

Handicaps:

Experience at the dinner for Hard of Hearing convinces me that there is an important essay in this subject. I have rarely seen anything more gallant than the way the people who were running the dinner were taking their affliction, if that is what you call it. I was refused as the Tribune noted "to consider the Hardness of hearing as an affliction." That is not the way they are taken. There was Dr. Faulkner the Chairman, a really great physician I should say, full of humour, full of zest and I suppose stone deaf. He wore a little instrument as did scores of the listeners.

I think the point is to recollect first that there is nobody without a handicap and if one thinks he has ^{not} one he better look about and adopt one. He will be morally and intellectually flabby without some challenge to his power. The notion that you are ^{to all} ~~proof~~ against any possible obstacle, that you have nothing to combat, that you are the favorite of God, ^{to} is perhaps one of the greatest handicaps ~~man is~~ ^{of man's} conscious, and it explains a great deal of the folly of the world particularly of the folly of those who pin their faith to material things, who have ^{undirected} ~~undirected~~ courses of good fortune.

The world does not always properly estimate the difficulty of handicaps. Blindness is generally regarded as more serious than deafness, but curiously enough blindness seems not to produce the same ^{psychol} ~~physiological~~ effect, that is it does not produce gloom and suspicion as deafness does and probably those are two of the most terrible conditions to fight.

The point is how are we going to take it whatever it is?

And here my notes and what I saw last night - the way they were taking it.

This woman, Annetta Peck takes it. And if I understand Miss Lippett right she was a woman with a voice and she loses her hearing, does not sit down but she tackles it for herself and conscious of the many around her who were handicaped by it she goes into this work of the League. The whole history should be touched - the *Middle* School which I do not understand.

There were several of these women that I talked to last night who had conquered the difficulty outwardly, that were carrying on professional work, that were full of interest. And more than one of the said, "Well, one of the compensations is that you do get time for reading."

I was impressed in talking with Dr. Faulkner at the historical background that he had, the sound study of principles the consciousness that any kind of maneuver which is not in accord with the bed rock nature of things is throwing us back. He was very interesting on the mentality of the very rich, his clientele seems to be among them. I think probably he performs operations at ~~any rate~~ on the sinus, nose, etc.

He says that almost invariably these people of great wealth begin by demanding spacious and extravagant quarters, that they or their families cannot live in hospital rooms although they may be large and have all the conveniences. He tells of one very rich man of the town - his wife was in the hospital for an operation. The man said ~~it could not be~~, she could not be so confined, she must have a suite and he was going to move her to a suite in the *Harbor*. "That's all right," said

Dr. Faulkner, "but you must look into the staff for a specialist before you do that."

"But you'll go?" "No, he said, "I'll not leave my own hospital.

I know my colleagues here, I know what I can do. I cannot go into a strange place to perform."

He finds them scared by unusual things where money has no power, that is outside the material world; when the spiritual and intellectual invades them they are rattled.

The growth of this New York society has been, so it strikes me, of the most solid kind. It has been built step by step on good will, continued work, the ~~creation~~ ^{will-creation} of money. If they had money they might have spent it in building equipment and lost entirely the spirit which rules there, and which this Peck women seems to have in an astonishing degree.

The point how they stand together is of great importance.

The most serious handicap is having no handicap, unchecked, untrimmed. Those

More serious than the physical defects, the loss of hearing is the psychological effect which suspicion and gloom engenders. More serious because it gives a hopeless attitude towards the substantial ^{aids} to the ear that have been developed. What seems to be the truth is that each particular handicap produces a particular psychological effect, has its ^{social} special economic effect.

In this matter of handicaps, ^{in not} shielding ourselves, is the only way out. Refuse to recognize and they you refuse to correct.

Herbert Spencer says that the ultimate result of shielding men from the effect of folly has filled the world with fools.

best
For the/handling of handicaps that I ever came across
is in the New York League for the Hard of Hearing.

The League was formed out of an honest desire of
people who were experiencing the handicap of deafness, who were
not of the stuff who lies down under a handicap, to collect
all that ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ was known about keeping and balancing
the obstacles. They took it as a challenge these people.

The founder of this League, Annette Peck was a
talent and
musician of/promise - ambitious. She was stopped short in her
career by (?) She refused to be down. She went at the work
of supplying the who were having the same difficulty
as herself. She found a good many things twenty five years
ago that could be done to supplement the defects. There were
all the mechanical devices. She studied the *physical* critical conditions
which accentuate, or cause hard of hearing.

Now all of this has been done on little or no money.
It has been the work of ~~organization~~, of singleness of purpose
which is the very heart of the fine achievement. It has been open
and free to everybody. You will find the millionaire and you will
find the poverty stricken. They meet on a common platform and
for the time being that is all they know.- how can they learn
better to take care of this handicap.

Perhaps one of the most useful things is the exchange
of experiences.

In this list should go Darwin - obliged to lie down
at the end of every hour's work. A sketch in Warner's Library

All of these were turned to developed fibre
in character and intellect