The Pulse, Volume 12, No. 7 1918

University of Nebraska College of Medicine

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When a Boy's Just a Plain Boy

To live in the twentieth century and live according to the times, a boy must be a boy from the tips of his unshined shoes to the top of his uncombed head. He must live, and with that living must go all the trials, exploits, misdeeds and mischievousness which summerized make boy-just boy, that's all. Boys wild oats must be sown—it is impossible to keep them from being sown. This is the day of the survival of the fittest. If ones take the trouble to look into the past life of those that are called the fittest one finds these fittest were boys and above all lived the life of a boy. And so it is with boy, just a plain boy—Barjenkmoore—that we are interested in this article.

Barjenkmoore's birthright was to be a boy. To the casual observer there was perhaps nothing in his character that would suggest anything different from anyone else but to a student of boys there were many things which stood out signifying that Barjenkmoore was a boy built to be a boy. Barjenkmoore was between twenty and twenty-two somewhere. Perhaps this is supposed to be an age where boyhood pranks are forgotten and the more subtle manner of a young man taken on. However, this is not the case with boys who are boys in all true meaning of the term. This is the age at which the male first begins to feel that he is some importance in the world. Has he not his coat of soft fringe that he has the nerve to call whiskers? Has he not been down to the election commissioners and been registered? Has he not the right to stay out after the curfew rings? Has he not the right to fuss the seasons debutante's? He is for the first time his own boss and yet he is but a boy. This is the age where the wild oats are sown—the age at which the boy must be handled with care and some good judgment.

Barjenkmoore was well built, in fact, he was what the army term
A-1, rigid, vigorous and firm. His clothing always bore the stamp of a tailor of rank. Here and there a button might be missing until his loving mother noticed it and sewed it on. His shoes were shined for such occasions as dances, dinners (away from home) and calls on the various members of his self-called harem. His hair was always combed, but it was generally stiff and this suggested that the part in it was perhaps put there with the help of the stuff by which, as Allah claims, all things live.

Barjenkmoore’s face was his fortune. He was good to look at and it did not take the girls long to find that out. He had a pair of blue eyes which, when focused into the eyes of some member of the opposite sex, brought forth a series of little giggles that ended with a resounding smack that often told fathers their daughter was being kissed. In such instances if often behooved Barjenkmoore to “carry on” and go “over the top” with some speed to save his cranium from being forcibly connected with a fathers trained slipper.

Barjenkmoore’s life had been one round of pleasure. His burdens were light and his path was easy. He had never been forced to work even in the long summer that he spent at one of the lakes, flirting with some of the fair ones from nearby realms. His winters were spent at home but were guided by the unsteady hand of God of dance, love (puppy love) and good times. Barjenkmoore was a lucky fellow and he did not know and now never will know it.

Of course, Barjenkmoore had been thru high school. He had in some unknown way or another, always managed to get passing grades and nothing more. School was a bore from the start to the finish. Barjenkmoore tolerated school, perhaps because it was there he got the best chance to meet the prettiest girls in town or perhaps it was there that he got together with a bunch of boys who would smoke and did know how to swear. Nevertheless, Barjenkmoore was finally graduated one fine June day. He felt that he was master of the world and all it held, but when he went home his dad, this is the dad who had been furnishing the where-with for the previous four years, called him to one side and talked to him about a career. This was something that Barjenkmoore had forgotten all about and it took him somewhat with surprise. However, for some explained reason he decided to take a course in a medical school and that is where we get our first glimpse of Barjenkmoore.

Barjenkmoore entered the school and like all freshmen, was somewhat bashful at the start. However, this did not last long, he became one of the leaders of his class, not in study, but in mischievousness. He could not settle down to the grind of study. He had not studied in high school and he would not study now. He would get by some way, he had before and he would now. He attended classes when he felt like it. Gradually, but surely, in spite of the pleadings of his friends who saw him slipping and tried to help him he became the poorest student in his class. He became the drone in the game. It all ended one day when he was called into the professors office and told that on account of his poor showing it would be necessary for him to leave school.

This unfortunate happening was the first in his life in which Barjenkmoore was seriously troubled. He felt that the word was cruel and that the school was trying to mock him. He felt that his father would
throw him out of the house. He was ready to die. He was conceited enough to know he had a good brain and deep down in his breast he knew that he was the one to blame and himself only to blame. When a boy’s a boy, a happening as this, somewhere, somehow, leaves its shadow. A failure through lack of study not from lack of ability, cuts like a keen knife and when it cuts it hurts. When a boy’s a boy he must meet his Waterloo some place and it was simply Barjenkmoore’s fate to meet in it this medical school.

We will not discuss who is to blame for this, but we will discuss instead what it means to Barjenkmoore. This is the incident that marks the turning point of Barjenkmoore’s career. This is the incident that is to make a man’s man out of a boy’s boy. It will change his whole viewpoint of life. It will make him see things as they really are and not as they seem to be. It will make him realize that the good things of life do not come merely for the asking, but that they require a great deal of work, and hard work. This incident will return a boy to school who will return for what he can get out of it, not for a good time and a place to pass away a lot of idle moments. This incident that sometimes will give him secret pain and sadness, drive the light from his face and bring into it that look of wistfulness, will be a lesson that will not be easily forgotten. It will stick and will do more good than anything that could in any way happen to Barjenkmoore.

To be a doctor you must not be weak, incompetent, or untrustworthy. Each school should send only those men onward which, as they have learned from long experience from handling men, represent the best, the most skillful and the most conscientious students to be secured anywhere. Our faculty are obligated to us to the state and to the people and they should weigh their obligation carefully.

Some day a man is going to walk into the University of Nebraska College of Medicine and walk up and take a certain professor by the hand and say “You are the man that had more to do with my success than any other.” And so it goes that when a boy’s a boy, a case of good judgment, while it may hurt, makes a man’s man.

CONTINUOUS SCHOOL

In all probability we will have continuous school for the two upper classes this year. The new semester will start in June and end the following September. The new semesters will consist of a period of four months (practically sixteen weeks instead of the customary eighteen) and will follow each other without any vacation. The Junior year will end in January, 1919, together with the present Senior year and the following Senior year will end in September, 1919, or in other words the present Sophomore class will graduate in September, 1919 and the present Junior class will graduate in January, 1919. This means a lot of extra work for the faculty and for the student body. It means a great deal more work will have to be covered in the shorter time as it is not proposed to shorten any of the courses in the least. If the idea meets with the approval of the government it suits the school to a frazzle.

Satisfaction guaranteed or your money refunded—so says the Watson Company.
FORMER NEBRASKA MEDICAL STUDENT WOUNDED IN ACTION IN FRANCE

Dr. R. Allyn Moser, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Moser, 5805 Florence boulevard, was wounded in action in France on March 25th. Official information has been received by his parents. Dr. Moser had the rank of lieutenant. He enlisted in the U. S. Medical Reserve Corps and left Omaha May 27, 1917 to join the Sixth Ambulance division of the British expeditionary forces in France. After leaving Omaha he was sent to a British Base Hospital near London. The Pulse printed several letters that he sent to Drs. Bridges, while he was at that hospital. For the last six months he has been engaged in first aid work behind the lines in France.

Dr. Moser graduated from the College of Medicine in the class of 1916. He was affiliated with Drs. Bridges before he received his commission. Dr. Moser at one time was business manager of the Pulse and was very prominent in school activities.

Dr. Moser is the first alumnus of the college to be wounded in action and the school extends its sympathy to his family.

PERHAPS THE BOSS KNOWS SOMETHING

Every time your superior objects to the way you have done a certain piece of work do you feel that you would like to tell him what you think of him and resign?

If you do, you have the wrong spirit.

In the big majority of cases the man ahead is there because he has demonstrated that he is capable of filling the superior position.

He has shown himself able to advise and correct errors.

Of course, he is not free from errors himself, and, in turn his superior corrects and objects and overturns some of the things he does.

It is so all the way up and down the line.

If he were not spoken to about his mistakes and you were not stopped from making your mistakes, you can see very readily what a botch this world would be.

In certain ways your method may be superior, but it is up to you to do as the boss directs while you are under him.

You know if you were in his place you would insist upon your plans being carried out to the letter.

Do you get the idea?
GOOD JOBS GO BEGGING

The most surprising feature of our preparations for war is the apparent reluctance of young American physicians to volunteer for the Medical Officers Reserve Corps. The War Department estimates a need of 21,000 men for hospital service. Seventeen thousand, five hundred physicians have been recommended for commissions, but, up to October 12, 1917, about 1,200 of this number had declined to accept the commissions offered to them. Two hundred of those who were willing to go to the front had to be discharged because of physical disqualifications or for other reasons. Consequently there is a shortage of several thousand men in the Medical Reserve Corps. Here is a curious situation. The army offers physicians the right to wear the uniform of an officer, an opportunity to gain invaluable experience in the field hospitals and incomes larger than the average physician’s earnings. Fear of danger cannot enter into the problem. The total casualties among medical officers of the Allied armies on the western front from the beginning of the war to June 25, 1917, 25 were killed, 707 wounded and 62 deaths from disease. These figures, compared with the number of physicians employed at the front, prove that the medical officers’ work behind the trenches is scarcely more hazardous than the ordinary risks of civil life. Quite aside from the question of patriotism, it is impossible to understand why medical corps commissions are going begging.

THE PULSE STAFF FOR NEXT YEAR

The Pulse staff for next year will be elected by the student body and not be appointed as here to fore. For some time there has been a lot of criticism regarding the staff of this paper. Also the manner of the election of the officers was not looked on favorably. Certain persons around the school think that the past manner of election was satisfactory while still others think that a good, warm election would be the thing. At least an election might create a little interest and in that way, help the paper a great deal. So sometime that will be announced later there will be an election of the editor who will have the power of appointing the rest of the staff. This seems to strike a happy medium for the differing sides.

LIBRARY

Sollas—Ancient Hunters; Sellard—Principles of Acidosis; Norris and Landis—Diseases of the Chest; Rose—Physical Diagnosis have just been received. Besides these new a eleventh edition set of the Encyclopedia Britannica, thirty volumes, and the Century Dictionary the new revised and enlarged edition are being catalogued. An almost complete set of American Medicine was given by one of the doctors in the state. Seventy volumes of beautifully bound magazines mostly the 1917 number shave just been returned from the Hertzberg bindery in Chicago.

HALLIE WILSON, Librarian.

That box down in the locker room is for orders for school supplies, etc. If its full (!) hand your order to Stony.
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

The work done under the surgeon general to the close of the first year of war has included the following enlargement:

Army Hospitals
In the United States (number), from 7 to 63 (others to be added).
In the United States (bed capacity), from 5,000 to 58,400 (to be 88,400 and perhaps 100,000).
In France (bed capacity), from nothing to 20 to 25 per cent of strength of expeditionary forces.

Department Personnel
Total strength, from 8,000 to 106,000.
Officers from 900 to 18,000.
Army nurses (women), from 375 to 7,000.
Ambulance service (in training), from nothing to 6,000.

Army Laboratories
Large, from 12 to 150.
All sizes, from 100 to 500.

Medical Training School
Capacity, from nothing to 21,000.
Enlisted men graduated, from nothing to 15,000.
Officers graduated, from nothing to 6,000.

Gas Defense Personnel
Officers, from nothing to 100.
Enlisted men, from nothing to 600.

Psychological Examinations
Total made, 150,000.

Nutritional Surveys
Food, cooking, and wastage studied in over forty camps.

Expenditures
Appropriations for fiscal year, $130,000,000.
Expended to April 1, $95,000,000.

The old idea of the medical department’s work was to fix up sick and wounded men who could be returned to active service and discharge the rest. Now the department must handle men chosen from civil life under physical requirements far less rigid than formerly and work for the upbuilding of their fitness. Its work goes through the stages of preparation for war and fighting operations and continues until the war’s sick and wounded are refitted for useful and remunerative places in civil life.

The department examines prospective recruits and officers. It advises on the choice and layout of camps, on mobilizing, housing, and feeding the soldiers. It watches and studies a hundred phases of health and disease in camps. Its recommendations largely determine matters of camp sanitation, including drainage, water supply, fly and mosquito menaces, and the disposal of waste.

Instruments and school supplies—that’s us—Watters and Stoney.
WHAT CONTROLS THE SIZE OF AN ORGANISM?

When we attempt to mobilize the factors which control the size of an organism, we are facing the problem of growth. One of the most characteristic and striking features of the living organism is its ability to add to its own substance. In most organisms an enormous increase in size and weight occurs during the earlier part of the life cycle. This is commonly known as growth. The capacity of the organism to add to its own substance and to increase in size is evidently closely connected with the fundamental processes of metabolism, and even organisms which do not undergo appreciable changes of form do nevertheless grow in the usual sense of the word. Under the usual conditions of existence the healthy active organism is not only adding new material, but is at the same time breaking down and eliminating material previously accumulated. The total result as regards size or bulk is simply the difference between the two processes.

First let us consider the unit of structure, the cell. Every living thing is a single cell or an aggregation of cooperating cells and cell-products. Broadly viewed, the life of the multicellular organism is to be conceived as a whole; and the apparently composite character which it may exhibit is owing to a secondary distribution of its energies among local centers of action, the tissue cells. All animals and plants have a limit of growth, which is, however, much more definite in some forms than in others, and differs in different tissues. During the individual development the energy of cell-division is more intense in the early stages and diminishes more and more as the limit of growth is approached. When the limit is attained a more or less definite equilibrium is established, some of the cells ceasing to divide and perhaps altogether losing their power to divide, others dividing only under special conditions, while others continue to divide throughout life, and thus, replace the worn-out cells of the same tissue. The limit of size at which this state of equilibrium is attained is an hereditary character, which in many cases shows an obvious relation to the environment, and has therefore been determined and is maintained by natural selection.

From the cytological point of view the limit of body-size appears to be correlated with the total number of cells formed rather than their individual size. This relation has been carefully studied by Conklin in the case of the gasteropod, Crepidula, on animal which varies greatly in size in the mature condition, the dwarfs having in some cases not more than one-twenty-fifth the volume of the giants. The eggs are, however, of the same size in all, and their number is proportional to the size of the adult. The same is true of the tissue-cells. Measurements of cells from the epidermis, the kidney, the liver, the alimentary epithelium, and other tissues of the human body show that the cells are on the whole, as large in the dwarfs as in the giants. The body-size therefore, depends on the total number of cells rather than on their size individually considered, and the same appears to be the case in plants as in animals. The immediate specific causes of cell-division, which increases the total number of cells, are as yet unknown.

The size of organisms of the same species falls within certain more or less defined limits characteristic of the species, which have arisen by a process of evolution. Since heredity and, to a varying extent,
environment are important factors which regulate the size of an organism, a study of each should be made. Conklin defines heredity as the particular germinal organization which is transmitted from parents to offspring. Hereditary resemblances are especially recognizable in the gross and minute anatomy of every organism, in the form, structure, location, size, color, etc., of each and every part. In unicellular animals one can readily see how it is possible for an individual always to give rise to its own kind. One of the simplest of the single-celled animals is the amoeba. The amoeba eats and grows as do other animals. Sooner or later it reaches a size beyond which it cannot increase advantageously, yet it is continuously taking in new food material which solves this difficulty by dividing to form two amoebas. Here the problem of heredity, or the resemblance of offspring to parent, is not a very complicated one. However, the infinitely numerous complications of double ancestry arise if we pass to the higher organisms. It is a matter of common knowledge that unusually great or small stature runs in certain families, and Galton developed a formula for determining the approximate stature of children from the known stature of the parents and the mean stature of the race. However, his statistical and mathematical formulae give only general or average results, from which there are many individual departures and exceptions. Davenport and Plate have catalogued more than sixty human traits which seem to be inherited in Mendelian fashion. Achondroplasy, that is dwarfs with short stout limbs, but with bodies and heads of normal size of man is recessive. But true dwarfs, with all parts of the body reduced in proportion, is a recessive character where the normal size is dominant.

By changes in environmental conditions notable modifications may be produced in adult organisms, but these modifications are much greater when the changed environment acts on the organism during the period of its development. In general, this action does not call forth a perfectly specific and definite response of the organism; various stimuli may produce the same result. The character of developmental responses to stimuli depends primarily upon the nature of the organism and the stage of development at which the stimulus acts. Modifications of germ cells may occur before fertilization, during the fertilization stages, or after fertilization of the ovum. Farel has for many years maintained that one of the most serious causes of human malformations and degenerations is to be found in the effect of alcohol on the germ cells, especially at the time of conception. This is further substantiated by Stockard's experiments with guinea pigs and may be considered as perhaps one of the most marked examples of modification by chemical stimulus.

Associated with the conditions of environment, functional activity or use is a factor of development. Inactivity or atrophy of one part of an organism usually leads to imperfect nourishment and development of related parts. Another phase of functional activity is found in the effects of certain secretions and chemical substances which are formed by different glands. The difference in size between the male and female of the same species is probably controlled by the sex glands. For example, if the ovary is removed from a young hen she develops the larger size, the more brilliant plumage, and the peculiar comb, mottles and spurs of the rooster. Another gland whose secretions
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seem to exercise a profound influence is the thyroid gland. If this gland is deficient in a young child it causes a peculiar type of idiotic dwarf known as Cretin. Excision of the thyroid gland in the adult causes the individual to become large, flabby, and stupid. Feeding thyroid extract to such an individual transforms him into a comparatively normal physical and mental being. It has been found that if tadpoles of the frog were fed on the thyroid gland, they transformed into minute frogs scarcely larger than flies, but if fed on thymus gland they grew to be large dark-colored tadpoles, but did not change into frogs. Excision of the thymus in man interferes with the growth of the skeleton. If the hypophysis is deficient the child, or young animal it remains infantile; if the hypophysis is too large the individual’s hands, feet, and face become enlarged and he may grow to be a deformed giant, but weak in mind and body. Excision of the hypophysis interferes with growth and with sugar metabolism.

In conclusion it may be stated that environment plays a variable and more or less uncertain part in controlling the size of an organism. The causes that finally establish the adult equilibrium are but vaguely comprehended. The ultimate causes must, of course, lie in the inherited constitution of the organism, and are referable in the last analysis to the structure of the germ cells. The truth is, that an explanation of development is at present beyond our reach. Despite, all our theories we no more know how the organization of the germ-cell involves the properties of the adult body than we know how the properties of hydrogen and oxygen involve those of water.

LEO D. ROSE.
IN PROFUNDUS

O, it's Easter they say,
    The world should feel gay;
But I'm full of sorrow,
    With thoughts of the morrow,
For out come the conditions on Monday.

For I have had trouble,
    And for that I must bubble,
When conditions arrive on the morrow.

For I will catch thunder,
    And I will go under,
When conditions arrive on the morrow.

Easter day may mean laughter,
    But I'm thinking of after—
The condition arrives on the morrow.

O, the Juniors be damned,
    In the tub I'll be slammed,
When conditions arrive on the morrow.

So I'll bury my tears,
    In forty-four beers,
The thoughts of troubles,
    In beer's frothy bubbles,
And say, "O, to hell with the morrow."
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"O, CLEMENTINE, IT'S ALL WRONG!"

Paw and maw taught me,
Not to drink,
I don't.

At wicked women,
I must not wink.
I don't.

To bunny-hug and love
Is a wicked crime.
I don't.

And on poker
I mustn't waste a dime.
I don't.

Naughty boys
Tell smutty tales,
I don't.

Robbers live
In dirty jails
I don't.

Wild women, wine, and song,
I know nothing of, 'cause their wrong,
You think, on this earth, I don't belong,
I don't.

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"QUITE STRONG CONVERSATION"
Mr. Garles: "Your breath smells. You've been drinking."
Miss Whiskey: "My breath may smell, but I ain't been drinking."

REPARTEE
Mr. Dudds: "Why do you always stand before the mirror while dressing?"
Mrs. Dudds: "To see what is going on! !"

SOME DAUGHTER
Proud Mother: "John was crazy to marry my daughter."
Irate Listener: "So everybody said."

"NEVER! NEVER!"
"The size of her hand you can judge by her glove,
For that there is needed no art;
But you never can judge the depth of the love
Of a girl by the sighs of her heart."

"FATHER KNOWS"
Son: "Father, why do they call the language of the fatherland the mother tongue?"
Dad: "Because of the feminine tendency to monopolize it, my son."

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Visitor:  "Where is the weather man?"
Office-boy:  "Downstairs getting a shower."

SEEING!!
Mayme:  "Don't you think she looks ugly in that exceedingly low-cut dress?"
James:  "Not as far as I can see! !"

"NO WONDER"
Nu Sig:  "Say boy why didn't I see you at church last Sunday?"
Phi Chi:  "It was I who passed the plate."

"SOME FALL!!"
Dubb:  "I met my fiance while roller skating! !"
Bubb:  "Zot right! !"
Dubb:  "Yep, fell for her right away."

"CORRECT, YES!!"
Sponge:  "I think that a street car has just passed."
Blotter:  "How do you know?"
Sponge:  "I can see it's tracks."

Sophomores—Talk to Stony or Watters about that o. b. grip you're going to need next semester.
Many M. D.s are opening accounts these days

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“OH! BOY! !”

How I wish,
Hazel,
I were a microscopic organism
Sitting
On your eyelash,
And laughing
At my brothers,
Drowning in your
Tears! ! !

“A CHAPERONE”

’Tis wrong for any maid to be
Abroad at night alone,
A chaperone she needs ’till she
Can call a chap’er own.”

“QUIT CORRECT-MAYBE”

Prof: “Who was Joan of Arc?”
Stude: “Noah’s wife! ! !”

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