CITY CROWDING.

The modern crowding of the population into cities is a factor of the first importance. Enthusiasts extravagantly praise the virtues of country populations, and as extravagantly disparage the moral condition of cities. This excites contradiction, and in the controversy the fact is overlooked that profound changes, some beneficial and others pernicious, have been and are being silently wrought by the aggregation into cities of so large a part of the population. We are entering upon the third generation of hotbed city life. The offspring of those whose occupations are sedentary, who use stimulants, lead irregular and excited lives, must, with few exceptions, suffer from inherited irritability of the nervous system. An abnormal strength and eccentricity of impulse must be the result, and this is fostered by city life.

A lamentable change has passed over the country with regard to the learning of trades. Most temperaments require manual labor in the earlier years of active life, and much exercise at all periods. Labor unions determine the number of apprentices which may be taken, and this number is so small that it is impossible for the large majority of growing boys to secure either the knowledge of trades or the physical and mental benefits of steady employment. Counting rooms and shops are crowded with applicants for every vacant place, while thousands are left to roam the streets, having neither trade, profession, nor knowledge of business.

The struggle for success in society, finance, politics, literature, applied science and art grows more fierce as the cities grow larger; the prosperous have often "paid too dear for the whistle"; those who fail are, according to temperament, despondent or desperate, and the consequence is a steady procession to the sanatorium or the prison. And the number of neurotic, romantic, pampered youth of both sexes is incomputable. If the country often underestimates, the city often overestimates; and the prematurely blasé youth is in an abnormal condition which feeds upon itself. Under such circumstances the very qualities which made a good man may make his son a curse to the community.—From James M. Buckley's "The Present Epidemic of Crime," in the November "Century."

It has been well said that "Time determines all things," and time has evolved a solution which, though but in its infancy, is destined to grow and be the most important development in educational lines that the world has ever seen. I refer to the trade schools. Locally we have some splendid examples—the Drexel Institute, the Williamson Trade School, the manual training school, and others. But scattered all over the country are schools of this character, which undoubtedly will grow more rapidly than any educational institutions of the past.

Within comparatively few years this lack of opportunity for proper training, making itself manifest, and finding the law of supply and demand in good working order, registered its want, and fortunately the method of supply was developed. This training is now being given by many institutions in this country, in shops equipped with the most modern tools and employing up-to-date methods, and supervised by instructors of marked ability and fully imbued with the importance and far-reaching benefits of their calling. The instruction is systematic and individual, and I feel fully justified in saying that a month of such training is of more value than a year's time spent by a young man in a large shop, in which he is as likely to absorb error as truth.

It has been said that a three years' course in a trade school, in which an average of but a few hours a day are devoted to actual manual work, can in no way compete with three years' time spent in actual work in a shop. I feel that this is a popular error. In shop work a man may spend months in repetition of the same task, to no ultimate advantage to the worker. Instead of his skill being quickened it is dulled. He very quickly acquires the skill which is unconscious in its operation, and, like the old lady with her knitting-needle, he can talk to a fellow-workman, or think and dream about far-distant places and matters, without in any way lessening the rate of production. In fact, sometimes his pace might be actually quickened by some mental emotion having an exciting effect upon his nervous organization, in the same way that the old lady, in chatting with her friends, will knit fast or slow in harmony with the dullness or animation of the conversation. It is quite obvious that repetitive routine work is not desirable for a young man of natural ambition and aptitude. In the trade school he escapes routine, but is instructed in the underlying principles of his work, and does enough manual labor to familiarize himself with the various tools required, and to prove

the correctness of the theories in which he has been instructed.—From James M. Dodge's "The Money Value of Training," in November "St. Nicholas."

WHAT SCHOOLS SHOULD CHERISH.

Finally, there are certain sentiments which every school, public, private, or endowed, ought to help to strengthen and foster in the minds and hearts of its pupils. The world is still governed by sentiments, and not by observation, acquisition and reasoning; and national greatness and righteousness depend more on the cultivation of right sentiments in the children than on anything else. . . . Now, the sentiments which American schools ought to cherish and inculcate are family love, respect for law and public order, love of freedom, and reverence for truth and righteousness. Incidentally but incessantly they ought also to teach the doctrine that we are all members one of another. Fortunately this last doctrine can be amply and forcibly illustrated by the experience of every household. The immediate dependence of one household on many others has really become formidable during the last century; since every individual has become dependent on many other people—mostly strangers—for the most absolute necessaries of life. It is high time that a direct and vigorous inculcation of the fundamental and indispensable social sentiments should be deliberately made a part of the discipline of every school and college in the country. There is not a religion, or a religious denomination, in the world which does not recognize these sentiments, or which objects to any of them; and religious differences should not be allowed to prevent the teaching of these primary principles to all the children in the land.—President Charles Eliot, in the November "Atlantic."

SPORTS ARE USEFUL.

That a given occupation is pursued for sport, and no longer as a means of livelihood, does not necessarily withdraw it from the category of things useful for training. The natural boy's pursuit of frogs, birds and woodchucks is an informing survival of a habit indispensable to primitive man. Hunting and fishing were the most necessary means of livelihood for savages. They are pursued now as sports as well as for livelihood, and there is good training in them when practiced merely as sports. They teach civilized man alertness, accuracy of observation, quickness of action, endurance and patience, just as they developed these valua-

ble qualities in generations of savages, who never knew what humanism, altruism and idealism were. The justification of unproductive athletic sport, like ball games, races of all sorts, and dancing, lies in the facts that they develop in civilized man some of the invaluable qualities which hunting and fishing developed in savages, and that they recreate and revive in people who lead the unnatural life of civilization the power for useful work. They also defend young people against laziness and vice by affording pleasurable activities and innocent gladness.—President Charles W. Eliot, in the October "Atlantic."

HE DID ALL HE COULD.

He did all he could to be hearty and strong,
The trouble he took was surprising;
But nothing he tried seemed to help him along,
His weakness was past all disguising.
He took iron tablets and essence of steel,
And tonics whose taste was as bad as their smell,
And pepsin before, also after each meal,
Yet he seldom felt well.

He never fed rashly—his diet he'd choose
By formulæ quite scientific.
A steak or a chop he would sternly refuse,
But the way he ate oats was terrific.
He gorged on chopped feed and on millet and bran
And such stuffs sanitariums sell,
But, in spite of it all, it's a fact that the man
Hardly ever felt well.

He slept in a draught on a pillowless bed
That was hard as Gehenna's gate hinges.
He bathed in ice water, a thing that he said
Ought to help his rheumatical twinges.
Also Indian clubs and dumbbells would he swing
Until with exhaustion he fell,
So it seems—does it not?—a remarkable thing
That he seldom felt well.

"The Chicago Daily News."

ADOPTION OF THE ROMAN LETTER IN JAPAN.

The chief advantages of *Romaji* are so apparent that they were easily presented and understood, and this enabled it to overthrow the inherited prejudices of the Japanese against a foreign system.

They are: ease of learning, of writing, and of reading; the great rapidity with which it may be written with pen or typewriter or "set up" in a printing shop, and the definiteness and fixity of form and meaning. But what has appealed most strongly to the aspiring Japanese was the argument that the Chinese and the *Kana* system kept them, as a nation, sealed within the old walls of feudalism, while the *Romaji,* an enlightened system of writing, would open Japan to the world, and the world to Japan. The most deeply-rooted objection to the *Romaji* reform was not, as is generally supposed, to the change in the manner of writing and printing the language. The manifest advantages of the new system soon triumphed over this. Moreover, it is a very common occurrence in history for one people to borrow the alphabet or the hieroglyphics of another. Hellas borrowed from Phœnicia, and Phœnicia had borrowed from some other people, probably the Egyptians. The Russians got their alphabet from the Greeks, all western Europe has borrowed the Roman character. Our own letters are neither the runes of the Vikings, nor the black letter of the Gothic and the Teutonic, nor the crude characters of the Anglo-Saxon. Six countries—Turkey, Persia, Egypt, India, Afghanistan and Abyssinia—and probably 500,000,000 people, use the alien Arabic character in transcribing more than a hundred different languages and dialects. The Japanese themselves are using the borrowed ideographs of China. The adoption of *Romaji* meant only another change, and a change for the better.—From "Rebirth of the Japanese Language and Literature," by Stanhope Sams, in the "American Monthly Review of Reviews" for November.

AN ENGLISH VIEW OF THE PHILIPPINES.

The "Pall Mall Gazette" of September 9, 1903, discussing British possessions, past and present, in the various parts of the world, has the following regarding the Philippine Islands:

We have but to examine the map of the Eastern Hemisphere to recognize what a powerful position we should be occupying on the eastern flank of China to-day had we retained not only Java, the Moluccas and the Celebes Islands, but especially the rich group of the Philippines, which were ours by every right of conquest in 1762, and had been justly forfeited by Spain, whose hostility had been prompted by the belief that she had caught us at a time of disadvantage. But they were lightly surrendered by statesmen who possessed no just idea of a colonial empire, and who, although the country was emerging from a victorious war, were too spirit-

less to resist the demand of the vanquished for the restoration of their forfeited possessions. We cannot reflect upon the loss of this splendid and legitimate prize without a considerable measure of bitterness.

REGINALD WYON, the English correspondent whom the Turkish officials tried to drive out of Macedonia because of the fidelity with which he reported the atrocities perpetrated by Turkish troops at Monastir and elsewhere, is the author of a striking narrative, "What I Saw in Macedonia," which "The Living Age" for November 7 reprints from "Blackwood's Magazine." It is a vivid account of recent occurrences in that devastated region.

NEWS OF THE PROCTOR THEATERS.

"Are we going to have too many new theaters in New York?" is a much discussed question among the Gotham managers these days, and a lively argument, *pro* and *con*, has of late occupied the columns of the daily press. Mr. Proctor treats the situation philosophically, as becomes a manager who controls four of the best paying theaters in the big metropolis. He says: "The city is growing, and in direct proportion to its constant spread, both in wealth and in population, so must its theatrical patronage increase. New theaters seem to be built by 'fits and starts,' as it were, and just now we are 'having a fit,' so to speak. My own theaters were never more populously patronized than at present, a fact which seems to indicate most clearly, to my mind at least, that the field of good popular-price entertainment is far from overdone."

The most brilliant season in the history of any American "stock" organization is now at its height at Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theater, where the audiences are notable not only for size, but for excellence of character. The Proctor plan of reviving favorite plays of years ago, alternately, with elaborate productions of latter-day Broadway successes, has succeeded to a charm, and the handsome theater, as a result, is crowded to its capacity twice daily.

The stranger within New York's gates on a Sunday often finds himself at a loss to know where and how to while away a leisure hour. To all such visitors to the great metropolis this hint may be given—try the continuous Sunday concerts at any of the Proctor theaters. Clever entertainment by leading vaudevillers is provided, and the performances are kept within the bounds due to Sabbath observances. The prices of admission are low.