

MAN IS THE OLDEST STUDENT

Unusual Spectacle of Pupil 93, and Teacher Over 80 Years of Age—Very Bright.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Without doubt, the oldest student in any university of the United States is Rev. David Jordan Higgins, a nonagenarian preacher and one time colonel in the United States army, who is attending the classes in philosophy conducted by Prof. J. H. Hoose, of the college of liberal arts, University of Southern California.

Rev. Mr. Higgins has had a brilliant career and a life filled with active events, and now, when within seven years of the century mark, he has returned to the ideals of his youth and is pursuing the study of philosophy according to the latest teachings.

An octogenarian teaching a nonagenarian is the spectacle presented at the university, a sight which probably finds no parallel in the world. That the former still preserves his mental activity sufficiently to engage actively in the teaching of this difficult subject, requiring the deepest study and the most clear-headed reasoning, is nearly as marvelous as the fact that Rev. Mr. Higgins at ninety-three is still sufficiently active mentally and ambitious physically to grapple with a subject that is almost entirely new to him, such has been the change in the systems and textbooks since he first engaged in the mysteries nearly three-quarters of a century ago.

Rev. Mr. Higgins was born in Maine in 1817. His early education was received in that state, but Wesleyan college was his alma mater.

Prof. Wilbur Flisk was then president of Wesleyan, and Rev. Mr. Higgins recalls many incidents connected with that noted teacher and scholar. The aged student attends the class of Professor Hoose every Monday, and is busy nearly all the week with the pages of Rudolph Eucken, the solon of Jena university.

Both teacher and student are exceptionally bright and vigorous for their years, and the only defect that Rev. Mr. Higgins suffers from is a slight deafness. He is too busy to speculate on his probable span of life, and is anxious to fill the remaining years with the bright light and consolation that the study of pure reason and philosophy only can give.

PETITION TO THE EMPEROR

Primitive Method of Peasants to Gain Ear of Austrian Ruler—Men Were Arrested.

Vienna.—A curious scene which might have come out of the middle ages was witnessed by the Austrian emperor early one morning recently, when his majesty arrived at the gate of the Hofburg on his way from Schonbrunn. Six peasants dressed in picturesque Slav costume were kneeling in number of installments. These were in supplication. When the carriage approaching one of them endeavored to throw a petition into it.

The men were arrested and proved to be Austrian Serbs, who had a curious story to tell. They represented fifty thousand peasants living on the frontier of Croatia, descended from the military colonists, who were settled there long ago to form a barrier against Serbian raids. When in the sixteenth century the so-called borderland was united with Croatia, the inhabitants were promised the ownership of the soil they had occupied on a kind of feudal tenure on the payment of a number of installments. These were completed many years ago, but the big landlords and the communal authorities nevertheless claimed to retain the ownership of the land, and a lengthy lawsuit followed.

In 1908 the highest Hungarian court decided in the peasants' favor, but the peasants have been unable to get the administrative authorities to carry out the judgment. Consequently they sent at last the deputation to ask for an audience of the emperor, but as this had not yet been granted they adopted the primitive method already described of calling his majesty's attention to their grievance. They have been released with a warning and the emperor has ordered the matter inquired into.

SCORNS BIG SUM FOR DOG

Berlin Gamekeeper Plays Waiting Game for Highest Bidder for Talented Animal.

Berlin.—Royal Gamekeeper Ebers, owner of the talking dog Don, has refused an offer of \$15,000 for the animal. Formerly a simple rural forester, Ebers has become a Napoleon of finance since Don's talking talents burst upon the world, and is now playing a waiting game for the highest bidder. Don is kept chained inside his master's house in order to avoid the danger of abduction by swarms of music hall and circus managers who are besieging the premises, and the attention of photographers who want to reap a harvest by placing picture postcards of the dog on the market.

Wealthiest Girl in West

St. Louis, Mo.—Through the death of her brother Willard, Miss Lois Campbell, a St. Louis girl of seventeen years, is now sole heiress to the entire Campbell fortune, reputed to be about \$30,000,000. This will make her the wealthiest woman west of the Mississippi river. James Campbell, her father, is president of the North American company and one of St. Louis' wealthiest citizens.

KILLING OFF SEALS

Report From Revenue Cutter of Wanton Slaughter.

Pribiloff Islands May Be Declared Government Reservations, Accessible to Federal Officials Only—Water Supply Involved.

Seattle, Wash.—Because of the reckless slaughter of seals in the Pribiloff islands by Japanese, these islands may be declared government reservations, accessible only to federal officials, as the only method of preventing the Japanese from securing supplies for their sealing fleets, which this season got away with 5,000 seal skins, valued at \$40 each. This plan is the outcome of investigation by the cutter seal patrol service maintained the last season, in which 49 Japanese were arrested on the charge of poaching.

Officers of the cutter Manning, which reached this port from the sealing grounds, declared that the slaughter of the seal herds goes on unabated, and that the diminution, which even among hundreds of animals has become perceptible, spells positive extermination within a few years.

The hand of the alien fisherman strikes at the root of the industry, for it kills the helpless female while she swims far beyond the three-mile limits for food for the family. That the mother is the breadwinner of the seal family has been established to the satisfaction of all who understand the industry, according to Capt. Godfrey L. Carden, commander of the Manning. Fired upon when she comes up for air, the female seal makes toward the deadly missile out of curiosity, and receives her death wound. Her pup on shore survives to death, for no other seal mother will nurture it. Thus two animals perish when one is killed.

No American vessel under the present treaty can fish within sixty miles of the islands, while the Japanese are allowed to go up to the three-mile limit. The United States government this year killed 12,000 seals, but they were males and caused no permanent damage to the herds.

There were 25 Japanese vessels, with 816 men, engaged in the traffic last season. Officers from the revenue cutter patrol boarded the aliens at will, and kept a careful watch upon them. The members of the crews live on seal meat when they are unable to get fish, and fishing by the strangers in any of the harbors is forbidden.

More and more the law has been tightening on the Japanese fishermen by cutting off their food supply, and with another step or two the government will be able to compel them to provision their vessels in Japan for the fishing season. As yet the water supply has been uninterrupted, but if the government acts on the recommendations of the seal patrol, this will be cut off, and every seal island will be a government reserve, and not to be visited by any person save officials, under heavy penalties. Such a motive would not injure American companies, for there are some in the islands, said Captain Carden.

"The natives in some of the islands at Dutch Harbor and westward," said Captain Carden, "were in a deplorable state. They had little food, and their clothing was in rags. Disease had broken out among them. Their principal industry is basket weaving and fishing, but they do not realize enough from either to sustain themselves, and are often in a starving condition.

"With the simplicity of children, their plastic minds quickly respond to civilization. Our government could do a master stroke by gathering up the scattered tribes and placing them in one or two groups, under education by the white man.

"We planted vegetables on the mainland at Unalaska when we arrived on June 1. Before we started south we had plenty of lettuce, turnips and radishes for our own table. The natives know nothing about this, and with the means at hand for abundance, they starve.

"A herd of 800 reindeer, brought over from Siberia nine years ago by the government, has increased to 30,000. There is plenty of good moss for these animals, and the natives could, with a little encouragement and training, raise them and lift themselves beyond the chance of a famine forever."

Captain Carden made a number of chartings of land projects and rocks in the Shelkof strait, which had before escaped observation. He has reduced them to ink drawings and photographs for distribution among the vessels in the revenue service. Emerging from Kupriof strait into Albatross bank, the Manning struck a heavy sea, and oil was poured over the bow. As the boat moved rapidly through the water she left a wake of oil, and the crew watched the rough sea roll toward the oil pan, and under it, leaving the wake of the vessel as smooth as a mill pond.

Will Be Finest Club

London.—The most magnificent club in the world. This is the claim which the members of the Royal Automobile club make for their new headquarters at Pall Mall, which are nearing completion. The building is to cost well over \$1,500,000. The French style of decoration will be employed for the interior, and one hundred French plasterers have been imported to do the work.

HUSBAND MUST BE STRANGER

New Jersey Girl Seeks Spouse Through "Ad." and Bars All of Her Acquaintances.

Wilburtha, N. J.—Miss Mary Lewis, twenty-four years old and pretty, has surprised her friends here by placing advertisements in papers in this section for a husband, saying that none of her friends or acquaintances need answer. Her name appears in the advertisements, which merely says that she wants a husband with good habits, about twenty-eight years old, who has sufficient income to keep a wife in a conservative manner.

Miss Lewis has received numerous answers already, but most of them are from acquaintances who know her circumstances.

She declares she wants to marry a man she has never seen, but she has assured her friends that she will wed no one until she has made a full investigation of his reputation and habits.

Miss Lewis insists she will be happier if she marries a "stranger," as she expresses it.

"I may be considered foolish, but I am to suffer and no one else," she declared. "I do not believe in courtship. Most girls live of their future husbands before they wed them. Even then they do not know them thoroughly until after they are married for some time.

"I have had numerous friends of mine who were about to wed say they were unhappy and would not marry if it were not too late to break off the engagement.

"Their sadness resulted from too much courtship. If there was disappointment on the part of one there was surely disappointment on the part of the other. Both would have been much happier if they had not known each other so well.

"Matrimony is a chance at its best, and although I know nothing about gambling I believe that in every game of life one should legitimately play to win happiness and prosperity even if it is necessary to leave the trodden path."

TO TYPIFY REGARD OF JAPAN

Great Pains Are Taken in Selection of Tree Specimens to Be Given New York.

New York.—The Japanese government is taking extraordinary precautions to see that 2,000 dwarf cherry trees, promised the city as a Hudson-Fulton memorial contribution from Japanese residents, shall be absolutely free from taint of any kind when they are received here and planted along Riverside drive. The trees are now under observation at the experimental station of the imperial agricultural department in Tokyo and will be received here next February.

The imperial entomologists have notified the park department that the delay in delivering the trees is due to their desire that the trees shall be free from all insect pests or fungus when they reach New York. They refer to the fact that the Japanese cherry trees presented to the city of Washington by the aldermen of Tokyo a short time ago were not carefully inspected and died soon after arrival in America.

The entomologist's letter was accompanied by a bronze tablet and a formal letter of presentation executed by students of the Fine Arts school, Tokyo. The letter says in part:

"What the cherry tree is to Japan we would wish it to symbolize to you—the ever living spirit of the land, bringing with every spring a world of blossoms and joy. Along the banks of the mighty Hudson and around the tomb of General Grant, whose memory we of Japan hold dear, may the river of Japanese blossoms flow year after year, a flowering witness to all time of our affection for New York and the United States."

BULL PUP STARTS TROUBLE

Question of Little Animal's Nativity Sets Baltimore Horsemen in Free Fight.

Baltimore, Md.—A brindle bull pup, six inches high, started a riot in the bar of the Hotel Belvedere during which cuspidors, brass match boxes, siphon bottles and glasses were hurled across the room. Philip Hyams, who says he is a native of England, and lives off his income at the Hotel, Woodward, 55th street and Broadway, New York, was fined \$100 and costs by Justice Grannan later for disturbing the peace.

In the bar at the Belvedere at the time of the disorder were probably 40 or 50 horsemen who are in Baltimore attending the Pimlico races. Henry Hanf, a New Yorker, owner of the dog, is said to have been assaulted by Hyams when he claimed that the pup was a native of the latter's country. When the dog took his owner's part the fun started.

Sides were taken by friends of each man, and when officers arrived the cafe looked as though it had withstood a bombardment.

Queen Mary Aids Poor.

London.—The spectacle of a queen busy unpacking, sorting and arranging piles of rough garments for the poor is one not often seen.

Queen Mary throughout this week has devoted several hours each day to tasks of this kind, and has worked as hard as any of the women who have been helping her. She is a patroness of the London Needlework Guild, an institution which makes garments for the poor.

PLAN BIG THEATER

Movement Is Revived for Memorial to Shakespeare.

Proposed to Erect and Endow to Memory of Giant in Literature Building in London Costing \$2,500,000.

London.—Martin Harvey has delivered a notable address in Leeds on behalf of the project to erect and endow in 1916 a theater in London as a memorial to Shakespeare. That would, he said, be three hundred years since there died in this country the most amazing giant in the literature of the world—an Englishman. What had we reared to honor him and to express our pride in our great fellow-countryman, to whom the civilized world had rendered homage? A trivial and unregarded little figure, borne above a fountain which trickled its small jet into a basin in Leicester square. That was the sole monument which was pointed out to the amazed foreigner who visited the land of Shakespeare's birth.

It was now proposed to erect and endow to his memory a national theater at a cost of \$2,500,000, and already a fifth of that sum had been raised. As a result it was believed that Shakespeare would at last receive in the land of his birth the homage that he now received only in Germany. The work which it was proposed to do in the memorial theater was already being done by private enterprises.

But it is impossible always to count upon a continuance of this happy state of things. Shakespeare's works alone could hardly be said to be his own memorial. Shakespeare wrote for the stage, and how were his works to be kept alive in those periods of vitiated public taste which had degraded dramatic art and swamped the stage with vulgarity and meretricious triviality? There had been such periods, notably that of the Restoration. The taste for higher forms of dramatic art was not likely to be the taste of the average man. What galled the actor manager of the present time was that the public support of works of little merit that were downright rubbish. The more public taste could be educated by such an institution as a national theater the better it would be for the actor manager.

Thus he believed that members of his own profession had no need to fear the project.

A special meeting of the trustees of Shakespeare's birthplace was held at Stratford-on-Avon lately. Sidney Lee presided, and there was a large attendance of trustees, among those present being Lord Hertford, Lord Redesdale, Lionel Cust and Archibald D. Flower.

The executive committee reported their proceedings as to the reorganization of the official staff at the birthplace and as to the need of improving the arrangements of the museums at Shakespeare's house and New place. The committee said it was especially anxious to carry out the trustee's recommendations in articles of remote Shakespearean interest or of small value should be withdrawn from exhibition at the birthplace; that the fit and pertinent objects should be methodically grouped together; that organized efforts should be instituted to fill wherever practicable, gaps in the collection, notably among the books, prints, coins, weapons, domestic implements and other objects of Shakespeare's era which may be held graphically to illustrate his life, times of work; and that the New place museum should be reconstituted on a well considered plan, whereby its aims may be clearly distinguished from those of the birthplace museum.

GIRL REFUSES TO TELL AGE

Losses \$90 Month Job Rather Than Tell How Old She Is—Claims Personal Rights.

Kansas City.—Just because she would not tell her age to the civil service commission, Miss Vinnie Dode-worth, a stenographer, who has been employed at the city hall for a number of years, was disqualified by the commission from taking the competitive examination for stenographers. The rule of the commission makes it obligatory upon applicants to give their ages, but this particular woman felt that that was an attack upon her constitutional and personal rights. So she let a \$90 a month job go by default to a woman who does not care who knows her age.

Preacher in Plaster Cast.

New York.—For several days the Rev. Dr. Albert G. Bunn, rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal church, Brooklyn, has been corseted in plaster, but his congregation learned the fact only from chance remarks he made after the morning service.

With two ribs broken he had kept his injuries secret, so that his flock would not feel any anxiety. The wearing of the plaster casing enabled him to continue his church work, and he was careful not to give outward signs of his pain.

What About It?

Chicago.—A chicken having human features and the cry of a baby had attracted crowds of curious persons to the meat shop of A. Elkins.

PAGAT-PAT A NEW HARDWOOD

It Will Be Used for Mausoleum of Dead Chinese Emperor—As Heavy as Iron.

San Antonio, Tex.—A new hardwood, very heavy and heretofore unknown in this country and the Orient, was placed on exhibition at the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress, which recently met in annual convention here.

This wood had its first demonstration at Peking, China. The Chinese government wanted a durable hardwood of great weight, a wood that would take a high polish, for the building of the mausoleum for the dead emperor, Kwang Sa.

Wood experts received samples of mahogany, ebony and various other woods from different countries, and among the samples was some heavy pagat-pat, the name of the new wood. The latter was selected, and in September of this year 50,000 tons were shipped from the great forests in the Philippines islands to China to be used in building the emperor's tomb. The trees for the mausoleum pillars are 45 inches in diameter and 60 feet high. The pillars weigh seven tons each. The structure, completed, will cost about \$2,000,000.

The wood is nearly as heavy as iron and will sustain a fine polish. The fact that it will be used almost entirely in the construction of the tomb indicates the precious quality of the wood. The dowager empress is so interested in the discovery that she has made known her desire that her own mausoleum be constructed of the same wood. John S. Ford, president of the Spanish-Philippine bank at Manila, will bring samples of the wood to San Antonio. Advice from Manila state that the pagat-pat has already proved so valuable as a building material that it is probably destined to be a great American export commodity.

X-RAYS CURE FOR DEAFNESS

Discovery Made by Chance by London Specialist—Break Down the False Tissues.

New York.—Mere chance has led to the discovery that certain forms of deafness can be cured by the marvelous power of the X-rays. A fashionable specialist of Harley street, the mecca of English physicians, who treats poor people for small fees on certain days, was visited not long ago by a patient who was suffering from facial neuritis and a bad ulcer on the tongue.

These the doctor treated with the X-rays and the man rapidly improved. Recently he began to complain that he could not sleep. He lived in a very noisy neighborhood, but as he had been deaf for the last 26 years as the result of a fall the street noises never bothered him. Now, after a month or so of the X-ray treatment he found that the noise of the street traffic woke him up.

The specialist investigated the case and found that these could be no doubt that the X-rays had cured this man's deafness. He followed it up by an equally successful cure of a working girl who had become deaf after years of fever and of another young woman made deaf by the explosion of a gas stove.

In non-scientific language the X-rays seem to act on the artificial tissues that are growing abnormally in the ear cases the deafness. The X-rays break these down and at the end of time stimulate the minute ends of the tiny nerves, make them grow out again, and so they return to the parts of the ear which convey the sound vibrations to the brain.

GET A PHOTO OF YOUR VOICE

French Physicist Says His Invention Will Make the Seemingly Miracle Possible.

Paris.—Voice photography is the invention of a French physicist, Dr. Marage. He says it will be of great value to orators, actors, and singers, and indirectly to musical critics.

The sounds strike a small disk of India rubber, the vibrations of which are minutely and exactly reproduced in a small mirror.

A ray of light is thrown on the mirror, which reflects the vibrations at various angles on a sensitive film which is unwound by clock work and receives the impressions. These reflections make the picture.

According to the inventor the device will indicate if a singer's voice is true, if his tempo is correct, and if his method of breathing is right.

A true note is shown by a series of parallel equal bands, while a wrong note produces a rough, irregular impression. It is suggested that pocket voice cameras would be great for the use of persons of a critical turn of mind who are fond of going to the opera.

Solomon's Wisdom Failed.

Lancaster, Pa.—Alderman Stautzer had a knotty problem to decide in a goose case before him. Stephen Markert gave Philip Mohr three geese and there was to be a division of the young geese hatched.

Markert did not get what he believed to be his share and he sued Mohr. The latter put in a counter claim for feed for the geese for three days.

MINUET COMES BACK

Queen Mary of England Would Revive Slow Tempo.

New York Is Already Making Plans for Its Adoption and in London Debutantes Are Hard at Work Learning Steps.

New York.—"Slow" dances are coming in again. Queen Mary of England has brought about the new fashion, and already New York is making plans for its adoption. In London the debutantes are hard at work learning the new steps. Some of these steps are rather complicated, for they go back to the days of the minuet and other charming old world dances. It is almost a revolution.

The new dances are one of the first things in which the influence of the young English queen is being felt. Mary of England is an admirer of anything that is beautiful and graceful. She dislikes anything that is the slightest approach to roughness. The courtly manners and charming postures and movements of former days always have been highly regarded by her. Thus the new dances have her great approbation. Meantime the fashionable and gay Londoners are mourning a little. At any rate, they are obedient, since the merest suggestion of "England's first lady" is a command. But the lighter dances of the last few years have been very popular. The "kitchen lancers," for example, has proved unfeeling fun. The debutantes and the young fellows of high society in London are a trifle dubious as to whether they are going to have such good times now that "slow" dancing has become an established thing.

"The tendency is so far away as possible from the rapid and gay dancing of the past," said a widely-known dancing master in New York. "The English fashion will be adopted. In our dancing we follow England very closely. Before the winter is over, so far as we can see it, many of the minuet steps will be in. How popular they will prove, I can't say. They are not being taken up any too cheerfully in London, from what we hear."

"Yes, slow dances and old world dances are being revived again," said Oscar Duryea. "We are getting away from the 'chicken hop' and the 'bear hug' as much as possible and making the tempo slower. The idea now is to bring back many of the old dances and old steps from as far back as 20 years ago, in some cases even longer ago than that. These dances have come back under new names and somewhat modified. Today the most popular dance is the 'long Boston waltz.' What will lead in popular opinion six months from now it is difficult to say, but it certainly will be some slow step suggested at least by one of the almost forgotten dances of the old world courts."

It will be interesting to note whether this revival of the spirit will have a marked influence on the costumes of men and women. The idea is too new even in London for dressmakers and tailors to prophesy. But one thing is certain, that if the "slow" dance with anything like the minuet steps becomes the thing, the short dancing frock of the debutante and all the young girls in fashionable circles must with the old-time, measured step, it will have to be replaced by gowns with trails.

While this one modification in costume is assured, others are possible. There is no question but the black coat and trousers and white waistcoat do not harmonize with the picturesque attitudes of slow and stately dancing. Knee breeches of black and black silk stockings would not be too much of an evolution for men if new dancing modeled on that of another era became the vogue.

MONEY IS NOT OUR ONLY GOD

German Pastor in New Book Says That Americans Care More for Religion Than for Wealth.

Berlin.—Pastor Bluth's new book on America, which is just from the press and is receiving much attention from reviewers, contrasts favorably with the common run of books by foreigners on the same subject. It shows more intelligent acquaintances with American life than the majority of European writers have taken time to cultivate. Mr. Bluth learned of the things of which he writes by living for several years in America.

"The notion that the American is a cold calculator, with no sentiment higher than lust for money, is utterly baseless," he writes. "At bottom the real Yankee is not a materialist, but an idealist with religious and even ecclesiastical tendencies much stronger than appear on the surface. Complete separation of church and state in America and the establishment of communal relations have not sprung from indifference toward the church, but from respect for it as the center of religious and social life."

"In another part of the book he says: 'One may get on in America by a choice of several ways. Advertising in the newspapers is one method, joining a club is another, or one may become a Free Mason. But the surest way is through the church, without which a young doctor or solicitor can hardly hope for prominence.'

The book indulges in no flattery, is kindly critical throughout and appears to have been written with intent to be fair.