

The Ignorance of the Educated

JULY 22nd, 1922, should be a memorable date in history. For it was in the issue of *Collier's* of that date that the following momentous editorial paragraph was published:

"Jimmy Hopper adds an interesting chapter this week in his report of a physician's opinion that the state of our glands has a good deal to do with the state of business. We showed this article to one of the great gland experts of the world, and his opinion confirms our belief that it may prove to be an important contribution to the study of the business cycle with which Mr. Hoover's engineers in Washington are now engaged."

That any man with sufficient education, not to say intelligence, to achieve the position of editor of a "national weekly," should be capable of writing down and having put in type such drooling idiocy is perhaps the best proof that Americans are economic illiterates. Imagine the mental calibre of a physician, who has been properly "educated" and graduated from a medical college, who would indulge in the kind of "scientific" rot just quoted. Consider the kind of "engineers" employed by Mr. Hoover at the public expense to study business cycles, when they are expected to give attention to the weird conjectures of half-witted experts. And this is high-class journalism in the year 1922!

The saddest feature of such painful exhibitions of mental decadence is that even when the writer of the paragraph in question is told that he is an immortal ass he will not have intelligence enough to realize the justice of the description.