Picnics in English

An Essay of the Day

It's Never too Late to Live

By Dr. Brian Welbeck

Some of us are haunted by Thoreau's saying — "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." We grind on through each day, weighed down by the fear of insecurity, the burden of responsibility. Above all, we chain ourselves to a job—any job—which will promise some measure of security in old age. In our striving for stability, we rob us of the spirit of adventure and of worthwhile living.

We have grappled with our true personal identity that we may have a bag of gold; sold our soul for thirty pieces of silver. As Jim Tully said: "As we go on in life, little bits of us get lost." Darwin lamented that his thirst for scientific knowledge killed his musical appreciation which had enriched his youth. The world is so full of a number of things we should all be so happy as kings. But are we? And why do we have to say no? Because we have squandered the wealth of our senses, the rewarding enthusiasm.

How is this to be avoided? There are four fundamental rules which I have found have helped many

Learning to Read Quickly

Courses in quick reading are now held at all colleges and universities in the United States. As political and business life becomes more hectic, the amount of paper work increases and it has been felt for a long time that special training should be given to those who have to wade through reams of this material.

One of the main training methods is the use of a piece of apparatus called a tachistoscope. This is a screen which slides down over the printed page at a set speed, so compelling the reader to keep pace with it. As the efficiency of the reader in "digging" his material increases the speed of the screen is increased to as much as 1900 words a minute.

Dante in Rome

Rome has hundreds of statues, busts, and memorial plaques honouring great men of the past; but it has no monument to Dante (1265-1321), greatest of Italian poets.

The citizens of Rome were shocked when this was pointed out recently. The government has begun to raise a memorial.

Answers to Triple Play: 1. last; 2. let; 3. fill; 4. grade; 5. order; 6. fix; 7. so much as; 8. name; 9. hand; 10. insert; 11. beg; 12. protect; 13. heart; 14. gentleman; 15. foot; 16. hard; 17. narrow; 18. run; 19. hand.

Triple Play

One word can have three different meanings, as illustrated in the groups below. For instance, CROSST has three meanings: in cross roads, cross the man, don't cross.

1. the shoemaker's 1- come in; 2- will 1- forever.
2. don't 1- up; 1- meaning.
3. from 1- letters; nail 1- single 1-.
4. stop 1- crossing 1- feet; make the 1-.
5. money 1- standing; 1- as 1-.
6. pay a 1- feeling; 1- point.
7. a 1- word; 1- out; go on 1-.
8. back 1- high 1- make a 1- of something.
9. helping 1- on; 1- the other 1- 1- down.
10. pair of cheese; 1- together; play a 1-.
11. book 1- blank; since 1-.
12. 1- of; view; some in the 1-.
13. 1- of matter; 1- beats; learn by 1-.
14. 1- ; slop; 1- high; 1- a matter.
15. the hill 1- ; up; at the 1- of the hill.
16. 1- ; bitter; bitter; h-.
17. 1- ; choose; h-.
18. 1- ; minded; 1- ; escape; n- road.
19. 1- ; sight of light; 1- in the pan; eyes 1- fire.

Studding Boys' School Tract

Comments by James Lai

由於讀物的關係，我對文選的編選稍欠信心，但就文選的內容而言，則無所謂高低之分，不過是對不同年代的文選材料的比較而已。

2. "View" is a noun, and "view" is also a verb. The former is the object of "the" and the latter is the object of "he".
3. "Under me" is a preposition, and "over looking" is an adjective.
4. "Sort of" is an adjective, and "sort to" is a verb.
5. "Get in" is a verb, and "Get in" is a noun.
6. "On" is a preposition, and "on" is a noun.
7. "Under me" is a noun, and "under looking" is a verb.
8. "Great" is an adjective, and "great" is a noun.

No Gift

Paul's mother warned her son that he could never gain anything if he did not fight hard for it.

One day, Paul came back from school with two black eyes.

"Who gave you those black eyes?" asked his mother.

"Who gave them to me?" cried Paul. "I had to fight hard for them!"

La Salle College M.S. Cha.