

THE MAGAZINE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

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YOUTH'S GUIDING LIGHT

By JOSEPH VERNICK, Organizer of Manhattan Y. P. S. L.

Dreary and weary, painful and leary,
Comes trudging the youth of to-day;
He is seeking "Money," whose poison is honey,
Honey that leads him astray.

Wasteful, distasteful, youth's path is dis-
graceful,
But still he keeps wandering on;
In every direction, crime's vivid attraction,
Lures him into its own.

"Why toil and sadness? Here's richness and
gladness,
Come, be a subject of mine;
Behold the great masses of all different classes,
Who gladly my powers enshrine.

"The rich are my knaves, the poor are my
Slaves,
I've conquered justice and truth;
I've got the old, the weak and the bold,
Now I shall conquer the youth."

Youth wanders and blunders midst lightning
and thunders,
Not knowing just where he will land;
While the shadows of vice strive to entice
And bring his cares to an end.

Crime keeps on calling, the youth keeps on
falling
At the brinks of the abyss of sin;
His soul will be fettered, his heart will be
shattered,
His hopes will be scattered within.

But lo, see the light that is shining so bright,
Approaching the youth in his plight;
Darkness has scattered, vice is being tattered,
Evils are battered by its might.

The youth arises, and quickly realizes
The evils of money's intrigue,
And he follows with thanks the light into the
ranks
Of the Young People's Socialist League.



WHAT WAR HAS DONE AND IS DOING

Its Blights

War has brought low our conception of the preciousness of human life as slavery brought low our conception of human liberty.

It has benumbed our growing sense of the nurture of life; and at a time when we were challenging Reichstag, Parliament, and Congress with the needlessness of infant mortality and child labor, it entrenches a million youths with cold and fever and impending death.

It has thwarted the chance of our times toward the fulfilment of life, and scattered like burst shrapnel the hands of the sculptors and the violinists, the limbs of the hurdlers and the swimmers, the sensitive muscles of the mechanics and the weavers, the throats of the singers and the interpreters, the eyes of the astronomers and the melters—every skilled and prescient part of the human body, every type of craft and competence of the human mind.

It has set back our promptings toward the conservation of life; and in a decade when England and France and Russia, Germany and Austria and Belgium, have been working out social insurance against the hazards of peace, it throws back upon the world an unnumbered company of the widowed and the fatherless, and of aged parents left bereft and destitute.

It has blocked our way toward the ascent of life, and in a century which has been the beginnings of effort to upbuild the common stock, has cut off from

parenthood the strong, the courageous and the high-spirited.

Its Injuries

It has in its development of armaments, pitted human flesh against machinery.

It has wrested the power of self-defense from the hands of free-men who wielded lance and sword and scythe, and has set them as machine-tenders to do the bidding of their masters.

It has brought strange men to the door-sills of peaceful people; men like their own men, bearing no grudges one against another; men snatched away from their fields and villages where their fathers lie buried, to kill and burn and destroy till this other people are driven from their homes of a thousand years or sit abject and broken.

It has stripped farms and ruined self-sustaining communities, and poured into a bewildered march for succor, the crippled and aged and bedridden, the little children and the women great with child unborn.

It has razed the flowing lines in which the art and aspiration of earlier generations expressed themselves, and has thus waged war upon the dead.

It has tortured and twisted the whole social fabric of the living.

It has burdened our children and our children's children with a staggering load of debt.

It has inundated the lowlands of the world's economy with penury and suffering unreckonable, hopelessly depressing standards of living already much too low.

It has rent and trampled upon the net-work of world co-operation in trade and craftsmanship which had made all men fellow-workers.

It has whetted a lust among neutral nations to profit by furnishing the means to prolong its struggles.

It has blasted our new internationalism in the protection of working women and children.

It has distracted our minds with the business of destruction and stayed the forward reach of the builders among men.

It has conscripted physician and surgeon, summoning them from research and the prolongation of life to the patchwork of its wreckage.

It has sucked into its blood and mire our most recent conquests over the elements—over electricity, and air and the depths of ocean; and has prostituted our prowess in engineering, chemistry and technology, to the service of terror and injury.

It has bent our achievements in transportation into runways, so that neither volcanoes nor earthquakes, nor the rat-holes of famine, but only the plagues can match war in unbounded disaster.

"Lillian," said mother severely, "there were two pieces of cake in the pantry this morning, and now there is only one. How does this happen?"

"I don't know," replied Lillian regretfully. "It must have been so dark I didn't see the other piece."

YOUNG SOCIALISTS' SPLENDID STAND AT THE APPEAL COURTS

(From "The Young Socialist" of Great Britain)

At no time in the history of our young movement have the difficulties and responsibilities of our schools and our magazine been so great.

For "The Young Socialist" and our schools, as for the adult Socialist organizations, this is a great testing time. A testing time of our power and loyalty to sustain the great faith of Socialism, and to endure to the end for it and our conscience sake.

That the sublime sentiment of universal peace and international brotherhood has taken deep root in the fertile soil of the young souls trained in our Socialist Sunday Schools, and is now being nobly manifested in their lives, is proven in the inspiring fact that, with a few exceptions here and there, they have braved the Tribunals, and the still more trying ordeal of the Appeal Courts, with the most splendid courage.

As conscientious objectors they have based their claim to exemption from military service in any shape or form on the grounds of their religion—the religion of Socialism—which teaches the sanctity of human life, reverence for the beauty and glory of Nature, freedom and equality to contribute to, and partake of the fullest blessing of these for every creature born of whatever nation, color, or creed.

Alas! That we have but space for a few examples.

Our Comrade Arkell, of London, in intimating seven exemptions—partial and total—obtained by members of our East and

West Ham schools, says, "All went armed with our Socialist Sunday School literature to procure evidence of their Socialist faith."

Copy of Letter to Recruiting Secretaries, Messrs. Davis and Birch
15 Riles Road, Plaistow, E.

Dear Sirs:—

I have received your letter in reference to enlistment in the Army, and I take advantage of your invitation to write you. During Lord Derby's campaign I received a communication from you asking me to attend the Public Hall. I did so, and informed the gentlemen who interview me that I conscientiously objected to all military service. I want you to please notice that I made this objection before the Military Service Bill (No. 2) was introduced in Parliament. I now reaffirm my convictions, which is based on moral convictions. As an Internationalist I believe in the Brotherhood of Man, and that war is immoral and cannot, in my opinion, be justified. I am not prepared to go and kill my fellowman, or even assist to do so, because I should be guilty of murder. I do not suggest that the soldiers (and my own brother is one) are guilty of murder, because they believe it is their duty to fight and that it is a righteous war. I cannot adopt that attitude, because I cannot justify any war. Please do not think I am a coward, because a man who is prepared to sacrifice his liberty or his life cannot be classed as such. I shall apply to the local Tribunal for total exemption, and if I do not get satisfaction I am prepared to take the consequences. I deny the right of any government to compel me to take or assist to take human life. I thank you for giving me this opportunity of expressing myself, and ask you to kindly acknowledge this letter, hoping that justice will be done, I remain,
Your faithfully,

John B. Schnacke.

Before the Local Tribunal

I appeared before the West Ham Local Tribunal on Friday, March 17th. My name was called, and I took my seat at a table, and the town clerk began to read out the particulars on my application form (see at-

tached). He then proceeded to read my statement, and when finished he instantly asked:

Question: Are you a British subject, Mr. Schnacke?

Reply: Yes.

Member of Tribunal: Is your mother and father British?

Reply: Yes.

Chairman (after speaking to Tribunal): You are exempted on conscientious grounds, Mr. Schnacke.

I asked, "Is that absolute, Mr. Chairman?"

Member of Tribunal: Yes, but the military may appeal. You can take it or granted they will.

The members of the Tribunal were very polite. On March 25th I received my certificate, and on April 3rd I was given notice that the military had lodged an appeal on the grounds that the Tribunal did not pay due regard to Sec. 2, Sub-Sec. 1 (d), where exemption from combatant service only can be granted. The military representative is wrong about the "only," and I am prepared to argue it out with him at the appeal.

Copy of Application Statement to Tribunal

My conscientious objection is based on moral conviction. I believe in Internationalism; that is, the Brotherhood of Man based on Justice, Love, and Humanity. I regard War as a great atrocity, and is responsible for all other atrocities which come in its train. War is Might against Right, and therefore immoral. I cannot go and kill, or even assist to kill my fellowman, because it is, to me, committing murder. I hold human life sacred, and I believe in the right of everybody to live, therefore I cannot deny someone that right. I have held these convictions for some years, and I am prepared to suffer in order to obey my conscience.

Copy of One of Many Protests Sent by Our Schools to Responsible Authorities

I have been instructed by the above Socialist Sunday School to protest against the manner in which the Glasgow Tribunals are dealing with "conscientious objectors."

I know of cases where, when applicants refused non-combatant service, the Tribunal immediately dismissed their claim, and in some cases

they even told applicants that tribunals had no power to grant absolute exemption, stating they could exempt from combatant service only. No later than yesterday (28th) I saw reported in the "Glasgow Herald" that Deacon-Convenor Alexander in a Glasgow Tribunal said to a conscientious objector:

"You are only entitled to claim exemption from combatant service, and as soon as you young men realize that fact the sooner will matters be made easier for the courts."

Now, that is contrary to the instructions issued by Mr. T. McInnon Wood to the Tribunals. Applicants do not get fair play, and cannot get fair play when put before men so prejudiced.

The teaching and precepts of this School are based on the highest ethical ideas of the world's greatest minds, and have consistently taught the young under our charge the evils of war, is exemplified in the following precepts:

"Do not think that those who love their own country must hate and despise other nations, or wish for war, which is a remnant of barbarism."

And—
"Look forward to the day when all men and women will be free citizens of one Fatherland, and live together as brothers and sisters in peace and righteousness."

It would seem strange that young men trained in this School could have any other than a genuine "conscientious objection" to taking any part in war, a proceeding which would violate the deepest and most profound convictions of their being, and to betray the religious ideals of their life.

This School has also passed a resolution, which demands the repeal of the Military Service Act.

I close with an earnest appeal that you give the above particulars your very best consideration, I am,

Yours respectfully,

W. Morris Duff, Secy.

Comrade Corrick, of Deptford, who has made a splendid stand against submitting his soul into the hands of the military, writes of his appeal heard at the House of Commons, April 12th:

My Appeal Result

Non-combatant service ordered. Therefore, I endeavor to appeal to Central Tribunal and await arrest. I had every opportunity to say all I wished. But seeing that from the

cases I heard before mine came on, the Tribunal were not going to exempt anyone, however much they proved their convictions, I did not make a lengthy speech. I pointed out that war results from fear. Fear was the result of nations arming against each other, and the only way to ensure a lasting peace was to remove fear, and therefore disarm. I pointed out that one of the tenets in the Socialist Sunday School teaching was that we were against all war and the taking of life, and that Comrade Goswip, President of the London Union, was in the room, and could verify that, and also testify to my working in the schools for some years. The military representative asked me some questions about Savages of India murdering peaceful people. I replied that the question was irrelevant, but also that I did not know that the savages of India did murder people, etc. How did I arrive at my convictions? By reading and learning, and then said, when people are better educated war will cease.

A Mr. Stokes was on the Tribunal, and he cross-examined me as to my membership of political parties.

Chairman's last words were: "You will have to serve as a soldier in non-combatant service."

My private reply to this is, "I don't think!"

From the ever loyal and brave Kalek, who continues his trojan services for our schools at the Tribunals:—

Dear comrades:—I again attended at the House of Commons Appeal Tribunal this forenoon, to hear the Fulham lads who were up appealing against being made murderers, and one of them was an ex-scholar of our school, and a very delicate lad so far as health was concerned. His father and mother were there also. It was his whose mother cried out at the local Tribunal that the Socialist Sunday Schools taught Love and Brotherhood, as referred to in last "Young Socialist." He put up a good case, and said he could on no account shed blood. I was then called up, and stated how long he had been with us in the Fulham school, and that he had been taught that war was murder, and that we had affiliated with the Young People's Movement on the continent, one of whose principal tenets was anti-militarism, and that Karl Liebknecht was the general president.

Claim was not allowed. It is a farce, and I believe the clause dealing with conscientious objectors was only

put in to help its passage through the House of Commons, and was never meant to be real. I had to leave then, so do not know how the others got on.

Comrade George Edwards, whose long faithful love labors has made him a popular figure in our Yorkshire Schools, writes:—

Dear Comrades:—One feels compelled to write you expressing heartiest approval of this month's and last month's "Young Socialist" editorials. That it meets with the Huddersfield school's approval is shown by the hearty way our comrades here are booming the magazine. The Military Service Act is responsible, or will be, for taking 12 or 15 of our young men—all active, live workers—out of the school, and they are now undergoing the farce portrayed by reports shown of Tribunals such as you give in this month's magazine. We have got ready for our young women and juniors to take their place if they are sent away, so keep the Red Flag flying at your end, and we will keep our colors "nailed to the mast" at our end. I enclose one of our 20th anniversary sheets (my word! we do feel old now), and a perusal of the hymns selected will show you what we think.

Fraternally yours,

George Edwards,
Superintendent Huddersfield S. S. S.

Many of our young Socialists have travelled long distances to testify to the faith that is in them by taking part in what will probably yet be recorded as the most sublime and heroic gathering in all history—the No-Conscription Convention held at London last month. Two thousand delegates—the very flower of intellectual young manhood, representing branches of this new organization with thousands of members all over the country—all animated with, and united in, an unalterable determination to resist military service to the very death if necessary, as they stood up in silence with uncovered heads—dedicating their lives afresh to the holy cause of peace and international brotherhood.

Editor.

THE DANGERS OF A CITIZEN ARMY

By Frank Bohn

The strength of the working-class in the industrial conflicts of to-day lies in the fact that it is in opposition to the present government and social order. The worker is tied to authority through his job alone. As a producer on the job it is instinctive for him to fight against authority and constantly demand conditions more in harmony with his own interests.

As a member of any sort of militia force the view of the worker changes automatically. In time of peace the militiaman is paid not to work or fight but to amuse himself while holding himself in readiness for the miserable service of breaking strikes. Leaving the shop or mine the worker proceeds to the annual militia encampment as to a Sunday school picnic. It is his only chance to breathe fresh air during the entire year. Discipline is a joke. He drills two or three hours a day at most. He is fed perfectly good food and lives in a comfortable shelter tent. He wears good clothes, plays much at cards, and spends his dollar a day for drink.

Returning to his home, the member of the militia force finds that the state furnishes him with a very good club house in the form of an armory. The means of social diversion are paid for out of the public treasury. If he remains in the militia for a considerable length of time he almost automatically becomes a non-commissioned officer. Puffed up with a little brief authority his patriotism waxes as every prole-

tarian instinct wanes. In his own opinion as well as in that of his relatives, and of his young women friends, he has become a person of importance.

A citizen army of ten millions of men would mean that the non-commissioned officers alone would number a million and a half. Here is live bait for the game fish of the working-class. The uniform, the flag, above all the privileges and the emoluments attaching to the service will bind the young workmen to order in a way to prevent revolutionary ideas from even taking root.

Imagine a perfectly healthy boy of twenty standing for twelve hours a day in the elevator of an apartment house on Central Park West. His wages are ten dollars a week plus such dimes and quarters as are thrown to him, as scraps from meals are thrown to a dog. The ladies and gentlemen who use the elevator never see him unless it be to frown when the service does not suit. The maid whom he helps down with the baby carriage feels herself to be his social superior. Whenever he saves enough money to buy himself a decent meal he becomes nervous through suppressed energy. This boy enjoys no social diversion whatever—indeed, the only social contact he knows is with a half-dozen of his fellow lackeys. His future is a blank wall. The boy reads in the newspapers that a hundred extra men are needed to fill up a militia regiment for the summer camp, or perchance at the nearest

mail box is hung the well-known advertising poster of the regular army enlisting officer. Who but a fool would blame that boy, despite any preconceived notion he may have, for accepting with ardent interest the life and viewpoint of the soldier? There open before him possibilities of a social intercourse such as heretofore has been denied to him.

One of the most popular fallacies of persons not in the habit of observing the simplest facts is the conception that women are naturally opposed to war. If women were seriously opposed to war there would be no war. It is a commonplace of sociology that the fantastic dress of fashionable woman is effected largely for the purpose of winning in the struggle of sex competition. The showy uniforms of the army and navy are, unhappily, infinitely more interesting to women than to men. It is a positive fact that in every European city the average working girl will take part of her wages received on Saturday night and turn it over to a soldier on Sunday afternoon, thus paying for the privilege of appearing with him in public. An average fourteen-year-old girl in Europe knows every detail in the cut and color of officers' uniforms. She will tell you the exact difference between that of Uhlan and Hussar at the first glance across the street. Militarism has not yet permeated the mind of America. But if we wish to know the far-reaching result of the establishment of a citizen

army of ten millions of men in America, go and study the women at a West Point dress parade or at an Army-Navy football game. Following the Women's Peace Conference at The Hague last year one of the most luxuriously-gowned American delegates, on her return to New York expressed the opinion that wars would never cease until male citizens in civil life be garbed themselves in more beautiful and more interesting clothes.

Of all the horrible paradoxes of militarism none is more indefensible to a thinking mind than the pageantry of the army in times of peace. Three days after your soldier goes into his first fight no beast of the wilderness presents so horrible a picture. His yellow-green clothes are smeared with mud and grime. His filthy and verminous person reeks beyond the imagination of his friends at home. Pictures of heaps of men (frightfully mutilated by shell-fire are now quite familiar to the newspaper-reading public. As a blind to this inevitable result of war, the showiness of militarism in time of peace is the cheapest swindle which our ruling classes employ in the process of misleading the ignorant. Yet, it has always worked and still does work successfully.

A Citizen Army and Strikes

We have seen in France and Italy the result of universal military service as employed in times of large strikes. Practically every worker between the ages of twenty and forty-five is a member of the reserve. A call to the colors puts an end to the strikes in twenty-four hours. The primary purpose of the political action on the part of the working-class is to preserve and increase politi-

cal and legal freedom. With "the call to the colors" all political and legal freedom comes to an end. The next step in our social evolution in America is municipal state capitalism. We shall presently have municipal and national ownership of enormous industries employing millions of persons. Bills have already been introduced at Washington looking to the preferment of ex-soldiers and ex-sailors in the public service. The whole matter is simplicity itself. We have two millions of railway workers alone. Nationalize and municipalize industries employing five millions of men, select the railway employees and others with reference to their services in the citizen army, and slavery will be entrenched with militarism, as it is in Germany.

Responsible

Uncle Luke was going on a railway journey on the accommodation. Presently, as he was waiting at the station, the agent came out and chalked a familiar sign on the bulletin board: "20 min. late." Luke appealed to a bystander.

"Whut's it say, boss?"
 "Train's twenty minutes late."
 The agent came again and wrote with his chalk.

"He's made the train fifty minutes late now" the bystander informed Luke.

A third and a fourth time the agent chalked a message against the accommodation's number. Then Luke became exasperated. "If some one ain' take dat chalk away f'um dat man," he said indignantly, "we folks ain' never gwine to get away f'um dis yer place!"

WHO IS WHO?

The masters will never take you into a fight for real freedom. They always lead you in the other direction.

Who is the best known hero in the present world war? Whose name has become most famous during this war? Is it Von Hindenburg, Kitchener, Von Mackensen, Russky, French, Joffre? No, none of them! The name of the real hero, whose name has become most generally known throughout the civilized world, is Karl Liebknecht!

The capitalist press states that some tribes of aborigines are anxious to go to war. If so, we can guess who put the notion into their heads.

Lord Derby, the head recruiter in Britain, has nearly 200 slum dwellings in Liverpool (England), which the insurance companies positively refuse to have anything to do with. For all that, however, he is a patriot, and can flap a flag with the best of them.

From the confiscation of the worker's labor power to the conscription of his body is but a step.

The Universal Service Legion has published another manifesto. It says a little more plainly: "Make the workers go somewhere else to fight for freedom."

The capitalists of the world are solid for the war. They are determined to fight to the last workman.

Plutes enjoy grand opera. The workers are given brass bands and battles.

If the workers spent more time in seeking knowledge, they would spend less time in seeking glory. —Brisbane Worker (Australia).

PIONEERS

Turn the page that tells of triumphs won by saint and pioneer:

Read the message of the ages penned by prophet, poet, seer:

They, the truly great, who suffered in their struggle 'gainst the wrong—

They, the martyr souls, who perished by the clamor of the throng.

Shall we count as naught their sufferings, and the glory they have won

As a fading wreath, that withers 'neath the splendor of the sun?

Shall we count as naught the spirit born of every noble soul,

Leading to the land of promise, pointing to the social goal?

We have reaped the fruits of labor, sown in bitter, barren years;

We have reaped in joy and laughter what was sown in blood and tears.

Ye heroic sires who, battling, smote the tyrant in his might,

Still inspire thy sons of labor to defend their sacred right.

Time but teaches one great lesson—'tis the noble who are great;

From their labors and their sufferings, Nature molds the perfect state.

We, partakers in their labors, still must share their sufferings, too;

There are cruel chains to sever, there are shackles to undo.

THE PRESS OF OUR INTERNATIONAL



Still for us defeats and triumphs, still the fight to wage with wrong;

Still the tyrant lords to conquer ere we shout the victor's song;

Still the call, adown the ages, echoes through the silent years—

We have need of saints and martyrs, we have need of pioneers.

Explicit

"Are you of the opinion, James," asked a slim-looking man of his companion, "that Dr. Smith's medicine does any good?"

"Not unless you follow the directions."

"What are the directions?"
 "Keep the bottle tightly corked."

The Young Socialists' Magazine

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THE LABOR MARKET

By T. H. Potter.

The monopolists said: "If we can only cut the workingman off from the land, we can employ him at about our own price."

And they did so.

Then they said: "If we can get his young son to work for us, the increased amount of labor on the market will enable us to get the two for about the price of one."

And they did so.

Then they said: "Now for his little girl; all three will only earn what the father did at one time."

And they did so.

Then they said: "Now reach for the mother." "But she has to take care of the baby." "Oh, we will pay one woman to take charge of twenty babies and scoop the nineteen."

And they did so.

Then they said: "We won't pay that one woman. Appeal to the public—'tis so charitable."

And they are doing so.

Then the foxy one lay awake nights to think of something the babies could work at; that he might coin a few pennies off the kids.

Make the Nursery self-supporting. You know, it would be so independent.

And they will do so.—The Public.

UNHAPPY IRELAND

The Irish Rebellion is over. The blood of thousands of rebels has run in crimson floods over the streets of Dublin. Other thousands are in the hands of the victorious rufers. A large part of the Irish capital lies buried under ashes and ruins. The short dream of an Irish Republic has ended with a terrible awakening.

One may be of the opinion that the time for revolt was poorly chosen, that it was undertaken without the slightest chance for success. It may be true that it was inspired by strangers, that strange hands started the flame which set afire a whole nation; that it was undertaken more in Germany's than in Ireland's interests.

All this may be true. And still the sympathies of all who suffer oppression will be on the side of the rebels, on the side of those who risked their lives in an attempt to overthrow those who were in power, and who misused that power. The slave who strikes a blow for freedom against his master will always have the sympathy of those who suffer oppression.

It must not be forgotten that the history of revolutionary movements is always written by the victors. Much has been reported in these days concerning the things that have happened in Ireland. But whatever we heard was told by the victors. The reports that reached us were the reports that were allowed to come to us by the English government. We have been given a picture of only one side of Irish occurrences. Everything that might justify England has been

reported. Everything that might place England into a less favorable light has been suppressed. Up to the present movement we know of no description from the mouth or the pen of one of the conquered. Once more the victor is writing history. And until we have heard from the other side, until they who have failed will have given their side we cannot judge as to the reasons for this uprising.

But one thing is clear! The Irish revolt has shown to the oppressed of the warring nations the way to the end of the world-wide slaughtering of humanity. The Irish have revolted against their masters; that is the way, the only way in which the oppressed and suffering people of the European nations can end the war. The workers of each country must strike the blow against their own master! It were a blessing to humanity if the workers of Germany and of England, of Austria and of France, of Italy and of Russia were to follow the example of their Irish brothers. This would insure a peace in the interests of the workers of the whole world.

Those who have fought in Ireland and failed have won our respect. They were honestly convinced of the righteousness of their cause, they were willing to give their lives for life and liberty. They died for what they believed was for the best of their people. And they will be enshrined in the hearts of their countrymen as martyrs in the course of progress and justice. A whole world of fighters will remember them. For the dead of

Dublin died for a cause, which has claimed the noblest of the earth, the long chain of never-to-be-forgotten revolutionists of the world's history.

Like the men who stormed the Bastille, the martyrs of the Paris Commune, the great, the glorious "failures" of modern times, they have shown the lowly the way, upward and forward, they have written with a hand of fire the message of the final overthrow of tyranny and oppression.

A CHILD'S LAUGHTER

All the bells of heaven may ring,
All the birds of heaven may sing,
All the wells on earth may spring,
All the winds of earth may bring

All sweet sounds together;
Sweeter far than all things heard,
Hand of harper, tone of bird,
Sound of woods at sundown

stirred,
Welling water's winsome word,
Wind in warm wan weather.

One thing yet there is, that none
Hearing ere its chime be done
Knows not well the sweetest one
Heard of man beneath the sun,

Hoped in heaven hereafter;
Soft and strong and loud and
light,

Very sound of very light,
Heard from morning's rosiest
height,

When the soul of all delight
Fills a child's clear laughter.

Golden bells of welcome rolled,
Never forth such notes, nor told
Hours so blithe in tones so bold,
As the radiant mouth of gold

Here that rings forth heaven,
If the golden-crested wren
Were a nightingale—why, then,
Something seen and heard of men
Might be half as sweet as when
Laughs a child of seven.

—Swinburne.

MILITARISM THE VICTOR

Militarism has won a firm foothold in the State of New York. On the 15th of May Governor Whitman signed five military bills. Among these is the bill which provides for compulsory military drill in the public schools of New York State. Another bill permits the Governor at any time to draft into military service every man, capable of bearing arms between the ages of 18 and 45 years, in order to prepare the National Guard for war.

The Slater Bill provides for military training of all boys between 16 and 19 years, who are not regularly employed as wage earners. The remaining two bills provide for a reorganization of the land and naval militia forces of the State.

How dangerous even the immediate effects of these bills may be seems hardly to need discussion. They are an established fact, and nothing that we may do or say can undo what has been done. But the measure and the spirit in which they will be carried out still lies in the hands of the people of the state. If they acquiesce meekly, if they accept every new measure as inevitable, then there will be no limit to the desires of our militarist agitators, no dream too wild, that it may not be made to come true.

Is there a surer way of rearing a nation of militarist enthusiasts than to teach boys at the impressionable age of 8 to 14 years of age the fundamental military forms, the marching and counter-marching, the gun drill, the salutes and the discipline that constitute the military drill? Is there

an easier way of training our growing generation to slavish obedience to orders, than long years of military exercises whose whole essence is obedience, thoughtless, stupid, blind obedience to the man in power?

We have more than the bodies, we have the spirits, the minds of our boys to save. And they will be ours if we do our work, earnestly, willingly, enthusiastically.

Down with patriotism and nationalism!

Raise high the banner of Internationalism!

The Young Socialist movement can have no nobler aims than these.

A WORD OF HEARTY APPRECIATION

We desire to call the attention of our readers to a report which appears in this number showing the splendid fight that the young Socialist workers of England are making against the efforts of their country to force them into arms. The workers of Great Britain may be justly proud of the bravery and courage of their sons, for they are the products of a splendid system of Socialist Sunday schools which cannot find its equal the world over. In this fight against militarism—the only fight that can be conducted with any hope of eventual success—the young men have received inspiration and support from the "Young Socialist" of Great Britain, which, under the greatest difficulties, not the least of which was an acute falling off of funds, has maintained its stand for Internationalism.

We write this to express our sincere respect and admiration for the brave young comrades, and to the "Young Socialist" that supports them so nobly in their fight.

An Old Friend

Sentry—"Halt! Who goes there?"

Voice—"Chaplain."

Sentry—"Pass, Charley; 'all's well."—Boston Transcript.

OUR OWN AFFAIRS

NEW YORK

Minutes of Brooklyn Central Committee, Y. P. S. L., May 7, 1916

Meeting called to order at 2:30 P. M. Noskin in chair. Minutes of previous meeting adopted as read. Credentials from Circle 2, placing Lapidus in place of Shapiro, resigned, as delegate to central committee. Accepted and delegate seated. Bills of officers and committee men all ordered paid. Organizer reported: Sent letter to Bright, received no reply. Received communication from Kruse, again asking for names of officers of circles and their addresses. Gave him as much of the information as he could. Organizer asks for financial and membership reports of circles to be handed in at next meeting; that Plotkin has resigned as director of Circle 3, as he is leaving town. Circle 3 is making arrangements to secure Beardsley in his place as director and asks that the organizer leave this matter to the circle to handle; that Tishler asks that we make an effort to increase our membership, pointing to New York's membership of 500. Our speakers and campaign committee instructed to emphasize membership in their street talks. Financial secretaries instructed to send in financial reports within two weeks. Decided that supervision committee be instructed to formulate uniform bookkeeping system which all circles will be obliged to use.

Educational committee reports that they have held no meetings, ask for action towards calling a meeting. Organizer instructed to notify the members of this committee by postal of a meeting to be held within two weeks, those members who fail to appear to be dropped from committee. Delegates to district committee report that no meetings have been held, that New York comrades take their time about calling these meetings to order and that as a result delegates from Brooklyn cannot very well attend because of the late hour of their return from meetings. Organizer instructed to write about this condition to district committee.

Campaign committee reported that they held several open-air meetings on May day and during the week of May 1st to date. That the meetings were successful; that circles had held other meetings besides those arranged for them by campaign committee which were also well attended. That

in some districts the work of the Y. P. S. L. conflicts with that of the S. P. Decided that campaign committee be given full power to arrange all circle meetings, and that no circle be allowed to arrange meetings without the consent of this committee, so that the committee can work in harmony with the S. P. and arrange meetings that will not conflict. Decided that circles be asked what nights are convenient for them for open air meetings to be arranged in their district. Circles asked to elect campaign managers to keep in touch with campaign committee. Young Socialist Day committee reports that the organizer has called no meeting of this committee. Asks for some action. Committee instructed to meet and prepare a report to be ready by next meeting.

Financial secretary reported an income of \$5.55 for period of two weeks between central committee meetings. Expense for same period, \$14.35. Deficit \$9.80. Cash on hand, \$44.01, balance \$35.41. Also reports that he held meeting of financial secretaries and treasurers of circles and have looked over the books of these circles in an effort to formulate a uniform system of bookkeeping. Financial secretary's attention called to, a previous motion carried in reference to this work.

Treasurer reports \$27 in treasury. Circle 1. Organization committee instructed to visit them.

Circle 2. Two applications for membership. Vote on assistant organizer: Zeitlan, 15; Rohman, 1, Muller, 5.

Circle 3. Order 30 Y. S. M. Will have Beardsley as instructor. Trouble with financial secretary not yet adjusted. Vote on assistant organizer is: Zeitlan, 2; Rohman, 20; Muller, 1. Financial secretary ordered to meet Circle 3's officers and adjust their troubles.

Circle 6. Six applications for membership accepted from this circle. Will give Y. S. M. to new members with initiation fee. Orders 30 copies of Y. S. M. per month. Vote on assistant organizer: Zeitlan, 8; Rohman, 0; Muller, 8. Having good meetings. Bertha M. Fraser directing.

Circle 7. Reports dissatisfaction with way central committee meetings are carried on. Places order of 15 Y. S. M. per month. Vote as follows: Zeitlan, 1; Rohman, 0; Muller, 13.

Circle 9. Ordered and sold 100 copies of May Day edition of Y. S. M.

Place order of 41 copies for each month hereafter. Vote as follows: Zeitlan, 0; Rohman, 0; Muller, 20. New director failed to show up at last meeting. Matter referred to organizer.

Old Business. Vote on assistant organizer reported as follows: Zeitlan, 26; Rohman, 21; Muller, 47. Muller of Circle 9 declared elected to take office at once and to remain in office until January, 1917.

New Business. Committees instructed to give their reports in writing hereafter. Circle 2 ordered to follow out the provisions of Article 5, Section 1, of constitution. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 P. M.

Fraternally submitted.

Louis E. Weil, Rec. Sec'y.
Y. P. S. L., Brooklyn.

MANHATTAN REPORT

With a membership of 524, the Manhattan League has begun a new era of activity.

The new administration of the league, headed by Joseph Vernick, its general organizer, has started things a-going. Final arrangements for the State convention are being made now.

Of the 14 circles composing the league 11 are in perfect condition. Circles 2, 4 and 14 are being reorganized under the direct supervision of the executive committee and general organizer.

The Inter-circle Debating Tournament is being completed for May 28, when Circle 1 will debate Circle 8 at 220 E. 14th St.

When this report is published one of the above-mentioned circles will boast of a pure silk Y. P. S. L. large pennant, which is the championship prize for the best circle debating team.

Beginning with this number of the Y. P. S. L. magazine copies of same will be had for sale at League Headquarters, 220 E. 14th St., monthly. Special committees will sell the magazines in the various circles.

NEWS FROM THE ROCHESTER YIPSELS

Aside from the regular Wednesday evening programs, consisting of some very interesting scientific lectures, parliamentary law drills, commemorations, etc., the Rochester League recently tried out a very novel scheme in the way of an enjoyable entertainment.

The main feature was a Silhouette Contest. Several of our "artist" Yipseles secured the shadow pictures of about 25 of our most prominent members. This was done by pinning a sheet of white paper (black on opposite side) to the wall, sitting the "patient" close to the wall, sideways, darkening the room and holding a lighted candle in such a position as to produce a good shadow or outline of the head. The shadow was then very carefully drawn in pencil, getting the exact outline of the nose, lips, chin, hair, etc., life size. These shadows were then cut out and pasted, black side up, upon white sheets of paper.

Each silhouette was numbered and on the evening of the social same were hung around the hall and all those present were provided with slips upon which the number and name of party whom the silhouette represented were written. A prize was given to the one guessing the greatest number correctly, and it suffices to say that the affair provided very unusual entertainment for all present.

Of course, dancing also formed a part of the program and refreshments were served. We called the above a "Name Social," and as an entrance fee a charge of one cent for each letter in one's name was made, some running as high as 15 and 20 cents, so that a neat sum was realized.

The profit on this social was turned over to our Library Committee, for the purpose of enlarging our present collection of books, which now number over one thousand volumes. Our library is operated in practically the same method as public libraries, and is open to all League, Socialist Party and Labor Lyceum members, as well as friends who may be vouched for by members of any of the above three organizations.

Bertha Vossler, Organizer.

Syracuse Y. P. S. L.

On Sunday, May 7, the league took a hike to the Indian Reservation, where about fifty young people went. When we got to our place the lunch baskets were emptied. After lunch we played baseball between two teams chosen among league members. Florence Crimmins was captain of one side and Joe Serino was captain of the other side, and the last one mentioned was the winner by the score of 17 to 5. Later a team was picked to play to the Indians, also suffering a defeat by the score of 15 to 3.

May 13th, Comrade Kruse spoke here in the City Hall to a small audience. The fact was that the striking machinist held several big meetings,

and also our Y. P. S. L. members are leaving the town.

May 27th they will hold an ice cream social and dance at their headquarters.

June 18th they will hold a boat ride to Sunny Brook Farm.

Are you thinking about going to the big Y. P. S. L. Convention? If so, give your name to the League Secretary and he will do the rest. You are all welcome to come to Syracuse, and we will insure you a good time.

Syracuse Yipsele Reds will challenge any baseball team in New York State during the convention.

Watch "The New York Call" and "The American Socialist" for further information regarding the convention. We hope to meet you here in July 1, 2, and 3.

George Stieler, Organizer.

NEW JERSEY

1916 New Jersey Y. P. S. L. Convention

With 45 official delegates representing 14 circles present, the third annual convention of the Young People's Socialist League of New Jersey was held in Progress Hall, the pretty home of Elizabeth Socialists, on Sunday, May 14th, 1916. Besides the delegates there was a still larger number of visitors from all parts of New Jersey, New York City, and a fraternal delegate from the Pennsylvania Y. P. S. L. No one will dispute the fact that this was the biggest and best convention in the existence of the New Jersey Y. P. S. L.

Reports of officers were received with great enthusiasm. The secretary's report showed that our membership has reached the 700 mark; number of circles, 15; cash in State treasury, over \$53.00.

Resolutions were passed endorsing the union label and urging that members of the league be particular that all goods bear the union label. Labor unions and other labor organizations were endorsed. "The New York Call," "The American Socialist" and "The Young Socialists' Magazine" were endorsed as the official organs of the State organization. All members were urged to patronize the labor and Socialist press of their respective localities. A resolution was passed in regard to release of Patrick Quinlan, who is serving time for his part in the Paterson silk mill strike. An anti-militarism resolution, especially directed at the Boy Scout and the National Guard movements, was passed. Practically all of the recommenda-

tions of the Ways and Means Committee were accepted. Provision was made for appointing deputy organizers by the State Organizer, so as to care for the unorganized sections of the State. An educational director is to be elected, said comrade to be the chairman of a committee which is to gather information concerning educational methods as applied to the leagues.

Constitutional amendment accepted that the meetings of the State Committee be held bi-monthly. The next meeting will take place on Sunday, June 11, 1916, at 124 Market St., Newark, N. J.

Officers elected: State Organizer, Richard W. Picard; Roselle Park; State Secretary, Benjamin Green of Newark; the offices of State Financial Secretary and Treasurer were merged and Erna A. Semner of Elizabeth was elected to fill this office. The State Executive Committee is to consist of 7 members instead of 5 as heretofore. Besides the 3 State officers, the following 4 were elected: Geo. M. Garrison of Bayonne, B. Spector of Trenton, Abe Lunde of Paterson and Robert Perina of Camden. M. D. Newman of Jersey City and Harry Berger of Paterson were elected National Committee men.

All official communications intended for the State Secretary should be addressed to Benjamin Green, 49 Blum St., Newark, N. J.

The 1917 State Convention is to be held in Newark, date to be decided by the State Committee.

The social end was not neglected either. Quite a number of the comrades stayed over for the remainder of the day and enjoyed the interesting program which was arranged by the Elizabeth comrades, consisting of recitations, vocal and musical solos, and dancing.

CIRCLE PATERSON'S BEST

What promises to be the biggest picnic ever undertaken by any Y. P. S. L. in the eastern states will be the second grand annual picnic and games of the Paterson, N. J., league.

The Silk City "Yipseles" have incurred a great expense and devoted much time in providing measures of convenience for all those who attend the affair. Enough joy will be distributed to make this coming event one to be long remembered.

Our Arrangements Committee has decided on the following:

To send to the membership of the New York and New Jersey leagues (Circle Passaic excepted) as many complimentaries as are required. Only

the circle secretary should order the tickets. Requests for complimentaryaries will not be considered after date of June 25.

We make this liberal offer, comrades, as a measure of inter-circle co-operation. Will the nearby circles take advantage?

Show your interest. Get together. Come down in a body. Send in your order for free tickets.

The picnic and games will be held Saturday afternoon and evening, July 1st, at Willard Park. Dancing by Professor Cockett's full union bell orchestra will start at 2 P. M. sharp.

Comrades, come to our affair. It surely will be a day of social enjoyment for you.

For complimentaryaries and further information, league secretaries should address all correspondence to the following: Louis Cohan, 10 12th Ave., Paterson, N. J.

PENNSYLVANIA

Second Annual Y. P. S. L. State Convention

The success of the convention was due in a great measure to the splendid spirit of co-operation that manifested itself on every hand. The Socialist Party of Reading donated the use of the Labor Lyceum and the Woman's Educational League prepared an elaborate menu for the banquet that followed the four busy sessions of the convention.

The Reading comrades extended a hearty welcome to the visiting delegates through their spokesmen, Claire Spohn, which was responded to in a neat little speech by Theodore Swartz, in which he outlined the work for which the convention was met.

The convention promptly elected the committees to prepare a constitution, and reports and plans on strengthening the organization, and a resolution committee was also chosen. The State Secretary's report showed that the state organization consisted of 17 Circles. Two Circles disbanded and six new ones organized during the year. The total membership of the organization is 747 in good standing.

The reports of the officers showed that the Pennsylvania "Yipsels" are alive to their responsibilities and that they were willing to co-operate with the Socialist party to the fullest extent was shown when they made arrangements to confer with the State Executive Committee of the Socialist Party. Comrade Ringler, State Secretary of the Socialist Party and a fraternal delegate to the convention, immediately arranged for the meeting.

The outcome of that meeting was that the party will give the league their active co-operation, and that speakers routed from the state office will be given instructions to bring before audiences for which they speak, the necessity and the advisability of organizing Young People's Socialist Leagues. The matter of publicity was also discussed and the director of publicity, a new department provided by the new constitution, was instructed to furnish Socialist and labor papers with news and propaganda matter regularly.

The revenue derived from the sale of dues stamps was not considered sufficient to carry on the work and pay the convention expenses, so the new constitution provides that the price of the stamps shall be 5 cents to the leagues, and that one-third of all the money derived from the sale of stamps shall be used to defray convention expenses.

The next convention will be held at Pittsburgh in 1918, unless the referendum decides otherwise, but the provision for biennial conventions seems to be a move in the right direction, since the resources of the organization are not large enough to stand the strain of yearly conventions.

The reports of officers and committees, and particularly the report of the Ways and Means Committee will be compiled and published in booklet form. The suggestions contained in these reports were considered to be of so much value to the Circles and to individual members of the Y. P. S. L. that the convention elected a committee to compile these reports and to issue a manual, the cost of the booklets to be just enough to cover the cost of publication. It was pointed out that a great need of our movement was some sort of a text-book to instruct comrades in various phases of our work.

The following officers were elected to serve until the next convention: State Secretary, Theodore Swartz; Treasurer, Financial Secretary, McKeesport; Financial Secretary, Irvin F. Weber, Reading; Organizer, Joseph A. Ploger, Pittsburgh; Educational Director, Nathan Marks, Philadelphia; Director of Entertainment, A. Levinson, Philadelphia; Director of Publicity, Charles Coover, York; Ways and Means Director, H. Shneiviss, Philadelphia. The following were elected as the Grievance Committee: A. Levinson, H. Birtwhistle, Nathan Marks, Harry Perelman, and Theodore Hamberg.

Irvin F. Weber was chosen as the fraternal delegate to the New Jersey State Convention, which will convene May 14, at Elizabeth, N. J.

Harry Perelman of Philadelphia was chosen as the Convention Secretary.

William F. Kruse was present at the last two sessions of the convention and was seated as a fraternal delegate. He delivered an inspiring address at Red Man's Hall. His lecture, "The Fighting Chance" was well received.

Milton D. Neuman, State Organizer of New Jersey Y. P. S. L. and Chas. F. Sands, of Reading, were fraternal delegates.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Fred Weber of Reading a daughter on May 3rd. Mother and child are reported as doing fine.

PENNSYLVANIA Y. P. S. L.

A new circle of the Y. P. S. L. has been organized at Scranton, Pa., with seven members, and at the next meeting it is expected that they will double their membership, as each comrade knew of one more that would join the organization. They have planned to take part in the May Party held under the auspices of the Party, which will be held in one of Scranton's parks. The Yipsels and the children's clubs will enjoy an automobile ride to and from the park.

York Circle

A new circle organized with 40 charter members and doing work like a bunch of well-seasoned veterans. A dance and musicale was given last week and a debate has been arranged for this week.

Philadelphia

A novel membership campaign is being carried on by the Philly Yipsels. The Central Committee asked each circle to select a number, and the number selected by the circle means that the circle will make a special campaign to secure that many new members in a given time. Circle No. 6 was not a bit backward, and they selected number 100. We wish them success, and if they accomplish their aim we think that the Central Committee should banquet them.

A new plan for encouraging comrades to speak before audiences is being tried out by Circles 1 and 2. The educational director of each circle has prepared a list of subjects, and each comrade is allowed to select the subject that suits him best, and they are given two weeks to prepare a short 10-minute talk, which will be delivered at an educational meeting.

Twenty-two new comrades have joined the circle during the month of April.

DIE JUNGEN AN DIE ALTEN

Wir sind Genossen,
Fest angeschlossen,
Zusammenhaltende
Für alle Zeit.
Glieder einer Klasse,
Wir halten zur Masse
In jeder Lage
Und bis zum Tod.

Wenn Stürme sausen
Und Wetter brausen,
Wir kämpfen immer
In Einigkeit;
Wenn Gefahren dräuen,
Wir Müh' nicht scheuen;
In treuem Bunde
Sind Brüder wir.

Gleich Sonnenstrahlen
In allen Talen
Die Lieb' soll scheinen
Auf unsern Pfad.
Das Rechte tun
Und nimmer ruhen,
Für Wahrheit streiten
Zu jeder Zeit.
Drum, gleich uns Kindern,
Die Not zu lindern,
Sollt kämpfen stets Ihr
Mit starker Faust,
Bis dass die Freiheit
Uns alle segnet
Als ihre Kinder
Für alle Zeit. (Josef Jülich.)

Das Nilpferd.

Von Sven Hedin.

In den Seen und Flüssen Mittelafrikas lebt das grosse, plumpe, hässliche Nilpferd, der Behemoth der Bibel. In alten Zeiten kam es auch in Unterägypten vor und wurde hier Flusschwein genannt. Heute aber muss man schon eine ganze Strecke südwärts über Nubien hinausgehen, um es anzutreffen. In vielen Flüssen unternimmt es Wanderungen, und es richtet sich dabei nach der Regenzeit: sinkt der Spiegel des Flusses,

dann begibt es sich bergabwärts, und wenn der Regen das Flussbett wieder füllt, aufwärts.

Während andere Tiere seit ihrem ersten Auftreten in früheren Zeitabschnitten der Erde grosse Formänderungen durchgemacht haben, hat das Nilpferd sein früheres Aussehen in dem wesentlichen bewahrt. Es macht dazu auch heute noch einen urweltlichen Eindruck. Der rundliche plumpe Körper des Nilpferdes ruht auf vier kurzen, unförmigen Beinen mit vier Hufen an jedem Fuss. Der Kopf ist beinahe viereckig, Augen und Ohren sind klein, das Maul entsetzlich breit und die Nasenlöcher fehlen. Die zwei Zentimeter dicke Haut ist unbehaart und schillert je nachdem sie nass oder trocken ist grau, dunkelbraun oder schmutzgrün. Den kleinen kurzen Schwanz abgerechnet wird das Tier vier Meter lang; es wiegt so viel wie dreissig ausgewachsene Männer.

Die Nilpferde verleben die meiste Zeit im Wasser; nachts gehen sie aufs Land, besonders in Gegenden, wo die Flüsse selbst nicht viel Nahrung bieten. Schleicht man an ruhigströmenden Flüssen vorsichtig entlang, so kann man das Tier oft überraschen; wenn es auftaucht, um Luft zu schnappen, spritzt es unter starkem Pusten und Schnauben Strahlen von Wasser aus seinen Nasenlöchern. Dann taucht es wieder unter und bleibt wohl drei bis vier Minuten unter Wasser. Ist es unmittelbar unter der Oberfläche, so sieht man über dem Wasser nur sechs kleine Erhöhungen: die Ohren, die Augen und die Nasenlöcher. Fühlt es sich nicht sicher, so steckt es nur die Nasenlöcher aus dem Wasser und atmet so leise, wie ihm nur möglich ist.

Oft liegen die Nilpferde in seichtem Wasser und plätschern

darin herum, oder sie klettern auch auf das Ufer hinauf, um sich zu sonnen und sich behaglich und bequem zu machen. Dann hört man sie alle Augenblicke vor Wohlbehagen grunzende Töne ausstossen. Gegen Abend aber suchen sie die tieferen Stellen des Flusses auf, wo sie umherschweben, einander jagen und sich mit grösster Gewandtheit und Gelenkigkeit im Wasser tummeln. Sie schwimmen ausserordentlich schnell und stossweise und erfüllen dabei die Luft mit brüllenden, gurgelnden Tönen. Gleichwohl können sie aber auch so leise schwimmen, dass man das Wasser gar nicht rauschen hört. Ein verwundetes Nilpferd bringt den Wasserspiegel in so heftige Bewegung, dass kleine Boote in den Schlagwellen kentern können. Wenn mehrere alte Männchen zugleich brüllen, durchdringt der Lärm den Urwald meilenweit, und es rollt wie Donner über das Wasser hin. Kein anderes Tier kann solchen Lärm machen; sogar der Löwe bleibt dann horchend stehen.

Am oberen Nil, oberhalb der Stadt Chartum, wo der üppige Pflanzenwuchs die Ufer erobert und der Fluss sich oft in Seen und Sümpfen verliert, geht das Nilpferd gleich dem Krokodil nur selten ans Land. Es lebt hier von den Blättern der Lotospflanze und Papyrusstauden, den weichen Schilfsprossen und den übrigen saftigen Pflanzen, die in Sumpfgewässern gedeihen. Es taucht unter, wühlt minutenlang auf dem Boden des Flusses und trübt das Wasser weit umher. Hat es sein gewaltiges Maul mit Blättern und Stengeln gefüllt, dann erhebt es sich wieder über die Oberfläche, und das Wasser strömt in Bächen von seinem gewölbten Leib herab. Jetzt setzt es die Kiefer in Bewe-

gung und die Zähne zermalmen das Futter; Speichel und Pflanzensaft träufeln ihm wie eine grüne Suppe von den dicken Lippen, und die mächtigen Eckzähne zeigen sich in ihrer ganzen Kraft. Der Appetit des Nilpferdes ist unverwüsthch.

In Gegenden, wo es zur Weide aufs Land geht, verübt es in den Getreide- und Gemüesefeldern grossen Schaden und fällt sogar oft die Dorfleute an. Auch lässt es nicht mit sich spassen, wenn ein Boot es in seiner Ruhe stört. Am gefährlichsten ist die Mutter, solange ihr Junges noch klein ist; sie trägt es auf dem Rücken, wenn sie schwimmt und liegt, ja sie taucht sogar mit ihm unter und bleibt mit ihm lange Zeit auf dem Grund des Flusses. Soll ein Flintenschuss durch den Hautpanzer des Nilpferdes etwas ausrichten, so bedarf es einer tüchtigen Ladung. Wenn das getroffene Tier nach dem Schuss schnaubt und untertaucht, ist es dem Jäger verloren; richtet es sich aber hoch über dem Wasser auf und fällt dann nieder, so traf die Kugel tödlich, und das Tier sinkt auf der Stelle. Der Jäger wartet dann einige Stunden, bis es auf der Oberfläche treibt.

Einige Negerstämme am Weissen Nil graben dem Nilpferd Fallgruben. An den Flüssen, die am Nordufer des Ngami-Sees münden, jagen die Eingeborenen die Tiere mit Harpunen, die eine scharfe, mit Widerhaken versehene eiserne Spitze tragen. Mit dem Holzschaf der Harpune ist durch eine Leine ein Korkstück verbunden. Auf einem aus Rohrbündeln bestehenden Floss werden zwei Kanoes gezogen, und zwischen ihnen hocken die schwarzen Jäger mit bereitgehaltenen Harpunen und leichten Speeren. Das Floss wird der

Strömung überlassen und treibt lautlos flussabwärts. In der Ferne hört man die Tiere schnauben und im Wasser plätschern. Die Unterhaltung der Jäger verstummt, und jeder muss auf seinem Posten sein. Ein Schilfvorsprung verbirgt die Tiere noch; ein Floss gleitet unhörbar daran vorüber. Jetzt sieht man die dunklen Massen über dem Wasserspiegel. Sie wittern keine Gefahr in dem Schilf- und Reisigbündel, das da von der Strömung ihnen entgegengetragen wird. Ein Nilpferd taucht unmittelbar neben dem Floss auf. In diesem Moment erhebt sich der Harpunierer blitzschnell und stösst ihm mit aller Kraft die Waffe in die Seite. Das verwundete Tier taucht mit einer heftigen Bewegung bis auf den Grund, aber das auf dem Wasser schwimmende Korkstück zeigt die Richtung seiner Flucht. Nun werden die Kanoes zur Verfolgung ins Wasser geschoben. Sobald das Tier wieder auftaucht, wird es von einem Hagel von Wurfspereen empfangen. Es taucht wieder unter und hinterlässt einen blutroten Streifen im Wasser. Wenn es beim nächsten Auftauchen abermals mit Speeren überschüttet wird, kommt es oft vor, dass es sich wütend gegen seine Verfolger wendet und ein gar zu zudringliches Kanoee mit seinen grossen Zähnen zerbricht oder ihm von untenher mit dem Kopf einen gewaltigen Stoss versetzt. Dann und wann begnügt sich das verwundete Nilpferd auch nicht mit dem Kanoee, sondern geht auf die Männer los, und mancher kühne Jäger ist von ihm schon zerrissen worden.

Ist aber das verwundete Nilpferd ermattet, dann fischt der Jäger das Korkstück auf, rudert ans Land, schlingt die Leine um einen Baum und zieht mit allen

Kräften so lange, bis das Tier aus dem Wasser herauskommt.

Das Fleisch des Nilpferdes wird mit Vorliebe gegessen. Das Fleisch der jungen und das Fett der älteren Tiere gilt als besonders wohlschmeckend; die Zunge ist ein Leckerbissen. Aus seiner Haut fertigt man Reitpeitschen, Schilde und anderes, auch die grossen Eckzähne sind wertvoll. Manche Tiersammlungen Europas besitzen Flusspferde, die als Junge gefangen worden sind. Will man sich eines Jungen bemächtigen, so muss man erst die Mutter töten, denn das Junge verlässt sie auch in der Gefahr nicht, bleibt sogar bei ihrem toten Körper. Die jungen Flusspferde, die für Zoologische Gärten gefangen werden sollen, werden auch harpuniert. Dabei bedienen sich die Jäger einer besonders eingerichteten Harpune, die nicht tief in das Fleisch der Dickhäuter eindringen kann; infolgedessen ist die Verwundung nur eine leichte und heilt rasch, und dem Transport des jungen Gefangenen steht nichts mehr im Wege. In der ersten Zeit ernährt man das Junge mit Kuhmilch; es braucht für eine Mahlzeit die Milch von vier Kühen. Aber es fühlt sich im Schutz der Menschen nicht wohl, es träumt von Afrikas Seen und Flüssen, wo es unter Lotusbäumen und in Rohr- und Binsenverstecken lag. Statt des rauschenden Flusses ist es jetzt auf einen elenden Teich beschränkt.

A Zoological Discovery

It was the first time that four-year-old Willie had ever seen a snake; and, as it writhed and squirmed along, he ran into the house to tell of his discovery. "Oh, mother," he exclaimed, "come here, quick. Here's a tail wagging without any dog."