Aug. 22, 1915

THE BIRMINGHAM NE

THE BIRMINGHAM SUNDAY N

STUDY OF SPANISH A FEATURE OF SCHOOL

More Than a Hundred Men and Women Now Urge Spanish as a Regular Study in the Public Schools of the City.

Note—By request Prof. E. E. Smith of Martin school wrote the following appreciation of the work accomplished by the class in the study of Spanish in the Summer school.—Editor.

BY E. E. SMITH,
Principal of Martin School.

The city of Birmingham is exceedingly fortunate in its educational system. There are new things developing every day to emphasize this. For some years the city has maintained several auxiliary school features. Perhaps the oldest and best known of these is the School Improvement Association, as it is called. The night schools have become a fixture in the educational scheme and render wide and fruitful service to a considerable population. The vacation or Summer schools have also grown both in numbers and in scope of work. This Summer the school authorities and the Chamber of Commerce combined to extend the educational field. The results of this planning can not be measured. Both the school authorities and the Chamber of Commerce are to be congratulated on this wise move.

There was in the early Summer some question as to the wise thing to do in the matter of Summer schools in Birmingham. The retrenchment policy of the city had forced the school system to a meager allowance for the most imperative needs. This continues. At the instance of Supt. J. H. Phillips, of the city school system, who is also Chairman of the Education Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, a conference was held. In spite of the cramped financial condition of the city, every member of this conference of some twenty or more men and women active in educational affairs added suggestions for a wide move in the matter of Summer schools. Enthusiasm grew as the conference proceeded. The conference ended in a kind of quiet pledge on the part of every one who participated that this Summer school should be, in so far as he could make it, the very best ever held in Birmingham. These pledges bore fruit. They will continue to bear fruit. We can not yet even conjecture what the harvest may be. Perhaps we never measure in words such things. We feel them. We know what the harvest is, and that it is great. But there is no expression to suggest what it is.

One of the interesting "community life" activities was conducted by Prof. George G. Weathersbee, Supervisor of Home and School Gardens for the City of Birmingham. Prof. Weathersbee has very quietly yet very effectively carried on a campaign for a year in the interest of home and school gardens. Every avenue of support has been rallied. Gardens are growing where none grew before. Flowers bloom where grew weeds. This Summer Mr. Weathersbee conducted a class in gardening.

The class was studying both the actual "farming" and the best ways of organizing and supervising the work. They visited gardens both public and private. They conducted experiments. They held conferences. The foundations are laid for careful supervision of the work. Many cities have already conducted supervision by experts. Birmingham is ready. Birmingham is more than ready. She has a body of men and women who will not be handicapped by reason of the financial stringency. Pay or no pay, the supervision is going on. So a force of volunteer workers has been at work all Summer. They are working in all parts of the city. Aside from the cultural value this may have in making a City Beautiful there is a financial return that is, and rightly ought to be, a lesson to the City of Birmingham. It is the lesson of individual thrift, of individual success, the lesson that comes from seeing a thing grow and thrive under one's own hand.

Spanish Class of Summer School.

A unique feature of the Summer School was the work done by Dr. C. E. Conant. The school authorities, together with the Chamber of Commerce, planned to carry on work in the study of the Spanish language and Spanish-speaking countries. The question of securing a satisfactory instructor in such work is always of importance if the success of the work is to be assured. This was solved in a manner that is most gratifying to those who were solicitous in the beginning that no mistake be made. Just what psychology or transmission of thought took place might be hard to know. At any rate, the ones charged with the responsibility of selecting someone, selected Dr. Conant, of the University of Chattanooga.

Dr. Conant is a man of slight physical build, but of wonderful personality. His enthusiasm and personal magnetism carry with him his whole class. No one loses interest in what is being presented by Dr. Conant. There is no narrowing in his resources. There is wonderful accuracy in his reasoning and wonderful directness in his address. One marvels at his clean-cut handling of the English language, and then when he applies the treatment to Spanish, Italian, French, and German and comes out of it with ease, clears up a cloudy brain or two and says, "That's easy, isn't it?" you are bound to admit that it looks so at any rate. And yet one knows that it has taken both a splendid gift for the work and years of untiring toil and drudgery to reach that point where he handles the languages and makes them tools in his hands. Yet such is the man who has for eleven weeks of this Summer carried on the work in Spanish and Italian in connection with the Summer Training School and the Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Conant has had wonderful opportunities to know whereof he speaks. These opportunities, like most that come to all of us, were the opportunities he made for himself. He has studied both in America and in Europe. He holds the Ph. D. degree from the University of Chicago, has pursued his studies all the way round the globe (for he, too, is a globe-trotter), giving quite a little time to his work in Leipsic. He has taught in several of the colleges in America.

For a number of years Dr. Conant was official interpreter and translator for the United States Government in the Philippines. He frequently suggests that if one wishes some mental gymnastics "just try an hour or so of accurate interpretation and translation without taking time to 'think it out.'" In fact, he suggests that there is no time to waste. There is before you a man of affairs. His business is for his government. For his government he commands your respect and your talents. You must not falter if you are to do this work. In such a school Dr. Conant gained his fluency. He lived in the atmosphere and he knows thoroughly the language and the peoples. He commands the respect of the Spaniard quite as much as he commands the admiration of the citizen of English-speaking America. He knows their many admirable traits and he likes to point them out to the people who are seeking a closer acquaintance with the Spanish people.

Dr. Conant has had for his audiences classes made up from all walks of life. Some came only for the lectures on "Spanish-American History and Geography." Others not only undertook the lectures, but pursued most earnestly the study of the Spanish language. Still others studied both the Spanish and the Italian languages. His days have been full of work. The classes have never lagged. There has been keen interest right through the hot Summer days. More than a hundred of Birmingham's men and women took up the work. Perhaps one or two "took Spanish" as a fad. An overwhelming majority had a definite purpose in studying. The opportunity was too good. Scores have grasped it. Not satisfied with the six weeks' course at first outlined by the Summer Training School and the Chamber of Commerce, the student body organized and begged Dr. Conant to remain for another term of like duration. So a second five weeks was added to the course and a large number continued the work undertaken during the first six weeks. There is something in getting beyond the "tasting." These earnest men and women waded right through the Spanish grammar and the Spanish commercial reader. Besides those who persisted for a second six weeks, there has been conducted a class for beginners this second semester of the Summer. there has been a steady growth the study all Summer long.

Work Not to Stop.

Nor is the work to stop because, forsooth, Dr. Conant must seek an exceedingly limited vacation and get back to his work in Chattanooga. While the daily classes under his direction will end with the past week, yet under his very careful suggestions there has developed the "Casino Espanol," or "Spanish Club," as it is called in plain English.

This club is not organized as a high society club, nor yet as a social fad. Its membership is from the classes that have been working during the Summer under Dr. Conant. Members come from whatever source just so they have enough of Spanish to inteligently and earnestly pursue the work of the club. For it is a working club. There will be social chats—in Spanish. There will be an earnest study of some one of more real masterpieces of literature—Spanish literature and in the Spanish language. There will be correlated work in the history and geography of the Spanish both in Europe and America. The capacity of the club is not measured in numbers, but in capacity for work and earnestness in pursuing the work. Dr. Conant has evidenced great interest in the future of the club and promises to keep in close touch with the work of this organization during the Winter. In fact, the club hopes to have Dr. Conant on more than one occasion for a week-end meeting. Many of those who could not continue all Summer will be glad to know that yet it is planned that Dr. Conant shall have close touch with Birmingham

OMEN ARE WEARING

BY ANNE RITTENHOUSE



BLUE AND WHITE CHECKS.
Blue and white checked taffeta with yoke and bodice of blue chiffon

ELEVEN GOOD THINGS THAT CAN BE MADE WITH PEACHES

Peach Croutons.

slices of bread about a third inch thick, and cut into circles about three inches in diameter. Brown them slowly until they are dried and golden. Cut ripe peaches into halves, remove stones and skins, and stew them with a little water and sugar until the peaches are tender. Remove them and boil down the syrup until it is thick. When the peaches are cold, put each half with the cup side up on a round of bread and fill the stone hole with lemon jelly. Pour the thick syrup over the peach and add a little bit of whipped cream.



Peach Trifle.

Cut stale sponge cake into oblong pieces and with them line a dessert dish. Moisten with a little sherry. Stale lady fingers would answer quite as well as the oblongs of sponge cake. Pare ripe peaches and slice them and cover with sugar. Let them stand in the refrigerator until just before serving. Then pile them on the sponge cake and serve with whipped cream.

Peach Shortcake.

Sift together a pint of flour, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and a saltspoonful of salt. Work a piece of butter the size of an egg into the flour, with iced cold milk enough to make a soft dough. Cut into two pieces and roll each one thin. Put one piece in a round layer-cake tin, spread thickly with soft butter, and put the other round of dough on it. Bake brown, and separate the two rounds. In the meantime, slice peaches and cover them with sugar. Spread a layer of peaches on one layer of biscuit, cover with the other layer, and put the rest of the peaches on the top layer.

Peach Cobbler.

Fill a deep baking dish with sliced peaches. Add two or three kernels from the pits to the peaches, and sweeten and flavor with a little cinnamon. Cover with a layer of rich pie crust, rather thick but rich, and slash in two or three places for the steam to escape. Bake about thirty minutes.

Peach Dumplings.

Cut five-inch squares of pie crust and in the center of each put sliced peaches, sweetened. Fold over one corner to the opposite corner, to make a trinagle. Press the edges together, make a few pricks in the top with a fork, for escaping steam, and bake brown. These are delicious and much liked by children, if they are allowed to eat pastry.

Peaches and Oranges.

For a tempting dessert slice together peaches and oranges. Sweeten slightly and serve very cold.

Peaches and Rice.

Arrange a mound of boiled rice in the middle of a dish. Have ready on the ice some sliced, sweetened peaches. Put the peaches around the rice and pour their juice, formed with the sugar, over the mound of rice.

Candied Peaches.

Weigh the peaches, and to each pound allow three-quarters of a pound of sugar. Cut each peach into about six pieces. Add just enough water to moisten the sugar and melt it over the fire. Boil each piece of peach in it until it is tender, but not until it breaks easily. Remove from the thick syrup, drain and roll in granulated sugar. Dry, dip in syrup again and then in sugar, and repeat until the peach is thoroughly dried. Pack in covered glass jars.

Peach Fritters.

Make a fritter batter and add to it sliced peaches, sweet and ripe and firm. Cook in deep fat and sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving.

An Australian has invented an aluminum alloy that is said to be as hard as steel, that is noncorrosive and that can be brazed and soldered.

If all the documents stored in the patent office at Washington could be placed end to end they would form a strip that would reach around the earth three times.

Buck

Bucksport, June 9, 1892 Back

Pres. Harper,

Dear Sir,

I send you a list of the most necessary books for my department which occur to me. As I have no books here with, I give the titles from memory and in many cases they may not be exact. I think however they will be understood in most instances. I have noted only a few works in Greek and Latin grammar, as I presume the Berlin library is very full in this respect. I hope that I can have a room fitted up as a Seminar-library and working room. I am very glad you have spoken again of Schröder for Sanskrit. I was very enthusiastic when you first mentioned him and sorry that you decided to delay the appointment. I should be very glad to do the work for a couple of years, and in fact I wish to give the course which I have announced for the first quarter (Sanskrit for beginners combined with lectures on the Compar. Gram. of the Language) even if Schröder should come. But I was afraid you were

missing a great opportunity. Schröder is not very well situated at Dorpat and would welcome a change. Whenever a vacancy occurs in Germany, he is pretty sure to get an appointment, and after that you would not be certain of securing him. I have never met him personally, but think he is of all others the man we want. He has occasionally made excursions into the field of compar. Phil., and especially of Compar. Mythology which have not been received with special favor, but as a Sanskritist he is of the very first rank, has done some very fine and scholarly work on Vedic texts and also has a very extensive general knowledge of Sanskrit literature. I should strongly urge securing him at once, whether he begins work next year or not.

Would it be possible to get Gildersleeve away from Johns Hopkins as head of the Greek Department? If you could, I think you would have no reason to regret John Williams White's refusal of the offer.

Yours sincerely

Carl D. Buck

P. S. Köhler's Antiquarium in Leipzig has given me a copy of the catalogue of the Zarncke

library to show to you when I reach Chicago. It is a great opportunity for the Germanic Department, a library which it would require years to get together by separate purchases. Köhler thinks he can get it for ± 20,000 marks (they asked 30,000 at first but have come down to 21,000), then there would be a commission of 5% to him for doing the business, attending to packing etc and perhaps 2000 or 3000 marks for binding. If you or the head of the Germanic Department care to look into the matter immediately, I can forward the catalogue together with Köhlers proposals — C.D.B.

Comp Philology 7 459 Recommendations

The University of Chicago

The Faculties of Arts, Literature, and Science

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

February 21, 1916.

My dear President Judson:

I found on inquiry that Mr. Nitze's recommendation of Mr. Conant so far as concerned his ability to teach elementary Spanish was based entirely on second-hand information, and that part of even this came originally from the man himself. In conference with Mr. Buck who seems to be the source of most of the local information about the man, I learned that he regarded him as personally acceptable, and that his intellectual competency is in his judgment quite beyond question. I discovered that Mr. Conant had at one time taught at Indiana University, and I therefore wrote President Bryan, who replies to me: "Dr. Carl Conant was with us in 1911-12. We valued him highly and should have been glad to have him remain with us. The men in his field believe in his scholarship and in his teaching ability, and we all enjoyed him personally."

This statement is not quite so explicit and detailed on the side of teaching as I should have liked, but I think it may fairly be regarded as unbiased, and it gives us at least some line on the success of the man in teaching elementary Spanish to a constituency much more like our own than that at Chattanooga. I think on the whole, in view of the scarcity of promising men in this field, that an appointment to an assistant professorship is probably safe.

Yours very truly,

James R. Angell

Chicago, March 7, 1916

Dear Mr. Angell:-

It has seemed to me that the young man we are considering for Spanish will hardly fill the bill. Mr. Nitze concurs in this, and is going to look over the ground again this spring.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Dean J. R. Angell,
The University of Chicago.

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DEPARTMENT OF
ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

X111 59

Dear President Judson,

I enclose a record of the work of Mr. Conant written by Professor Buck. Mr. Conant took his minor in Romance, and we can corroborate what Mr. Buck says. Personally, I believe Mr. Conant is just the man we want for practical Spanish.

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. A. Fitz

President H.P. Judson,
University of Chicago.

January 8

The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

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Very sincerely yours,

Wm. R. Harper

The University of Chicago

Jan. 3, 1916

Dear Fitz,

Grant did graduate work here at various times between 1895 and 1899, then spent seven years in the Philippines, where he served as a government translator, did more graduate work here in 1908 and 1910-11, receiving his doctor's degree Dec. 1911. Since then he has been Professor of Modern Languages in the University of Chattanooga, except for one year when he took the place of Professor Stempel at the University of Indiana, during the latter's absence. He has been a very successful teacher in his college work, and also in the popularizing summer work, as shown by the enclosed newspaper clipping which he sent me last summer, remarking "You will realize that this kind of advertising is not to my taste, but after allowing for the natural exaggeration & enthusiasm you will be able to see something of the result of my work here."

I feel confident that he would prove just the man for practical Spanish courses, and would also be valuable as a general utility man for emergencies such as you spoke of the other day. He would also be competent to offer a course in the College of Commerce

on Spanish and American administration (or the like) in the Philippines.

There is no question that he is the most competent American investigator of the Philippine languages, and that his ~~first~~ various published articles in this field have given him a real international standing. While this has no bearing on his fitness for the specific work in Spanish which is needed here, his presence on the staff would add to the strength of our philological group, and so to that of the University, from the point of view of research. I know that Manly feels the same way about Conant.

Very truly yours,

Carl D. Buck