

troops shall occupy the entire Ruhr coal region. This region is the stronghold of German production. When France first stood at the Marne, she saved herself, but also, though our people did not understand it very clearly, she served the rest of the world. Again she is saving herself, but she is serving the rest of the world as well, as she stands at the borders of the Ruhr.

THE CONTEST LETTERS

WE have read many wise editorials upon the effect of the war upon morals and manners. There have not been wanting Jeremiahs who have seen as an effect of the war the total destruction of idealism, and there have been prophets of a more sanguine temperament who have proclaimed that the war has made for the spiritual regeneration of mankind.

We have read these opinions and pondered upon them, without any very great temptation to be pontifical upon the subject ourselves.

Within the last few weeks we have had a chance to study an extraordinary amount of first-hand evidence as to the effect of the war, for in The Outlook's War Prize Contest more than half a thousand readers have made The Outlook their confessor for the revelation of their intimate personal reactions to the great conflict. To judge by these letters, many of which we shall, in this and subsequent issues, share with our readers, it seems obvious that each man and woman took out of the war what he or she put into it. Those who gave themselves whole-heartedly, whether in Red Cross work at home or in bitter combat in France, received in return a broader understanding of human nature, a greater depth of character, and that strength to face danger and disaster which is much more than callousness or indifference.

ACCURACY

FEW greater compliments come to an editor's desk than those which call him to account for some inaccuracy. When an ecclesiastic makes a mistake, he can usually escape censure by pointing out that that mistake occurred in a field in which he is not regarded as infallible. When a physician makes a mistake, it is not counted seriously against him unless there can be traced to it consequences of physical pain or death. When a lawyer makes a mistake, it may even be accounted to him for righteousness on appeal, and, if not, it is forgotten provided he wins his case. But an editor is not let off so

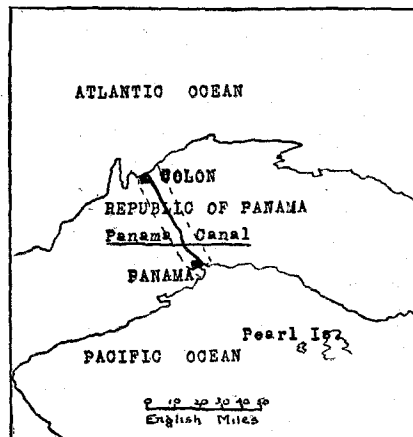
easily. He is expected to know everything, observe everything, foresee everything, in all fields of knowledge. And he not only must not make any mistakes himself but he must not allow anybody else whose writings he permits to appear in print to deviate from the straight line of perfect accuracy. The evidence of this accumulates from day to day in the letters which are laid upon the editorial desk.

We therefore say that letters of protest against inaccuracies are among the greatest compliments that an editor receives. They indicate the high standards to which he is held and they prove that readers expect of editors more than they expect of any other men.

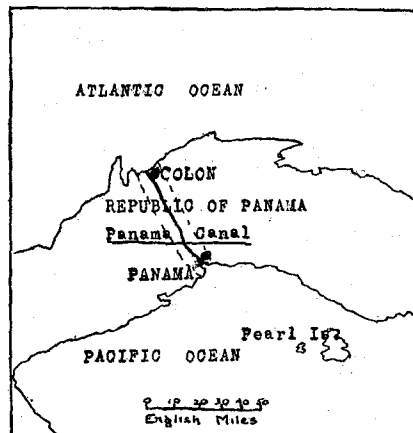
For example, we have received a letter from A. I. Loop, of North East, Pennsylvania:

Referring to lower corner page 685: If this sketch is correct, Colon, and Panama City have been moved across the Canal since 1915.

We refer to the sketch in question. It is as follows:



We acknowledge the inaccuracy. It ought to have been as follows:



It is evident that the author's typewriter when it made the periods which indicate the location of these two cities on his sketch map failed to skip a space.

We have also been called to account by Mr. Glen Buck, of Chicago. He notices with exasperation that Miss Edith Lacy, in her account of a visit to John Bur-

roughs seven years ago, reported a late neighbor of his as calling Mr. Burroughs "Johnny;" said that she went across a swamp from stump to stump and from the last stump regarded the back of Woodchuck Lodge; and described the lodge as a low cabin of slender boles (though she did, we note, add "one could not say 'logs' to them"). Mr. Buck says that no one who ever knew "Oom John," particularly the people of Roxbury, could have called him "Johnny;" that, as Woodchuck Lodge stands against the side of the mountain facing the village, no one could approach it from the rear; and that, as Woodchuck Lodge is an old farmhouse substantially clapboarded, it is not built of logs or boles; and he says that these "glaring inaccuracies" are an indication of the "new slipshod tendency in magazine editing generally." We referred the matter to Miss Lacy herself. We hope we will not be accused of attempting to "pass the Buck;" because we think it only Miss Lacy's due. In reply we have received this very nice letter:

Thank you for your letter of April 21. I have delayed answering in the hope of seeing a picture of Woodchuck Lodge, but so far have not been able to find one. My landlady in Roxbury spoke of and to John Burroughs as "Johnny"—quite naturally, I thought, since she told me they were school-fellows. As to the approach to Woodchuck Lodge, I but recorded the way I took to it—over a swamp and fields in the rear to the highroad. My impressions of Woodchuck Lodge are of a low, rough, cabin-like building, very rustic, and with slender boles in its makeup. But, as I only saw it once, nearly seven years ago, and for a few moments, and as my interest during that brief visit was centered, of course, on John Burroughs's personality, it may well be that surrounding details were not photographically impressed on my memory.

The real regret is that the slight sketch, meant only to portray a delightful glimpse of John Burroughs, should so unhappily have stirred any of his friends to protest over a detail that, to them, would appear real carelessness. That I would not knowingly have done.

To Mr. Loop and to Mr. Buck we wish to extend our acknowledgment and thanks. We have not only derived profit from the corrections, but a sense of gratification that we were supposed to know so much and observe so meticulously.

THE PROFESSION OF HOME-BUILDING

FIVE years ago, in a visit to Worcester, Massachusetts, I learned that in the Girls' Trade School of that city a new department had been opened in which girls were to be taught the

Trade of Home-making. Something similar, established before this or since, exists in the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Wisconsin, and State-aided vocational schools or classes for girls now exist in nearly every State in the Union, giving instruction in subjects relating to the care of the home. The National Society for Vocational Education has done much to promote this movement. To that Society, and especially to a memorandum sent to me at my request by Mrs. W. A. O'Leary, of the Department of Public Instruction at Trenton, New Jersey, my readers are indebted for the information in this article.

The movement for this development of training for the profession of home-making is still in its infancy; but the infant, though small, is healthy and is increasing in strength and in public favor. Interest among educational leaders is becoming an enthusiasm. Money is provided by both State and Federal Governments, in sums that are as yet pitifully inadequate, but serve as a basis for beginning and an inspiration to hope.

But it is always difficult to break into an established routine, and our public school work is naturally, perhaps necessarily, an established routine. It is always difficult to create an interest in a new phase of human development, and home-building is a radically new development in education. Where there's a will, there's a way; but to create a will where no will exists is always difficult. Educational reformers find it easier to get the money, the enactment of necessary legislation, and the support of the people collectively than it is to get the girls. The obstacles Mrs. O'Leary thus admirably summarizes:

The Teacher. The regular grade teacher does not, as a rule, attempt to guide her girls to home economics classes. The measure of her success as a teacher is commonly evaluated by the number of pupils she heads toward college by way of preparatory courses in the high school. Too often she regards this as a girl's intellectual salvation; anything less is a fall from grace and not to be countenanced.

The Girl's Mother. However much the girl's mother may have been handicapped by ignorance of household matters, she gives only passive support to any plan which provides this training for her daughter. Present the subject of home economics instruction to a women's club and you will get an enthusiastic response, but press the matter individually to the same women and you will find that each one believes it is highly desirable for some one else's daughter. She has very urgent reasons why her own cannot take this instruction.

The Girl's Attitude. Household work of all kinds appeals to the average girl's drudgery of the crudest and most unattractive sort. She wants no part in it. In gain, she knows that skill in domestic

pursuits is absolutely no asset in securing the masculine attention which she craves. As proof of this lack of interest on the part of the average man it may be stated that it is difficult to find any number of husbands who made a definite inquiry as to their fiancées' ability to cook or who even suggested that marriage be postponed while their prospective housekeepers secured some training for their job.

The Public. In addition to the lack of interest on the part of these three parties there is no well-defined public sentiment requiring that a girl be trained for her share in the domestic partnership. While a man who is not trained to support his household is looked at askance, the girl hopes to "hire some one to do her work." This lack of definite demand for instruction on the part of those most concerned is the chief obstacle in the way of home economics instruction.

Housekeeping may be regarded as a trade for which pupils can be prepared by vocational training. But home-making is more than housekeeping. The school can give courses in household arts, home economics, domestic science—that is, in the scientific knowledge of materials and their wise use in providing the physical basis of life. They can do something in child psychology and in sociology to equip for the care of children and servants. But these are not enough to make a home. Can the school give love for husband, children, home, without which the home-maker is poorly equipped for her profession? To do this without the co-operation of the homes from which the pupils come is difficult; to do this despite the passive resistance of the homes is almost impossible. In the vocational school the girls may receive training, but it is in the present homes that the builders of our future homes must receive their inspiration. A fundamental change in the popular conception of home-making as a profession is essential, and this demands the co-operation of the school and the home and aid from the pulpit and the press.

For women have lacked respect for their job. Regarding household work of all kinds as of the crudest and most unattractive sort is not confined to school-girls. This distaste, perhaps contempt, for household industry they learn from their mothers. They do not know—how should they?—that all professions involve drudgery; the artisan drudges at his bench, the lawyer in his office, the author at his desk, the minister in his pastorate. The joy of work is in the achievement, not in the achieving; whatever joy there is in the achieving is chiefly in anticipating the achievement. From the groom who spends half an hour in rubbing down his horse and delights in the sleek coat when the job is done, or the gardener who while he is putting the apparently lifeless seed into the brown earth foresees the future

flower, to the surgeon who calls his operation a "beautiful operation" because it has accomplished his purpose, and to the minister who harasses his brain in the endeavor to so shape his sermon that he shall "get across" to his congregation, the joy of work is in the anticipated accomplishment, and success always comes at the end as a rest, if not as a relief.

And what achievement is comparable with that of the successful home-builder? For she is a builder of men. Surely it is a greater achievement to make a man than to make a statue of a man; to make a Phillips Brooks than to make the sermon which Phillips Brooks preaches. A country is not rich because it has coal and iron mines and fertile prairies. Honest, industrious, unselfish men make it rich. And to make these men is a more difficult task than to make the tools they use or the laws they enact. A country of many happy homes is a far better country than one of many hovels and a few palaces; a country of many loving and devout homes is better than one of a few great cathedrals.

Are not boys also to be trained to be home-builders? Are they not to share in the responsibilities of the profession and in its great rewards? Surely. From the notion current in Jane Austen's time that home-making was the only profession open to girls we have reacted to the folly that it is no profession at all, and we imagine that by living in hotels and boarding-houses and hiring some one else to do our work for us we can be rid of the cares of housekeeping and retain the joys of home-building.

Home-building is impossible without a partnership; and the partnership is impossible without sharing in the responsibilities and cares as well as in the joys of the home. Boys and girls should be taught by their fathers and mothers concerning the mysteries of birth and life and death and prepared by example, as well as by teaching, to do their share in the greatest work God has given men to do. Marriage should be something more than a ceremonial entrance into a long honeymoon of mutual pleasure. It should be a partnership of love for love's creative work. And love, which does not inspire to service, which shuns self-sacrifice, and finds no reward in the welfare and happiness of others is not love but selfishness, and too often only sensual self-indulgence.

The home is the foundation of all social order, the brooding-place for industry, patriotism, and religion; and the school, the church, and the home should unite in inspiring our boys and girls to see in the profession of home-building its God-given glory.

LYMAN ABBOTT.