

(How about the coexistence of juridical parenthood and of discipline in the patriarchal family?) Nor would he have concluded that sex taboos, the demarcation of masculine and feminine interests, resulted in social discord (p. 54). He would have realized that sex taboos have quite the opposite effect, protecting the habits of one sex against the habits of the other. He might also have realized that age class similarly protects itself against age class and that respect for age is merely a survival of the rigid age class demarcations of primitive circles, in no sense a development (p. 131).

Until comparatively recently, "the formation of a body of habits," sex habits, age-class habits, family, clan or tribe habits was the goal of all education. As Professor Todd has well pointed out (pp. 143-4), primitive education planned to adjust youth to a static environment, to fit each boy and girl into a set place from whence no departure was possible, except into another set place. Modern education at its best plans to develop in all of us adjustability to a changing environment, together with a capacity to control our environment, *i. e.*, it plans to develop personality. To its part in this new venture of education the modern family is not yet awake. Hence its discredit in the eyes of Professor Todd and other modern educators. Once it realizes that of all educational agencies it has unique opportunities to develop personality, that far better than the school or the club it may lead a child to think for himself and to have the courage of a minority, once the family becomes alive to this new rôle—perhaps the coming "transcendent and valuable" rôle Professor Todd has in mind for it, it may assert with success its old claim to educational prestige—and not before.

ELSIE CLEWS PARSONS

NOTES ON THE SEA ELEPHANT
(*MIROUNGA LEONINA*)

MR. ROBERT CUSHMAN MURPHY has published in the *American Museum Bulletin*¹

¹ *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, Vol. XXXIII., Art. II., pp. 63-79, pls. I.-VII.

an interesting and splendidly illustrated paper entitled "Notes on the Sea Elephant *Mirounga leonina*" (Linné). This article embodies the observations made by Mr. Murphy during a whaling and sealing voyage to the South Georgia Islands on the brig *Daisy* of New Bedford. Although sea elephants have been hunted for many years and thousands have been killed for commercial purposes, but little accurate information as to their life history is to be found in the literature of the species. This is perhaps partially due to the fact that their habitat lies on the desolate, storm-swept islands of the South Atlantic, in a region which holds out few inducements to the traveler and that almost the only visitors to their uninviting breeding grounds were those who came to slaughter the animals for commercial gain.

Too few of these hunters were interested in anything but the number of gallons of oil which could be tried out from each carcass, and ship after ship returned loaded to the gunwales with oil but empty of information concerning the habits of the greatest of all the seals which they were sweeping from off the earth. This relentless slaughter has long since passed the bounds of safety and the sea elephant bids fair to soon be numbered with the Steller's sea cow, an animal which has been swept away, leaving little but traditions behind.

Mr. Murphy's notes, taken with the care and interest of one who came to study and not to kill, are thus especially interesting, and combined with his splendid photographs form a valuable contribution to the life history of the elephant seal.

Dr. C. H. Townsend's rediscovery of the northern sea elephant (*Mirounga angustirostris*) on Guadaloupe Island, and the valuable collection of specimens and photographs which he secured, have done much to elucidate the life history of that species and Mr. Murphy has well supplemented his work by this study of the southern animal.

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