

### *Slants at the Meeting*

What you hear depends on where you are from. It may sound the same but it's different. From the country, Kountze or Kansas City will determine whether it it a fiddle, violin or a Stradivarius.

Every time we hear one of these V Vs. . . violin virtuoso. . . we feel abashed. It sounds like something chaste but we know it ought to be chased.

Last week we had a violin obligata (it sounds like a "violent obligation" but at times it's not that bad) and from the amount of applause we can't tell whether the bunch was cheering because the first part of the program was put on last or the last part was put in first. Anyway that part that was left off received an ovation. Pepper Martin had a greater lure for ball fans than a magnet has for iron shavings.

In the 16 & 17th centuries three Wops (relatives of Joe Clesi) of Cremona had just about "knocked off the apples off the tree" when it comes to gluing up old cigar boxes with bridges on them for violins. The lad they called Stradvari used mucilage with a little higher viscosity and lower boiling point than the others hence the antique shops of America adopted his as a model for mass production thereby perpetuating his name under a forty, fifty or hundred thousand dollar glamour. So much for the history of these gut-strung instruments with horse hair motive power.

Now we etmologists like to bore into things . . . that is, somethings . . . for instance the word "obligatto" might not be as well defined in your minds as something else you have there. We therefore feel it incumbent to give you the benefit of our knowledge.

Montgomery-Ward gives "obb" as coming from a Chinese participle meaning **duty**—very **OB**vious, you see and the word "gatto", of course you all know comes from a Peruvian root on which there was a little blemish, a knot, but the Zulu word for **knot** is "ali." Therefore you readily see these offspring united make the good old English word "alligatto" or "alligator" from which the Cajons derive gumbo. But in the third Dynasty of Fish by a queer turn of events some of the Semitic races feeling their duty to the finny tribe dropped the "a" and substituted the prefix "obb" thus creating "obligatto," meaning in early Sanskrit or late Bohemian an "indispensable movement written for a particular instrument."

# ROTARYGRAMS OF BEAUMONT



## WEEKLY BULLETIN

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### *Lengthening School*

(From The Rotarian magazine)

"A college graduate in my day," a middle-aged business man recently observed, "had a decided advantage over most of his fellows. But today college men are no rarity, and if a man is to keep up with the procession he should have a master's or even a doctor's degree in his field."

Which is, more or less, true. Business following the professions, has awakened to a new self-consciousness and self-respect, as witness codes of ethics, the growth of service clubs and commercial associations, and the popularity of such words as realtor, beautician, mortician, and so forth.

All of which makes a changed world for the young man. If the professions and business demand higher standards, he must stay in school longer to qualify, while the positions he might have filled will be occupied by older men whose work-span has been lengthened by preventive medicine.

During the current business recession, it is especially important that as many young men and women be kept in school as possible, so as not to swell the ranks of the unemployed either by their presence or through the displacement of others now at work.

President Hoover's Emergency Committee on Unemployment has urged that individuals and organizations encourage college and high school graduates who can afford another year in school, to take it. Not only would these young men and women thereby be employing their time interestingly when otherwise they would probably be idle for lack of a job, but they would also be fitting themselves to qualify for the rising vocational requirements when positions do become available.

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**ROTARY VISITORS**

The following visitors were present at last week's meeting:

J. C. DShong, Paris, Texas.  
Edgar Granan, Port Arthur, Texas.  
J. C. Koetting, Houston, Texas.  
A. W. Pettigrew, Austin, Texas.  
A. M. Slevin, City.  
C. G. McGraw, City.  
T. M. Elliott, Kansas City, Mo.  
George M. Irons, Dallas, Texas.  
Clay Eargle, City.

—Rotarygrams—

**Mars, Bill Collector**

From the Rotarian magazine

There is one chap who is riding the depression high, wide, 'n' handsome, as the cowboys say. He is Mars.

Mars' business is wars. But when warring is a bit slack, Mars varies his vocation with bill-collecting. Right now, Mars is bill-collecting. And, if President Hoover has his figures aright, Mars this year is going to collect from nations of the world the rather tidy total of almost five billion dollars for arms. Five billion dollars for arms in a year of comparative peace.

Whether the five billion in Mars' books for 1931 is for the "war to end war"—past, lo! these twelve years—is rather hard to say, Mars is crafty. Perhaps he is collecting in advance for wars yet to be fought. Anyway, he gets his money. He always has. He never is loath to demand his pound of flesh. Nations may not be able to pay their school teachers more than pittances, may let cobwebs hide gaping library shelves, may abandon public improvements. Mars doesn't worry. He gets his money.

**Meddling Parents**

By Samuel Rosinger

Some time ago I read a syndicated article in which parents were berated for meddling in the affairs of their children. "Give the younger generation freedom, and they will work out their own salvation. They live in a different age, and cannot be expected to behave as their parents did thirty or forty years ago." While there is a grain of truth in this advice and contention, yet, I dare say, that far more young lives have been wrecked on the reef of unhappiness by reason of unrestrained freedom than by reason of parental meddling.

Children of the present generation, impatient of all restraint, and rebellious against all authority, look upon every effort of parents to give them guidance and direction, as meddling with their inherent right to determine the course of their lives. I want to be remembered by my children as a meddling father, rather than one who was indulgent, and permitted them, in their immaturity, to heedlessly adopt a course of conduct which would have filled them with regrets in later life.

True, children have to lead their own lives, and have to live in the present and not in the past. Yet the essential rules of conduct are above time and space, and undergo very slight, or no modification whatsoever. Purity, modesty, integrity, generosity and courtesy will always evoke the approbation and admiration of sane-minded and sound-hearted people, while the negative of these virtues will ever stamp a human being as deficient in those qualities which give life worth, dignity and distinction. Styles may change, but standards of conduct do not change.

The time comes in the life of every child, upon attaining the age of discretion, when he realizes that the loving care, the tender vigilance, the anxious supervision and the pleadings and persuasions of solicitious parents, were not the meddlings of busybodies, but heavenly admonitions, conveyed to him by his best friends on earth, and he will feel that whether his parents fulfilled his wishes, or denied them, they acted in a spirit of love and benevolence, and he should have submitted to their decisions without any resentment.