular, going to do in the matter?

Situation on The French Front

The great human nippers which General Haig has forged around the southern end of the Drocourt Queant switch line are steadily closing and the rolling up of this important section of the German defenses appears to be a matter of a few days. The Drocourt Queant line is the hastily improvised barrier, thrown up by Field Marshal von Hindenburg to protect Crambrai and Douai. The more famous line, named in honor of himself, had been smashed by the British. The bitter resistance offered by the Germans to the British advance has ceased in their defense of Bullecourt, two and a half miles west of Queant. To the south the British have forged well beyond Queant, but have been forced to mark time until Bullecourt falls. The capture of the village was entrusted to the Australians, and these hard fighting colonials have almost surrounded the German stronghold, so that its surrender or extinction is expected momentarily.

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The Drocourt Queant line forms a broad salient in the British front, eight teen miles at its top and paralleling the Douai Crambrai line. Drocourt is seven miles from Douai, and Queant about ten miles from Crambrai. The crushing in of this salient will mean that the German grip on the great Lens coal region will be broken and the entire German line in northern France imperiled. There are many signs that the Germans realize the menace to them in the alternate sledge hammer blows of the British and French, beneath which their choicest troops are being steadily driven from position after position. News from the western front is not merely being suppressed in Berlin, but is being doctored for the consumption of German newspaper readers. Discrepancies between the German and allied official versions are apparently arousing

The Crisis!

Untold sacrifices are being made in defence of the world's liberty, assailed by the Hun, who declares he fights for "existence." Let us not forget that other crisis in which the fate of the dread Liquor Traffic, subdued just now by the necessities of war, is also fighting for existence.

Prohibition must be impregnably fortified now by means of proper enforcement in readiness for the struggle to come when Prohibition must be finally ratified or lost by the votes of the people in many provinces, including New Brunswick.

Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have adopted Prohibition during the war. Prince Edward Island has enjoyed its benefits since 1901. The great majority of districts in Quebec are "dry." That is the situation to-day, but remember, the crisis comes after the war.

The total value of foodstuffs destroyed by the liquor traffic in 1916 was approximately \$4,244,090.22. Add to this the immense waste of transportation facilities, clogged and hindered by carrying the grain to destruction, and again conveying the product of the breweries and distilleries to make precious men less efficient in this solemn hour!

Ontario's Splendid Record

Since September 16, 1916, Ontario has enjoyed good enforcement of Prohibition in all but a few districts. Not the most daring anti-prohibitionist hopes for a return of the curse of the traffic in Ontario. Here are some figures showing results in Ontario's largest cities for the last three months of 1915 and 1916:

ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS

	Under License 1915	Under Prohibition 1916
Toronto	2,908	953
Ottawa	286	234
Hamilton	498	61
London	367	144
Brantford	152	16

Note.—"It will be noted that Ottawa has not much reduction in arrests for drunkenness. It is perhaps strange that it should show any reduction in the drunkenness record, inasmuch as it is separated only by the river from the license city of Hull."—PIONEER, Toronto.

Whether your district be under the new Provincial Prohibitory Law, or under the Canada Temperance Act, help us to arouse the full force of public opinion for vigilant enforcement of province-wide Prohibition.

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suspicious in some German minds at least, and the Berlin newspapers are being bombarded with questions that their military critics seem to find some difficulty in answering. There is significance also in the fact that the German Emperor in the latest of his congratulatory telegrams, speaks of a "serious and decisive time," instead of exulting over victories, real or imaginary. Apart from France the only fight of significance reported from the war theatres is taking place in Macedonia. The reports from this front are meagre, but they indicate an increasing activity which may presage a general offensive by the Allies.

Plan Drive For Prohibition

Washington, D. C., May 8.—A powerful movement for prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicants during the war is expected to be launched at a great meeting opened here today by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. The council represents a constituency of 30 denominational bodies having 18,000,000 members. In addition to the full membership of the council, the conference is attended by representatives of numerous other religious and temperance organizations.

German Kultur Again Exemplified

London, May 8—(N. Y. Sun)—Consignments of hay received in England, from neutral countries, contain small steel two pronged forks which are very sharp. The cattle swallow them readily, and then develop intestinal troubles of which they die. It is believed German agents are systematically trying to kill British live stock. An investigation is under way.

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