Collier's, The National Weekly, for January 15, 1927



It Starts in the Home

FIFTY-SIX college men went to the United States Penitentiary at Atlanta last year.

Education did not keep them out of prison.

Chancellor Brown, who presides over New York University's 20,000 students, says that among college men lack of character and not lack of technique is the chief cause of failure.

Think over your own acquaintances. Has not character been the most important element in any career you count successful?

Character is not taught in the schools or elsewhere. Voltaire, remembering his Greek, remarked that character "is what nature has graven in us."

The old Frenchman thought that character, like the shape of the face, is acquired at birth, and nothing much can be done about it. Strong arguments support that opinion. For example, we read in the morning paper that in the same congested quarter two boys grew up together, one to be a policeman and the other a murderer.

Nature wrote something in one lad which made him a protector of society and the other became a destroyer. Why?

We can't change the qualities nature bestows upon us but we can choose our own behavior and that, too, is character.

What nature writes upon you depends upon you as much as upon nature.

If you work, one impression will be made. If you are taught to idle, you will become a different kind of person.

European noblemen have been taught that work is beneath their dignity. Yet they still want to live and live on an expensive scale. Consequently, they seek to marry rich American girls. So the "noble" tradition produces one

A Stagecoach Congress

THE Congress now sitting on the first page of the newspapers and down at Washington is a dead one.

You voted for these men in 1924 and earlier.

The men you elected last November won't assemble—unless called in Special Session —until next December.

Thirteen months elapse between election and the first regular session of Congress. Legislative inertia and nothing else con-

tinues this absurd system. March 4th was set as the beginning of the terms of congressmen before railroads or steamships were invented. Months were consumed in traveling distances which now can be traversed in twenty-four hours.

It is preposterous to continue in the twentieth century a legislative method based on the transportation system of the eighteenth century.

Congress ought to take office as soon as is practicable after election. Certainly, legislation by a dead Congress cannot be justified while a newly elected body is cooling its heels at the doors of the Capitol.

At previous sessions efforts have been

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made to initiate the changes in the Constitution and statutes essential to the elimination of the long lag between the election of Congress and its first meeting.

The Sixty-ninth Congress has a great opportunity to render its last session memorable by helping to modernize our legislative machinery.

kind of character. It is not a pleasant type, as Americans who are trained to work see things.

Take a newborn baby and within sharp limits almost any kind of character may be formed.

You can't change disposition or temperament, but the atmosphere in which a child is reared determines the ideas which will govern him. A child's mind is a clean tablet on which environment etches character.

If you want a child to lie, give him an example of mendacity. He may not like what he sees but the chances are he will learn unconsciously. The sons of drunkards are often teetotalers. They too are influenced by what they see.

Fundamental moral ideas are usually acquired early. Many a child of seven has developed traits, good as well as evil, which the longest life will not eradicate. Psychologists now trace the beginnings of crime far back toward infancy. The foundations of a good life are laid during the same early years.

Responsibility for character training cannot be delegated to the colleges or to the schools either for that matter. Character comes out of the home.

What you are will powerfully influence your children. They will imitate your virtues and they won't overlook your vices. But happily they are not tied to you. For regardless of home and all of the other forces of environment, each of us finally makes his and her own decision. Past experience may render one choice easier than the other, but in the end we are still free.

Some, like Leopold and Loeb, despite college training, land in prison. Lincolns and Edisons, denied every special privilege, reach the highest eminence. Character, not education, determines the destination.

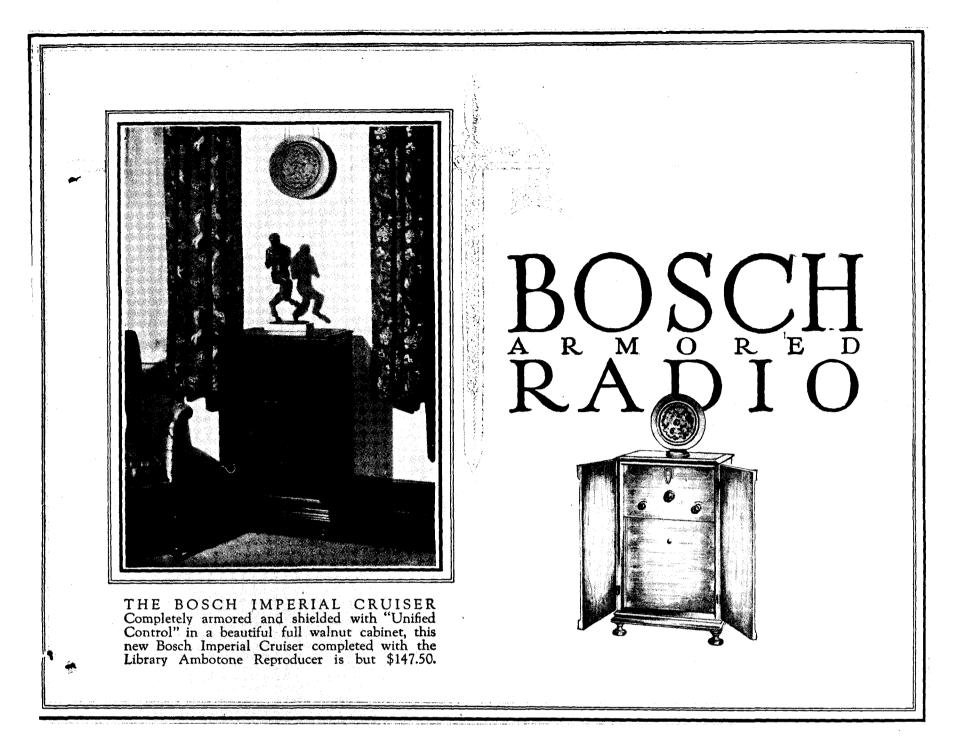
Senator Robinson Protests

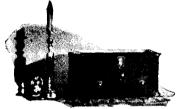
IN a recent editorial dealing with the new Congress, Collier's said: "Indiana still has the honor of being represented by a Klansman and 'Jim' Watson in the Senate." Senator Arthur R. Robinson writes as follows:

"I am not, nor have I at any time be a member of the Ku Klux Klan, or any similar organization. An affidavit to that effect was made by me and placed in the record of the Senate Investigating Committee when Senator Reed of Missouri was taking evidence on the Indiana situation." few weeks ago."

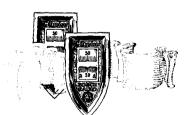
The editorial statement was based on the facts that Senator Robinson was first appointed by Governor Jackson, who made his campaign for office in the automobile owned by the head of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana; that Senator Robinson acted as attorney for the Klan leader and that he has been the conspicuous beneficiary of the Klan-supported officials in Indiana politics.

The membership of the Ku Klux Klan is secret, but Senator Robinson is the best witness as to whether or not he is a member. Collier's is glad to publish his statement.





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