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Suggestions for Classroom Study

By Charles Swain Thomas
Graduate School of Education, Harvard University

THE INDEPENDENT articles best suited for classroom study depend so much upon the character of the class that the teacher will be the best judge of the material to be chosen for more careful study. The Editor selects for comment those contributions that personally impress him as being appropriate for student discussion.

THE GREAT AUTOMOBILE DUEL OF 1927. 1. Without preparation outside of class, write a character sketch of Henry Ford as you have imagined him to be from your general reading. Later look up whatever you can discover bearing on this extraordinary man and check your final impressions with your earlier ones. What differences do you note? 2. Examine and comment on the similes and metaphors employed in this article. How many can you find? Are there any "mixed" figures? 3. Discuss Ford's stand on the advertising problem? Do you believe he is acting wisely or foolishly in refusing to advertise? To what extent does free publicity enter into this particular contest? What are the probabilities that Ford will be forced to alter his advertising policy? 4. Suggest some specific means by which an automobile manufacturer can reduce expenses in his plant. Can these reductions be made as easily in the case of high-priced cars as with low-priced cars? 5. List the various cars manufactured by the General Motors Corporation? Why is the Chevrolet the keenest competitor for the Ford trade? 6. Discuss the relative values of the five "weapons" taken up in this article. Which party to the "duel" has the advantage in each case? 7. Why is the Ford organization termed Napoleonic in form?

CROSS PURPOSES IN CHINA. 1. While the events in China are being currently narrated on the front page of each important daily paper, it will be particularly interesting to get here the thoughtful analyses of an expert. Students who will volunteer to discuss the question may select topics from this list:

- Who are the Nationalists and what is their program?
- The Nationalists' attitude toward the foreigners.
- What the United States Government is now doing in China.
- What American citizens are doing in China.
- The British in China.
- Is there a responsible Chinese Government?
- The present prospect for Christian missionary work in China.

THE HOSPITAL IN THE SKY. 1. The effectiveness of this title suggests an interesting point in language. We like a phrase that arouses us from our lounge-lizard ways of thinking. The word "skyscraper" did that years ago when it was first used by some person of intellectual daring. Now it has been dulled by use and stimulates no marked emotion. It has become conventionalized. Set your wits to work and see what new phrases you can invent. The phrase must grow out of your own ingenious way of expressing yourself. The best of poetry illustrates this power. Bring to class examples from your own reading of poetry or prose. 2. Contrast the modern conception of medicine with that which formerly prevailed. 3. Tell about the work of Pasteur, Koch, and Lister (from whom we get the word "listerine"). 4. Discuss the germ theory of disease and tell in particular what the isolation of a germ signifies. The work of our scientists in the Panama Zone is particularly illuminating. Those who are interested in the general subject should read Sinclair Lewis' novel, "Arrowsmith." 5. Discuss the advantage of having specialists assembled in one great center. Where has this plan already been tried? 6. In the New York Medical Center, what attempt will be made to prevent the standardized nonpersonal attitude? 7. What three functions will the Center serve? Comment on each.

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