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Quarterly Magazine

OF THE

Southern Industrial Educational Association

SEPTEMBER, 1916

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Southern Industrial Educational Association (Inc.)

(NON-SECTARIAN)

Organized to Promote Industrial Education of the
Children of the Southern Mountains

Headquarters and Exchange for Mountain Crafts: Room 331,
Southern Building, Washington, D. C.

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Play a Factor in the Advancement of the Mountaineers.

"Kill yourself while you are young, when you get old you can't," the opening call to the famed Kentucky "set running" dances, expresses in a nutshell the nature and scope of play among our Southern Highlanders. The play of man, regardless of its fun or character, is an element essential to his well being and development.

A nation which allows its social pleasures to be brutal or base in their character, and *play* to be its chief occupation will soon fall. No more striking example of this fact is found than in the barbarians' gladiatorial games of Rome which led to the downfall of the great empire. In sharp contrast to this law, the country or people who neglect and exclude all wholesome forms of amusement are but laying the foundations for their own destruction and backward progress. One of the real causes of the present "behind the times" condition of our mountaineers lies in the fact that they have no play grounds and no efficient training in clean, wholesome games.

Bitter experience in our crowded cities has taught us that crime may be due to an unsuspected extent, to the absence of clean athletics—of giving to the boys a chance and place to play when that is what they need. As Jacob Riis puts it, "Boys are like steam boilers with steam always up: the steam has to have a safe outlet or it will find an unsafe one. The boy's safety valve is his play." The boys of the mountains are chiefly handicapped not by a lack of space but a dire deficiency of play grounds and the proper instructions for same. The law of the cities holds true in the hills; where there is an absence of clean, wholesome amusements there is a corresponding wave of "moonshine and pistol totin'."

Mountain workers agree almost to a unit that the solution of their problem and the hope for the future race lies in the winning of the young people to new standards and ideals. It

is quaintly put thus by Uncle William, an old mountaineer, "I see no chance to teach the old, but if the children can be taught up in a better light they can lay an example even for their parents." The pathway to the heart of a young person leads through the valley of play. Mountain children are almost destitute of any regular organized games. The boy's chief delight is in "larkin" (throwing stones at marks or at one another), in which exercise they become singularly proficient. This is play similar to the rock battles of the street Arab and bears a like fruit. The children have few toys and frisk around like young colts without any aim. The main form of amusement of the young people of the Kentucky hills is their famed "set running." This crude form of dancing is a cross between a basketball game and a lesson in jiu-jitsu and bears a striking relation to certain of our modern society dances. It affords a ready outlet for the powerful emotions of the mountaineers which at other times they studiously conceal.

The boys and girls learn quickly any games taught them and make good athletes, being liberally enhanced by nature with the necessary qualities. What they need is instruction from the "furriners" (outsiders) not only in books and how to live, but *how to play*. Listen to the heart-gripping cry of a mountain boy. "Nobody never comes in here, and nobody never goes. My paw jus' growed and never knowed nothin', and so did his paw afore him. Sometimes when I be hoein' corn on the mountainside I looks up the crick and down the crick and wonders if there aint nobody never comin' to larn me nothin'." Here you have a mental picture of thousands of boys and girls shut up in the unknown coves of our Southern Highlands.

Baseball is, as everywhere in our country, the national game of the mountaineers. A big handicap is the absence in many places of an adequate plot of ground for a diamond. The topography is so rugged that one will find his outfield

in the Rocky Mountain League while the battery will be in the Coast League. What few fields are available, are usually held by men with long heads and narrow visions, who have yet failed to realize that when they refuse to allow their ground to be used as athletic parks, they reap not only the oats which they plant therein, but at the same time are leading to the "sowing of the wild oats" by the young men which in time causes untold damage to the community. Give each county of our mountains a good baseball diamond and the problem will be largely solved.

The three great lessons of the athletic field which when once learned lead to sovereign power are the spirit of never "quitting," the spirit of team work and the spirit of fair play, all especially needful to the mountaineer of today. The greatest value of athletics lies in the fighting spirit which it develops in the participant, thus enabling him to fight the battles of life and to win in the "grand fight." The spirit of giving up and shiftlessness, or as Barrie calls it, "acute disinclination to work," so characteristic of many mountaineers is due to an absence of a "never die" backbone. There is no lack of courage or endurance; as one mountaineer phrased it, "most of the men about here didn't have more than one coat, and they never wore one in winter except on holidays. That was the healthiest way," he reasoned, "just to toughen yourself and not wear no coat." Such a native source of endurance turned into the right channels by wholesome exercise guided by competent hands would make a race of peers.

Team work, the foundation for success in any athletic contest, is utterly missing from our highland men. They are non-social, each "fighting for his own band with his back against the wall"; and all possess an intense individualism. Cut off not only from the outside world but from one another by mountains and their clannish spirit, they have no idea of unity for the good of the community.

When first you endeavor to instruct them in organized games, you will be struck by the desire of all to take a "star" part regardless of how the team fares. Teach the young people the value of team work and of sacrifice in their games and you will turn out a class of young men and women who will aid nobly in solving their own problems. This lack of "pulling together" is apparent to all mountain workers. The lesson of sacrificing individual ends for the good of the cause, learned upon the athletic field, will be of inestimable value in later life.

Sportsmanship, the goal of all play, is almost an unknown element to the mountain boy. He has never been taught the meaning of fair play and has acted on the principle of the survival of the fittest. The love of the game is a new idea for him to grasp and it is hard for him to pray the sportsman prayer,

"Not the quarry, but the chase,
Not the laurel, but the race,
Not the hazard, but the play,
Make me, Lord, enjoy alway,"

and harder still to make it his guiding rule in his sports. No Marquis of Queensbury rules govern their fistic encounters, but the old rough and tumble, knock down and drag out fight is the order of the day. If a rock is handy, it forms a very ready weapon for "bustin' the haid" of the under dog. Lest one should judge them too harshly, it is not amiss to note that well into the nineteenth century, this was the universal way of man-handling of both British and Americans, and even many of our colleges of today are not free from the taint of "inside" athletics.

Given half a chance, the highland boy will be only too glad to have as his motto, both in thought and deeds:

"Go lose or conquer as you may,
Be each, pray God, a gentleman,"

a fitting goal for all of us in the game of life.

J. L. HUGHES.

During the summer, the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. A. S. Stone, spent two months at East Gloucester, Mass., where she continued her work for the Association. She held exhibits of the various kinds of mountain industrial work and placed many of the spreads in tea houses and art shops. The spreads, of unusually excellent quality and workmanship, found a ready sale, and great enthusiasm was manifested in these survivals of by-gone days. Mrs. Stone has remitted nearly eighteen hundred dollars to the mountain workers from her summer's sales, and has proved to them that really fine workmanship is worth while. It is due to her training and encouragement that many of the mountain women have grown from somewhat careless and indifferent methods to workers of a high degree of excellence, accuracy and beauty.

Miss Clara Wilson, a trustee of this Association, spent between six and seven weeks of the past summer as a volunteer worker at Oneida Institute, Kentucky, a school known to some of our readers through Emerson Hough's article on Burns of the Mountains. While there Miss Wilson attacked an unorganized library of about 4,000 volumes, cleaning, classifying and numbering them, thus getting the library into usable shape. Not only was Miss Wilson's work in the library very greatly appreciated, but she was of much help along other lines, as her varied experience as a mountain worker has given her a broad grasp of problems peculiarly characteristic of the mountain settlement schools.

Four Weeks of Extension Work in Knott County, Kentucky.

After the closing of the country schools in January and before the spring crop planting toward the end of March, there are a few weeks when the country girl in the Kentucky hills has little or nothing to do. The roads are too bad to travel, and the mud grows worse and worse with every rainy day.

Indoors the houses are terribly crowded. The floor space left by the double beds and hickory-split chairs is occupied by children, babies, just big enough to creep, and older ones who run about, continually tumbling over the chairs and sprawling on top of the big, good-natured hunting dogs. The father and men-folk who can do little farming through the bad weather sit before the fire, and such a blazing fire, while they whittle sticks and chew tobacco. The mother is always so busy caring for the "least" baby and preparing meals that the half-grown girls have never learned the better ways.

So great was the contrast between the houses where girls had gone to the Hindman Settlement and the usual mountain homes that an Extension Course from February 14th until March 11th was offered "for ambitious country girls, who are unable to go further away to school, but who will continue through the four weeks and get all they can out of the course." The course offered instruction in cooking, sewing, weaving, home nursing and some classes in English, Geography and Agriculture, while the total charge was a fee of two dollars, to be paid either in money, produce, or work, in return for room, board, and instruction.

In response the girls came in—untidy, awkward girls from the remote back creeks. It seemed that years would be insufficient to arouse them and bring them up to the life of today.

The Settlement, always crowded to the utmost, had no rooms to offer these newcomers, but having been accustomed to limited quarters it was no hardship for them to be stowed away in double-decker beds wherever a corner stood unoccupied.

From five o'clock, when they arose to prepare their own breakfast in the domestic science kitchen, until eight, the time was well filled. After breakfast came a cooking lesson and instruction in housekeeping; then the rest of the morning learning to dye and weave under the direction of a Berea graduate.

They entertained nearly all the teachers in turn at dinner, and they had such delicious dinners, all served so daintily in the little dining room adjoining the cooking kitchen.

The father of one of the girls had wanted to give a party at his home and had thought proper refreshments to consist of candy and cake. He went to town and purchased the materials for them, but when he got home, he found that no one knew how to make either cake or candy, so the refreshments had to be omitted. One request that he made in sending his daughter in to take the Extension Course, was that she "might be learnt how to make cake and candy." His birthday came while she was here and he came in to visit her and was delighted to be treated to a surprise in the form of a birthday cake that she had made him.

The afternoon began with an hour's lecture on chicken raising and gardening. As the girls had all tried to raise flowers and vegetables at home, the talk seemed scarcely begun before it was time to leave the school house and gather up their bags for the sewing class. In spite of having made all their own clothes without patterns there was much to learn about plain sewing, but they worked so fast and so diligently that each made a sewing bag, a cooking apron, and a dress before the four weeks were over. Nancy Jane had made quilts in record time, and would have

finished her garments at one sitting if she had not been driven out to play basketball with the others. They seemed to enjoy greatly the afternoon course in home-nursing in which they learned how to take care of a sick room, also the principles of sanitation. The trained nurse explained by lectures and charts how easily contagion is carried and how to prevent it, and gave them simple rules of health.

After supper and an hour's rest, they had alternate evenings of instruction in English and composition, or a lecture on geography and illustrated travel talks. It was an even faster trip than that taken by Jules Verne, for in ten lectures they made not only a complete tour of the world, but traced the history of civilization from the Egyptians to the present day. This was no easy task, as some of the girls knew nothing about the United States, much less any other nation, and had not heard that their own country was governed by a President. One had heard of President Wilson, but only because "he was the man who married Mistress Galt."

The four weeks made a great change in the girls, they looked trim and clean, they lost their dazed expression, and were no longer painfully conspicuous among the Settlement children.

"Will all this vanish as a dream," we wondered; "will they take any of it home, or go on living in the same old way?" They seemed too young to go back, a day's horse-back ride, but years back in actual conditions, and change the standard of living, to convince their tired mothers that there was any better way to live and to try it.

It was then a happy surprise, when the Extension teacher had occasion to visit one of the girls, to find the house swept clean, the oilcloth on the table immaculate, and to taste a dinner beautifully prepared and served. The mother would take none of the credit. "Margaret done this by herself, she wouldn't let me do nary thing, and hit's a sight the way she

washes up with two pans of hot water just a rinsing and a washing up a handful of dishes!"

The four weeks' Extension Course was the beginning of all the extension work that is now being done and that will be done in Knott County this year. Miss Van Meter is having sewing clubs, home-making clubs, and clubs for garden making and vegetable canning. She rides far out into the country to teach groups of girls what the most ambitious learned in the four weeks' course at Hindman and she is met everywhere with such eagerness. More and more come as they hear of her classes and some walk ten miles for an afternoon's instruction.

She is planning to have Extension Courses this summer at the homes of the girls who took the four weeks' course, and they are to help her. They have already helped in spreading the news of her work by showing how much they learned in a few lessons, but everyone of them is anxious to do more to give every girl in Knott County a chance to learn how much she can do and the best way to do it.

D. M. G.

Miss Helen V. Rue, who for six years was connected with the Hindman Settlement School at Hindman, Ky., where she had charge of the Fireside Industries, is now located in Washington, D. C., as one of the secretaries of the Young Women's Christian Association. Miss Rue is still deeply interested in the work for the betterment of educational conditions among the mountains and will be glad to speak before church organizations or other societies wishing to hear of these matters.

Miss Dorothy Deeble, daughter of Mrs. W. Riley Deeble, of Washington, D. C., has served since summer as a volunteer worker in the school at Hindman, where her services are receiving grateful appreciation. At present she is filling Miss Rue's place as director of the Fireside Industries.

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OF THE

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEPTEMBER, 1916

All communications relating to the QUARTERLY MAGAZINE should be addressed to the Editor, Mrs. C. David White, Room 331, Southern Building, Washington, D. C.

The Field Secretary.

The Field Secretary, Miss Cora Neal, has spent two busy months in visiting mountain schools and studying general mountain conditions and needs. Not only has she seen the larger and stronger settlement and denominational schools, but she has gone up and down the lonely creeks and hidden coves visiting country school houses and the cabin homes that are remote from the traveled highways. In some places she found log school houses with rough plank benches, a hole cut in the logs for a window with no glass, with poorly prepared and listless teachers who have little enthusiasm for their work and no conception of their opportunities to awaken the minds of their eager faced pupils. Miss Neal had abundant opportunity of seeing the far-reaching influence of the finer type of settlement schools and found everywhere a longing on the part of parents for better opportunities for their children.

From her observations this summer Miss Neal feels convinced that even the little one-room school houses should have homes connected with them for two or more teachers who could give lessons in simple sewing, cooking, instruction in sanitation and simple nursing, visit the homes in the community and do general neighborhood extension work.

The Southern Industrial Educational Association and the Association for Industrial Education in the Mountains of Virginia.

There are two organizations in the city of Washington which exist for the purpose of giving educational opportunity to the white children of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. One of these organizations is the Southern Industrial Educational Association, Inc., which was founded ten years ago by Mrs. Martha S. Gielow, the main purposes of which are to provide practical industrial training for children in the mountain schools and to help in the betterment of conditions in the mountain homes by the employment of field extension workers. By means of scholarships, annual subscriptions and individual contributions much valuable work has been done.

The names of officers and trustees of this association, which includes both men and women, may be found on the second page of the QUARTERLY.

The other organization is the Association for Industrial Education in the Mountains of Virginia, founded two years ago by Mrs. Claude A. Swanson, wife of the Senator from Virginia. The work of this society, as indicated by its name, is limited to the mountains of Virginia and in general is like that of the Southern Industrial Educational Association, namely, to provide industrial training of a practical nature to both boys and girls.

The work of the association of which Mrs. Swanson is chairman is accomplished through scholarships given to the school at Dyke, Virginia, under the direction of Rev. George P. Mayo. Funds for the work have been raised by entertainments on a large scale at Rauscher's in Washington.

At the first entertainment, a card party given in the winter of 1914, the prizes consisted of baskets purchased from

the exchange for mountain industries maintained by the Southern Industrial Educational Association.

Both associations have had headquarters in Washington; and because of the similarity in name and of the former identification of prominent members of the Virginia Association with the Southern Industrial Educational Association, much confusion has existed, and patrons have sometimes failed to distinguish the Virginia Society from this Association. The two organizations are in no way affiliated but exist as two wholly separate and distinct societies. It has been deemed best to make this explanation in order to clear up a widespread misunderstanding as to the relationship of the two associations which are working along similar lines.

A Noteworthy Magazine Article.

The Scientific Monthly for August, 1916, contains an article of unusual interest by B. H. Schoekel of the Terre Haute State Normal School, entitled "Changing Conditions in the Kentucky Mountains." The writer who is a geologist and scientist has a viewpoint unlike that of most of those who have considered the mountain question, for he sees things from a different angle from that of the teacher, the minister, or the missionary worker. He writes as the economist not only of the wealth of natural resources stored away in the mountains, but of the human resources as well.

The author's introduction gives an excellent idea of the scope of his article in which he presents a view of the topography, surroundings and settlement of the plateau of eastern Kentucky and discusses the changing conditions with respect to the chief natural resources; manufacturing, transportation; the people, with reference to their numbers, distribution and condition, their institutions, and their customs and habits; the future.

Numerous illustrations by the author accompany this article.

The December Sale.

The Annual Bazaar of the Association will be held at its rooms early in December, and it is expected that the specimens of mountain craftsmanship will be the best that the workers have ever sent in. This is due to the fact that only the best work is now accepted. It has been with real pain that many articles have been sent back to the mountains because of poor and careless workmanship, but it was necessary in order to raise the standards to a higher degree of proficiency.

The baskets, of varied and interesting designs, are very greatly improved in quality, as are also the weavings, which include the beautiful blue and white coverlets, portières and the knotted or tufted cotton and linen counterpanes.

From Berea come beautiful hand-woven linen towels and table spreads in both the white and the natural flax, also the old time hand-woven dimity bed-spreads in five-square and diagonal patterns.

Mrs. Stone placed her orders early so that she has received articles of choicest workmanship, among which are some of the beautiful peacock feather fans which find so ready a sale that there are never enough to meet the demand.

It is by these sales that a market is created for the workers in the remote sections who otherwise would have no opportunity of bringing their products to the outside world.

Miss Mary Large, one of the cabin extension workers employed by the Association, is now located at Blowing Rock, North Carolina, from which as a center she will in-

investigate and direct the Fireside Industries of the mountain people. She has found women who make unusually fine knotted and knitted cotton fringes, a man who constructs excellent plain furniture from the native woods, a boy who has a gift at toy making, and basket workers of greater or less skill. In this region there have been made in the past very attractive baskets from oat straw, and Miss Large hopes to have some of the old women who still remember how to make them undertake them again.

Miss Large is showing these people that poor work is unsaleable and that only the best workmanship is accepted for exhibitions and sales. In thus standardizing their work she is doing much for the improvement and advancement of all those who are concerned in the making of the mountain products.

A Token of Appreciation.

On May 29th a silver sugar and cream set of three pieces was presented by the officers and trustees of the Southern Industrial Educational Association to Mrs. David White, in appreciation of the valuable service she has so continuously rendered to the Association since its foundation.

Mrs. White, with a broad charity, has zealously worked for its advancement. Her faithful, unselfish interest has been a stimulating example. The testimonial presented her is, therefore, not only in recognition of what she has done, but also evinces the affection and esteem of those associated with her in the work.

Chief Justice Shepard, the President of the Association, in most grateful terms expressed the gratitude felt for the valuable work, ever unselfish and ever efficient, rendered by her.

LEIGH ROBINSON.

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Several libraries have asked recently for complete files of the QUARTERLY. We are not able to comply with these requests as QUARTERLIES for March of 1909 and 1911 are exhausted. We will gladly pay ten cents a copy to any who may have these two numbers which they are willing to return to the Association.

Subscriptions are:

- \$1.00 a year for a Member.
 - 5.00 for a Sustaining Member.
 - 25.00 for a Patron.
 - \$100.00 will place a child for eight months in one of the better-equipped, remote settlement schools.
 - \$50.00 will place a child for eight months in one of the smaller schools where industrial training is given.
 - \$10.00 will give industrial training for eight months to a day pupil who does not live in the school.
 - \$600.00 will pay the salary of an industrial teacher or nurse.
- Official receipt and the QUARTERLY MAGAZINE will be sent to all subscribers.

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