

## HISTORICAL TEACHING AND IMPERIALISM.

One of the subjects to be brought before the approaching Education Conference in London is the teaching of history in the schools of the Empire as a means of inculcating Imperial sentiment. The introduction of the topic is due to the munificence of an unknown benefactor, now deceased, who placed a large sum of money at the disposal of the Council of the League of the Empire to enable them to compile a graduated series of histories of the Empire which can be used in all educational institutions throughout the King's dominions from the primary school to the University. The work of preparing this very desirable course of history has been entrusted by the Council to a committee, of which Professor Bury is chairman. The sections have been placed in the hands of some of the highest authorities in the different branches of historical science, and the drawing up of the maps has been undertaken by the Oxford School of Geography. All over the world it is now recognised that the physical conditions and relations of a country have an important connection with its political history, and that history can only be taught in an intellectual way by giving due importance to geography. The outlines of this novel undertaking will be laid before the Conference, with the motives that underlie it. In the estimation of the League the study of history is capable of being made one of the strongest bonds of Empire. It is a study equally necessary for the average home-staying Briton, upon whom the chief responsibility of Empire rests, and for the colonist who has found in the uttermost part of the earth an inheritance.

The value of history as subserving a true Imperialism is manifest. The ancient Romans, who understood thoroughly the art of government, and whose greatness was as distinguished in the provinces of the Empire as in Rome itself, made it a point of statesmanship to become thoroughly acquainted with the philosophy, traditions, literature, and religion of the various races under their dominion. The Empire of Great Britain is the most diversified and complex the world has ever seen. All races, traditions, habits, and religions mingle and blend in it. If unity is to be preserved and made perfect under these conditions it must be by such accommodation and tolerance on the part of the ruling Power as can come only from an intimate knowledge of all the elements of Empire. Social customs and prejudices, cherished traditions, and, in many cases, proud memories of past greatness, must be dealt with in an intelligent and a sympathetic spirit that is quite impossible without a knowledge of history. The causes that have created and built up our Empire, and which are in a measure still in operation, are revealed only by historical study. The chief fundamental law that we discover at work in the process of Empire-building is the daring individuality and self-reliance of the British character. In the explorers, colonists, and founders of States, we are everywhere impressed with the personal element. The magnificent Dominion of Canada was founded by France, but it was the nursling of authority. The Government was all, and the individual nothing. The American colonies of England, on the contrary, had no help from the mother country—often great hindrances. The individual did everything. And what were the respective results? The records of New France shine with glorious deeds, the devotion of heroes and martyrs; but there was no initiative,

no spring of enterprise, only disorder and imbecility; while the unaided English colonies grew up to strength and splendor. At every period of our Empire we see the same truth illustrated. We do not owe our ascendancy to superiority of numbers, or arts, or arms, but to the resolute independence, fortitude, and resource of a handful of Britons capable of any desperate service that has honor in it. And the means by

which the Empire has been built up are just as necessary to its preservation.

One of the most instructive chapters in history is that which tells us how strong States have been weakened to their fall. The causes of decay have been commonly racial strife among a mixed population, unjust laws, class oppression, the luxury begotten of wealth, the prevalence of great vices, and the incapacity of rulers which invariably follows the moral debasement of a community. These are lessons which every nation should be well instructed in, and more especially in this day of the rising power of democracy. The responsibility is now being shifted from kings and legislators to the people. Spain was once a great colonial Power, and possessed an oversea dominion of extraordinary wealth. But its unexampled cruelty, sordid rapacity, and ruthless tyranny brought about its ruin. Great Britain lost its magnificent American colonies by a systematic violation of their constitutional rights. By a better policy Canada was kept when the southern colonies renounced their allegiance. The generous policy of trust and confidence which the British Government is pursuing in South Africa at the present time will doubtless bear fruit in the removal of all bitterness from the minds of the people so lately in arms against us, and in the creation of a devotion to the Empire which will stand every new strain that may be put upon it.

Register 14<sup>th</sup> May.

## MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

From "C. Barton," Port Pirie.—"I am surprised at the tone of Mr. Hopf's letter. Both Messrs. Correll and Hopf are so well known and respected that I feel sure there is not a person who doubts their honesty and bona fides. The word 'incorporated' has no value, and I doubt if its use is correct as regards London College of Music. There are, I believe, only three musical affairs incorporated under special royal charter—the Royal College of Organists, the Royal Academy of Music, and the Royal College of Music. Trinity College and Guildhall School of Music were in 1892 admitted on an equal footing to London University. London College of Music is simply under the Companies Act, registered as a trading proprietary company limited. About eight years ago a proprietary concern did business in South Australia, and I then wrote home for full particulars about all such concerns, and by the time I was fully informed they ceased business here. I sincerely hope that the University authorities and teachers will take steps under the Board of Trade regulations to see that any college of music subject to such a condition is prosecuted for every prospectus and circular it may issue without the word 'limited,' and also for fraud if it uses the names of eminent musicians as patrons, examiners, &c., without authority. The Rochdale Observer and Musical News of May 29, 1897, contains the following funny item:—'A local diploma (honours and prizeholder) announces herself as professor of the auto-harp and mandolin, and is appearing as public entertainer in the temperance cause. This damsel wears her L.C.U. Limited, cap and hood on the platform while she sings comic songs and indulges in suitable gestures!'"

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## DOGS AND HYDATIDS.

### SOME INTERESTING FACTS.

In "The Advertiser" on Monday morning a Melbourne telegram appeared, stating that a little girl had died at Ballarat East from hydatids of the heart, lung, and liver, which had been contracted through nursing a pet dog. The medical evidence was that the disease had probably been communicated by the child inhaling the breath of the dog. Professor Watson, of the Adelaide University, was asked on Tuesday whether it was possible for the disease to be contracted in that way.

"The dog has a lot to answer for," said the professor, "in connection with the disease. Perhaps the dog in this case had been licking the plate and left eggs there from its tongue, and then the child might have communicated these eggs to its mouth by means of its fingers or in some other way. It amuses me sometimes to hear people say when they see a large tapeworm which has passed from a dog that the animal must be recking with hydatids. Nothing of the sort. Why, bless me, the tape worm which is responsible for hydatids is so small that it can hardly be seen with the naked eye. The more common canine tape worms, about as long as this," continued the professor, holding his hands about a foot apart, "attract unmerited attention on account of their large size, whilst the vastly more important, but exceedingly minute tape worms (*Taenia echinococcus*) elude observation. You can say that hydatids is endemic only in sheep-raising countries, and that the dog is no more than the principal complementary factor. The several large tape worms (*Taenia cucumerina*, *Taenia marginata*, *Taenia serrata*, and *Taenia coenurus*), infesting the dog, and continually shedding egg-bearing segments so large as easily to attract attention when passed under conditions of domesticity, are nevertheless innocent as factors in the etiology of hydatid diseases in man. The *Taenia echinococcus*, so baneful in its effects on the human species, is so insignificant in point of size, that an inexperienced observer usually mistakes it for something else. Its life history conforms to Steenstrup's law of the alternation of generations, whereby two generations of individuals, possessing different forms of organisation, existing under different conditions of life, and reproducing in different ways, alternate with each other. The tiny tapeworm having utilised the dog as a primary host, is succeeded by a larval or cystic phase, that is an hydatid cyst, which fulfils its destiny in the body of another animal (which is known as the intermediate host), usually one of the domestic ungulates, but all too frequently in that of man himself.

"The size, shape, and manner of reproduction of the cyst vary according to the species of animal which serves as the intermediate host, and also with the special characters of the surrounding tissues. In the viscera of youthful manhood (and of the higher apes, as noted by Professor Allen of Melbourne) the cyst attains its maximum size, that of a large water-melon; in the sheep this is restricted to that of a peanut; in the hog, ox, or camel it may attain that of a baseball. In the horse (although habitually depasturing with sheep) I have never succeeded in finding it, as apparently the viscera of that animal do not offer sufficiently favorable conditions to enable it to proceed to the cystic phase. Rabbits, which already constitute a frightful pest in Australia and New Zealand, although serving for the production of *echinococcus* cysts in laboratory experiments, when running wild, fortunately develop in preference the bladder worms of other *taenia* than the *Taenia echinococcus*. Pastoralists, in fact, recognise the spread of bladder worms in rabbits as a means whereby their numbers are checked.