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FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

THE BOY BUILDER



A JOURNAL OF THE NEW SCHOOL MOVEMENT

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LAUGHS, HIKING, PARENT-TEACHER, FATHERS' ROUND TABLE
and a host of other good things

THE PARENT-TEACHER

MRS. E. G. GREENE.

This department will aim to present some phase of the work of the Parent-Teachers Association in each issue, showing the common interest of the home and the school.

It will help maintain high standards in the home, everywhere recognized as the first unit in education, in line with the kindergarten, the school, and the university.

It will emphasize the intrinsic worth of love and loyalty for family life, and seek to develop this worth through co-operation of home with school in order to more definitely correlate home and school into an harmonious one.

Correspondence is solicited with all who are interested in this important phase of Boy Building, or Child Culture.

Address THE BOY BUILDER, Los Gatos, Cal., Parent-Teacher Department.

THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR DEFECTIVE SPEECH CORRECTION.

By Mabel Farrington Gifford,
University of California.

IT is a fact not generally known that speech defects are present amongst our schoolchildren to an extent that is alarming. A careful tabulation of statistics from all over the country shows at least 10 per cent of all school children have defects of speech which are more or less serious. The grave consequences in after life are vastly underestimated and it is my purpose to impress upon parents and teachers the absolute necessity of correction at as early a period as may be possible.

To the average person who has not studied the subject, it probably sounds like a gross exaggeration to state that 90 per cent of all speech defectives are failures in life's battle and if I can bring the teachers and parents to a realization of the great importance of this subject I will be more than repaid.

Under the broad heading of speech defects we classify them as follows: Stammering, stuttering, cluttering, faulty articulation, nasal speech due to sluggish palate. All these can be and are, at the present time, being taught to articulate as clearly and normally as any other individual and the earlier the subject can be taken in hand the quicker a favorable result.

As the age increases the more fixed do the speech habits become and the more difficulty in correcting them. The fact that until very recently the correction of speech defects has been in the hands of charlatans and unfitted teachers, who knew nothing of the thing they were endeavoring to eradicate, has led many

people to believe that in many cases it was impossible to achieve permanent improvement in stammering and stuttering cases. This is far from the truth, as at present only about four per cent of all cases do not show permanent improvement when handled scientifically.

At the present time this work is only carried forward in two places in this country, the University of Columbia, New York, and the University of California through its medical department. Under the auspices of the University of California, free clinics are held for the benefit of the school children of Oakland and San Francisco and the writer will be glad to furnish statistics and information to any who are interested.

The child whose speech is defective is at the very beginning, under a terrible handicap with regard to its fellows. In the first place child nature is not only thoughtless and sometimes cruel but observing as well, with the result that the defective is ridiculed and imitated almost from its first day in school, gradually producing a mental condition which actually makes things far worse than before. The words which he has difficulty in pronouncing he avoids as they are almost certain to cause ridicule, consequently producing a mental habit of substitution which it is impossible for the child itself to correct.

There is no nature so sensitive as the child nature, and as he becomes aware that he is different from other children he withdraws into a shell, avoids the society of other children, loses self confidence and becomes one apart from his fellows, so it is apparent that the

child is harmed not only by his inability to speak correctly, but that the whole course of its after life is seriously affected.

The parent and teacher can both be of material assistance in eradicating this evil and it is the intention of the writer, in the near future, to publish a series of articles which may tend to make such co-operation possible.

PALO ALTO PARENT-TEACHERS' EXCHANGE-SALE.

For the School Children.

By M. J. Greene.

The work of the Flower Committee began actively March, 1915, with a **Bulb, Plant and Vines** Exchange. These plants were brought by the parents and children to the Intermediate School; the Superintendent, Mr. Humphries, directed the work, aided by a group of boys and girls. A few fathers were at home making the ground ready for the plants.

The cut that illustrates this article represents the flowering of some of these plants which make an artistic background for one of the young girls who were active in making the exchange the success that it was.

It may be possible to illustrate other articles with groups of boys as well as girls.

The exchange noted in the title, was called "Bulb and Potted-Plant Exchange." It was in the hands of an enthusiastic, capable committee who arranged with Mr. Carl Purdy, Assistant Superintendent of Horticulture at the Panama Pacific Exposition, to address the school children.

Mr. Purdy came to Palo Alto and spoke before the four public schools and by invitation, to Miss Harker's private school for girls upon the "selection, planting and care of bulbs."

He presented his school-plan for obtaining bulbs which had been used in Los Angeles and Berkeley.

The Parent-Teacher's Association adopted the plan. The local florist very kindly contributed a number of potted plants. The committee had taken subscriptions for several orders of bulbs and purchased a supply for the

Exchange. In addition other plants, vines and bulbs were donated.

The bulbs for the children of the different schools were ordered and distributed separately before the Exchange and Sale took place.



The orders for the schools amounted to about 3,000 bulbs at an approximate expense of \$50.00.

The money netted by the Exchange Sale will be used in further development of gardening by the children.

Another Exchange will be held in March. This will be a free exchange, made possible through donations.

The aim of the work is to interest boys and girls in home gardening; this work is under the Home Division of Education, a department established by the U. S. Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.; it works through the National Parent-Teacher's Associations which provides two special Secretaries who have desks in the rooms of the Department in Washington, D. C., and who send out its literature along all lines of Home Education.