

GIVE THE BOY HIS HEAD, WIXOM TELLS PARENTS

Develop the Particular Interest He Has and Lead Him to Something Better, Says High School Principal.

Speaking before a large congregation last evening in the Central Presbyterian Church for regular mid-week prayer meeting, Prof. Elbert C. Wixom, principal of the Auburn High School, dealt in detail with the boy problem as confronting the schools and the parents and strongly urged a more closely knit union between the father and the son. It was announced that Principal Wixom would speak on the school and the parent, but when he took the platform he told his hearers he would take for his subject, the Boy and the Father as it presented a broader field and the discussion of which was most timely and needed.

In his talk he said: "We have the boys at the most trying time of their lives, the adolescent period—a period when there is a tendency to lose interest in things with which the school deals, when there is a sense of escape from conditions that have previously held and a marked disinclination to make other connections. Too often the parent and the teacher do not make a sufficient allowance for this great change and the boy is characterized as lazy or indifferent when the fact is that physical growth saps most of his energy so that there is but little left for mental development."

Boys and Girls Compared.
"What are we going to do with our boys? It is about our boys that I particularly wish to speak as I consider them much the broader problem. The girls, whether by tradition, inheritance or instinct, are much more easily led, directed and civilized. Compared with a little boy, a little girl is a wax statue in the midst of a riot or an evening hymn in a Kansas cyclone. The little girl is adorable because of the things she doesn't do but which she would have done had she been a boy."

"The girls raise large families of dolls and are generally useful to make little boys ashamed because of their clean faces and hands and good manners. Little girls are usually afraid of boys but they grow out of this later on in life. They do not black each other's eyes or spend three and one-half hours in bringing home a loaf of bread for breakfast, or raise rattle snakes in the cellar or pigeons in the attic or go to dinner with yesterday's dirt on their faces, or peel willow twigs with a razor or make holes in the garden or the roller skates to the dog's feet. This is the description we get of girls from George Fitch's best pocket essay on Girls. Although this essay is on little girls it is really on boys and represents them as they instinctively are. The traits so cleverly described are matters of real interest to the boys and lead to the larger life when directed into more civilized channels. "I think that I am not going too far in the presence of the mothers here to say that boys are naturally barbarians and that many of them are actually exhibiting characteristics that are considered barbaric traits. They are naturally easy going, restless and have the hunting, fishing and tramping instincts strongly developed at or during the period of adolescence while in our civilized life these qualities give a great deal of anxiety to parents. Yet if they are properly directed and developed they really lead to splendid results. This is the reason for such organizations as the Boy Scouts, Knights of King Arthur and boys' activities in the Y. M. C. A. and the churches."

Emphasis on Athletics.
"In these organizations much emphasis is placed upon athletics for at least two reasons, the valuable physical development and the great moral influence arising therefrom. It may be argued that the physical development is for the few but permit me to remind you that the present tendency is to have a large number of groups engaging in a given sport. A recent report from Cornell shows that about 35 per cent. of the men students were engaged in the various sports last year. At present we have seven basketball teams at the High School and more will be organized."

TEALL AND WETHEBY TO SPEAK TOGETHER

J. Robert Teall, manager of the Cayuga County Farm Bureau, and Edmund C. Wetherby, recently appointed successor to Manager Teall, who resigned to take up his duties February 1 at the Onondaga County Farm Bureau, will be the principal speakers at the banquet to be held this evening at Sterling by members of the Sterling Valley Branch of the Cayuga County Dairymen's Association. The banquet will be held in the parlors of Sterling Presbyterian Church and will be presided over by President J. W. McIntyre.

If there is a demand for them. Each of these teams is voluntarily directed by a member of the squad from which the school team is chosen.

But to return to the boy. I believe that we should always take him from the position in which he is and lead him on to something better. That is to develop the particular interest he has and therefore when he has a desire to collect bugs or postage stamps or butterflies or to make things, he should be encouraged even when it is expensive or upsets the household, as it invariably does, and that the father should be the guide and counsellor.

"Thus we may take advantage of the availing life of the boy, when it comes, for I believe that boys are born again in their intellectual life just as they are in their moral and spiritual life. Sometimes it comes quickly and sometimes slowly but it always comes. In these matters the responsibility lies more with the family than with the school because in the last analysis the authority is vested in the family. I think it is not too much to say that in this period of a boy's development, the most important thing he has is his father and fathers should spend more time with their boys than they do."

Some Personal Experiences.
"If it is permitted I will relate some personal experiences to illustrate this point. Five years ago I was interested in the solution of an interesting but most perplexing boy problem. The boy in question is the only son of well to do parents. The general atmosphere of the home is good but not of a literary or highly refined character. The boy himself is a likeable chap, fond of music and amusement but knowing little of hard work or concentration. He came into the High School in a somewhat rebellious frame of mind because he wanted to go to a wealthy private school but his father very wisely thought it best for him to be at home. It is probably true that the boy decided to do as little work in school as possible, hoping that through failure he would be sent to this private school. Ekeret Academy."

"Soon the young man became a disciplinary problem. We brought him into conference with his particular group of teachers and finally all of them. We had frequent interviews with his father and all of us tried all of the devices and expedients at our disposal to interest the youth in his proper work. This boy was at war with all the grown up world around him and his home conditions were not unlike that of an armed camp with a flag of truce flying most of the time, but mind you with most of the advantage on the boy's side."

"At about this time, I stated one day in a meeting of the Mothers' Association that as far as possible I would give favorable consideration to a father's request to take his boy out of school for a day or two to accompany him on a fishing or hunting trip. In a very short time after the meeting I was asked by the boy's father if I would excuse the young man from school on a given Friday in order that he might spend the week and Monday on a fishing trip. I gladly assented for I felt sure that this was the beginning of better days for both the boy and the trials it is unnecessary to relate the trials and struggles, the successes and failures that followed. But always there was manifested an improvement in the boy's attitude toward his work, his school and his father. He became one of the responsible leaders of the school and finally as he still wished to go to Exeter, we advised the father to permit the arrangement."

These Times Troublesome.
"For conscientious parents these times are more troublesome than common. Only a few years ago, their duty was carefully prescribed and hardly anybody questioned the prescription. They must educate their children which mostly meant sending them to Sunday School and the public Schools until the Grammar grades were passed. Then if the parents' means would possibly permit, the children were to be fitted for college by four years in the public High School and after four years more in college, they would be perfectly equipped to deal with the world."

"Nowadays, however, the old machinery for education is attacked on every hand. So far as my acquaintance with men and books goes those who know most about it question it most sharply. We are busily tearing up the old prescription and we have not settled definitely on any new one. In these unstable conditions, it almost looks as though parents themselves would have to take some hand in the education of their own children. Perhaps it will never come to quite so desperate a pass as that but, at least every intelligent parent is now painfully aware that his responsibility does not end with handing his child over to a set of accepted educational institutions because there is no set of universally accepted institutions; they are all under fire. In this dilemma, it seems to me a male parent's first obligation is the novel one of getting acquainted with his boys. "Many things which in your child-

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BIGGEST CROWD OF THE SEASON SAW THE GAME

Canoeists, With Glen Coxe and Bobby Davis on the Side Lines, Easily Defeated Pennsylvania Team.

Crippled as they were with Coxe and Davis out of the lineup, the Oswego Canoe Club has easily defeated the Company A. quint of the Catholic Total Abstinence Regiment of Wilkes Barre on the armory court last night by the score of 31 to 14. After the first few minutes of play the Canoe Club boys were never in danger and gradually drew away from the Pennsylvanians. The locals even outclassed the invaders when they used their own style, part professional, rules in the second half.

The Canoe Club boys went into the game knowing that they were handicapped. Harrup was at centre in place of the old reliable Coxe, who watched his first game as a member of a team from the side lines since he started. It seemed very funny even to the spectators to find that the paddlers were without the services of their star tip-off man. But he was afflicted with boils and so it was thought best to let him rest. Davis is resting his knee but was ready to play last night as was Coxe.

But the Canoeists never found a time when they needed either of their crippled teammates. It was nip and tuck for the first few minutes, each team scoring from a free throw, but soon after the Canoeists got their scoring machine in action and there was nothing to it for the remainder of the half. The visitors, who play professional rules as that is the style of play in Pennsylvania, were handicapped by playing with the intercollegiate rules. Their chief offense was against the dribbling rule; they repeatedly tried to dribble more than three times which is not allowable and would pick it up with both hands, only to have a foul called.

Ogden Waived a Foul.
Captain Ogden, however, was good sport enough to play the second half allowing the Pennsylvanians their style of dribble. This leveled up the contest, but gave the Catholics no advantage as the paddlers scored three times as many field baskets. Coxe and Davis were missed in shooting baskets as both are accurate.

Last night's crowd was the largest which has attended a basketball game in this city for several years. Over 700

people were seated on the bleachers and on the reserved section. The large turnout is a good omen for the revival of basketball in this city, and it is hoped that the people will continue to support the games, so that some of the big attractions may be brought here. Manager Bryson should be congratulated for the way in which he arranged the seating of the crowd. With the increased enthusiasm at the High School basketball should now become one of the leading sports of the city.

Had Fine Defense.

Pud Williamson showed up very good in his return to the lineup last night, keeping his man from making any shots, and caging two himself. He had all the dash necessary and playing his old game of a running guard while Aubin played a defense which was well nigh impenetrable. Dutch Williamson played a strong game on the attack, netting the ball six times for field baskets.

Hughes and Burke played the best game for the visitors. But as a whole the team weakened itself by trying too many long shots in the first half and not passing the ball more.

The Third Infantry Band gave a concert prior to the game and between the halves which was enjoyed very much by the fans.

Next Thursday night the Defender A. C. of Syracuse will oppose the Canoe Club on the armory court.
The lineup and summary:
Canoe Club (31) Co. A. (14)
Right Forward..... Hughes
H. Williamson..... Left Forward
Ogden (Capt.)..... Jennings
Centre.....
Harrup..... Right Guard
Bronches
Aubin..... Left Guard
Kelly
P. Williamson..... Burke
Summary—Referee, Ludington, Skanzel; timekeepers, Brad Smith, Anburn, Duddy of Wilkes Barre; scorer, Smith, Auburn; baskets from field, Canoe Club, Ogden 4, H. Williamson 6, P. Williamson 2; Company A., Hughes 3, Jennings 3; goals from foul, Ogden 7, and Hughes 6.

BY ALL MEANS SECURE A COLLEGE EDUCATION

Is the Advice of Teall to Boys of High Y. Club—One of His Own Experiences in Making the Cornell Crew.

"The first essential of success in life now is education. Whatever you choose as a life work, be it farmer, lawyer, or teacher, get through college."

This advice was the main point in the very interesting talk given by J. Robert Teall, the retiring head of the local Farm Bureau, at the regular weekly meeting of the High Y. Club of the Y. M. C. A. last night. Mr. Teall is the first of a series of speakers who have been secured to help the students decide on a life work. His subject for the evening was Farming.

The club met at 5:45 for the regular supper that is supplied by the ladies. Much enthusiasm was evidenced throughout the evening, with the singing of the new school song at the tables and the new cheers.

This enthusiasm is the result of the mass meeting held at the school Wednesday. After the supper was over and while the tables were being cleared the members sang some new songs from a hymn book that has been secured for the use of the Boys' Department. The songs were familiar to all who had attended any of the recent conferences of the Y. M. C. A. With the end of the song singing the president made the announcement that the club would meet at the regular time next week. The students have decided that it would not be inconvenient to come to the meeting in exam week but would let up a little on the strain.

The speaker of the evening was then introduced as a man who was not a farmer but who knew the scientific side of farm life. Mr. Teall said in part:

"I was a boy once and think that I am one yet. It was on this account that I was glad to accept the invitation to talk to you. Since I left college in 1914 I have been thrown into contact with older men and have lost the touch of young men in my life. It is a great pleasure to again get acquainted with the young men."

Selection of Profession.
"In selecting a profession, take the one that you are most interested in. Your president said that I was not a farmer but I am. I was born and brought up a farmer. I never thought of anything else but farming. I recall one of the first meetings I conducted in this county. In my talk I mentioned that I was a farmer. In fact brought up a question I most cherish. We are busily tearing up the old prescription and we have not settled definitely on any new one. In these unstable conditions, it almost looks as though parents themselves would have to take some hand in the education of their own children. Perhaps it will never come to quite so desperate a pass as that but, at least every intelligent parent is now painfully aware that his responsibility does not end with handing his child over to a set of accepted educational institutions because there is no set of universally accepted institutions; they are all under fire. In this dilemma, it seems to me a male parent's first obligation is the novel one of getting acquainted with his boys. "Many things which in your child-

at 18 or 17 has not the development that will give him the greatest good. The man who is 21 before he starts his college course will get three times as much as the one who started earlier. Another thing is that you can go to college if you want to. You can go through college without a cent. I did it and every fellow can if he will. If you have got the right stuff you will go if you have to work for a year or so, saving the money that could be spent in many other ways. You need not fear any disagreements about working your way through a college now, for they are all cosmopolitan. The things to do are keep your work up, mingle with the students, and go out for the athletics. You will find yourself making friends."

When He Entered College.

"When I entered college I did not know a soul in the whole university. I was rather lousy in many other ways. The first year I did not do a thing although I was not thrown out of the training quarters. My sophomore year I did likewise but I made friends that have been my best friends. My junior year the squad was a large one and as I was only eligible for the bow seat in the boat on account of my height and weight my fight for a place in the first eight was not of much account. The 'Old Man' told a lot of us to go out for college crew but we did not think that that was good enough for us so we did not. Well, the 'Old Man' on the squad and I was one of those cut. Three weeks later after I had been out of practice and the others had been on training table and constant practice on the lake, one of the assistant managers called me up and told me that Courtney wanted me to report for practice."

"When I arrived at the crew quarters that night he told me to take bow and row with the first eight. He took us six miles up the lake and then told us to race back. There were three crews. Here was, with three weeks of brushing training and the rest of them all in good condition and well fed on beefsteak while I had had on hash. But my chance to make good was at that time and I worked my head off. We finished second. When we came in I could hardly get out of the boat. I went on the training table. I have always wanted to know whether the 'Old Man' knew that I was in no condition to row six miles after six miles of rowing out, or whether he knew it and wanted to see if I had a yellow streak. That is what athletic men. They give the man confidence and help you to tackle the hard thing."

About Higher Education.

"Now we will assume that you have graduated from school and have left the world. Don't let the thing happen to you that happened to me. I was lecturing in a small community where there was an exhibition of potatoes. One person asked: 'Why do the lumps grow on the potatoes?' Now I had a theory about the subject and explained. I said that at some time that potato had been in a place where the earth was dry and it had stopped growing. The rain came and the growth started at different places. Most of the people accepted my explanation. One of the old men present asked if higher education created lumps

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