

TRAINING OF CHILDREN.

MRS. BEECHER OFFERING PRACTICAL ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

Teaching Children to be Useful—Are Boys More Difficult to Guide Than Girls?—The Value of Lessons Taught in Early Life—Children in Contact With the World—Wise Words for Parents.

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In the training of children, a subject upon which I have been asked by many to write, I cannot suggest anything better than that mothers should teach their children to be useful, and begin the lessons early, from the first step out of babyhood. Parents would more readily accept this suggestion if they would give it an honest examination. Unfortunately, except among the poor, whose poverty compels them to practice it, this is a doctrine that receives of late but little attention, and is in great danger of becoming obsolete. Mothers—who must be chiefly responsible—scout at the idea. The excuse is advanced that usefulness with girls is possible, but that to teach boys to be of service is an absurd and hopeless task. It is said that boys are troublesome, restless, and awkward, and more given over to mischief and play than work. We are asked, Would you have to teach boys, as they grow older, to run on errands, up-stairs and down, at the risk of overturning everything with which they come in contact? Would you try to teach them how to dust a room, to help set the table, etc.?

Certainly! Why not? Is any mother willing to believe that she cannot teach to boys what can be taught to girls? Surely each one, boy or girl, can be very early taught to be useful, and can be so gently and skillfully guided that they will find it all "as good as a play" to be able to help their mothers and others, indoors and out; and with such teaching they learn to help themselves.

In cities, and in families depending on hired help, it may not be so easy. Children are too imitative to be with servants where work is being done, unless the mother is with them, for what they learn of a practical nature should be taught by her and not caught up by seeing servants do it. Wealth is by no means to be despised, and the rest and ease it may bring is pleasant to the weary. But when it frees from all care of responsibility, so that the mother finds no necessity, or, in need, opportunity to teach her little ones the first steps toward useful habits, which they may sorely need in later years, then it ceases to be a blessing and becomes a curse.

Many who begin life poor and reach wealth through years of hard labor forget how much of true, solid pleasure there was, after all, in this successful struggle for well-earned prosperity. As the necessity for close application relaxes, and they begin to feel the enervating effects of abundance, they forget all the pleasure, and, remembering only the hardships, shrink from teaching their children what seems like work, and thus cheat them of the strength and independence for which no wealth can compensate.

But if boys are taught to do girls' work, should not girls be made to reciprocate the favor, and take their turns in doing boys' work? What mother would like to see her girls do this? But why not? Who can object to it? Certainly not the girls themselves. Isn't it just what many young ladies are seeking to do now, and many young men—"children of a larger growth"—striving to prevent? If not unreasonably biased by fashion or conventionalities, it would be difficult to find any one who would not gladly do the many little things they can do with their brothers, and in the free air and glad sunshine do their work.

Whatever is proper for boys to do, many girls often think "such fun" if they can occasionally share them with them. We refer now to country girls. God help those girls whose home is in the city, and, although but just stepping out of babyhood, have been taught that work of any kind must be necessarily lacking in style and refinement! How few, then, are the real pleasures the young can find in the open air! Nothing that they are allowed to have can equal the enjoyments which our country damsels with their larger inheritances and more abundant real blessings possess, and nothing is more pleasant to them than any outdoor enjoyment suited to their age and intelligence.

But it is argued that such work must make our girls coarse, romping, and hoydenish. "Rough, noisy boys are bad enough; would you have your girls become like them?"

Is it the outdoor work that makes them so? Is it not rather the overflow of animal spirits, more energetic and dominant in boys than in girls, perhaps, that finds no escape but by boisterous and noisy actions? This may not be agreeable to the old and staid, but is certainly less annoying outdoors than in the house. It promotes health, and is only what we all did, or wanted to do, in our young days. Let our American boys and girls have full swing, as far as at all consistent; age will soon tame the wild spirits, or restrain a too-exuberant overflow, but nothing will keep them so within bounds as pleasant labor some part of each day.

Children are, to be sure, liable to come in contact with coarse, rude natures—neither boys nor girls should be exposed to such influence if it can be prevented—but that evil is found everywhere, as often in the house as in the field. We must go out of this world to insure safety from such contact. If not inherent in a child's own nature, the influence tending toward evil will not gain a strong foothold, the dress will be thrown off, and the purer nature rise uninjured.

It has also been urged against this that country girls are seldom ladylike or graceful, and that laboring with their brothers will make them still less so.

If this objection is valid, then the brothers must be separated from the sisters, for if being with them outdoors has such injurious effects, the same element will follow them into the house. But we think this a false conclusion. We have found as ladylike, intelligent, pure-minded girls in the country as in the city, or often visit in a city, too often acquire artificial habits—affectedness, coquetry, loud speech and fondness for dress, which tempts them beyond their income. This is seldom seen in genuine country life. We do not believe any kind of labor, under any conditions will make a girl less modest or ladylike. We emphatically believe that every girl should know how to do with her own hands everything she has strength to do, until she thoroughly comprehends and understands it. Then she secures and establishes vigor and capacity for many duties utterly unlike, to be sure, any that it now appears at all likely she will ever be called upon to perform, but which, by some unforeseen chance in her circumstances, may fall to her lot in after years.

We do not mean that boys' work should be the habitual employment for girls any more than that boys should be set to household duties for steady employment, but that both should have the actual knowledge necessary to every variety of work. The

heavier, coarser labor appropriately belongs to men and boys, and only for girls to do enough of it to learn how to master it in an emergency should such demands come to them in later life. Love or will, or both united, with the assistance of her girlhood training and knowledge, will enable a woman to do the hardest work while the necessity lasts.

It is because such calls may come to every one—boy or girl, man or woman, at any time and in the most unexpected manner—that teaching very little children to be helpful and useful is so earnestly advocated, to learn how, as far as possible, to do all kinds of work, so that in later years, when some startling extreme need may come upon them, to do it well and thoroughly. But the unnatural strain which in critical cases may compel a woman to do work which only men can do uninjured, if of long duration, is too severe, is not safe, and only to be undertaken through absolute necessity. Woman do not mean to say that they are not equal, but only different. The question of equality their own works must answer. Women has sweeter, tenderer, dearer duties, demanding a nature distinct from that which prepares a man for his rougher, harder, more extended and more public, but not more noble work, and each, by working in sympathy together, can uphold and strengthen the other.

Women have cleared of the timber from their land, built their houses, laid their walls, ploughed their fields with their own hands from choice. If they take pleasure in it, none need object. But when they leave youth behind their own bodies will bear witness against such continued unnatural labor. Still, it is a great blessing for the young to be so equipped that they can protect themselves against a time when it is possible all they hold dear may depend on their having such knowledge carefully put away for sudden needs. Not for regular employment should this interchange of employment be inculcated, but that every member of a family should be so instructed that there may never be a temporary vacancy about the house that some, boy or girl, man or woman, shall not be able and willing to step in and fill satisfactorily. It may be argued that many things familiar to country girls are not necessary to the life of the city-bred girl. The harnessing or driving of a horse is cited as an example. Suppose a young lady were driving (a desirable accomplishment for any girl in the city or country), and the harness breaks or becomes unfastened, ought she not for her own safety to know how to repair the mischief? Every girl should learn early how each part of the harness must be adjusted, else the pleasure and independence of being able to drive when older will be attended with much risk if not with fatal consequences.

The duty of teaching children to be useful and handy in everything cannot be too strongly impressed upon the minds of parents. And let these lessons begin when the mind is young and ready to receive; early life is the time when children will best secure knowledge, and then they may be prepared to use it when needed with confidence and self-control. Even if ever needed in after life the knowledge will not injure anyone.

MRS. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

IN THE LIMEKILN CLUB.

Certain Things Which a Good Man Should Always Try to Bear in Mind.

"Dar' am sartin things which a good man should alius bar in mind," said Brother Gardner, as he motioned to the janitor to raise three more windows on the alley side. There was a sound of mighty shuffling as Elder Toots, Deacon Tillsbury and Esquire Jackson drew their hoofs under their respective stools, and then the president continued:

"Abusin' a man fur bein' rich doan' lower de price of 'aters to de poo' man."

"De man who am down on his luck, as de sayin' is, am generally pretty high up on de saloons."

"No man expects to buy a \$100 hoss for \$30, but lots of folks want to live at the rate of \$50 a week on an income of \$10."

"De man who kin find time to argy religion durin' workin' hours is de kind of Christian to look out fur when he wants to borrow money."

"Dar' am no doubt that Providence sometimes helps people out of a box, but I reckon it am a great deal safer to airn yer bread an' meat in de reg'lar way."

"Dar' am occashuns when all of us boast of our honesty, or feel like it. Sich occashuns am when we forget dat we hev nebbber bin tempted wid anythin' beyant a bogus lookin' half dollar."

"If you kin keep all de Ten Commandments, glory fur you; but becase you diskliver you can't keep but six or seven doan' go an' frow 'em all oberboard."

"When you find a man who won't listen to argyment you has hit so close to a lunatic or a fule dat you had better be gettin' home to supper."

"We am a selfish lot. We find fault wid de law which gives a verdict agin us in de one case an' hev no praise fur de score which purtuct us in others."

"I kin sot a torpedo in front of my hen house to purtuct myself from a thief, but a liar may walk ober me wid impunity in my sleep."

"I nebbber met but one man who tried to lib up to de Golden Rule. He got to de poor-house just as I left it. I had bin tryin' to pay up outlawed debts."—Detroit Free Press.

At a Dutch Breakfast Table.

Breakfast, to begin with, was ready at 8 o'clock for the master of the house, and often still waiting at 10 o'clock for the younger (male) scions. This is easy, for a mahogany bucket lined with metal and containing peat embers in which a brass kettle is kept singing, is always placed beside every Dutch breakfast table; and appears at chance 5 o'clock teas, too, and after dinner in the drawing room. The kettle bucket in Holland is the most characteristic object I can think of. At this breakfast one only eats bread and butter, adding sometimes to the latter thin slices of gingerbread, which is very good, or a wafer of rye bread. Concerning the latter there are very few things I don't like in Holland; but, without a shadow of doubt, I detest rye bread. Eggs are boiled, if some one cares for them, in the kettle. The old-fashioned way was by means of a small sort of landing net in which they were first popped; the newer one is to have wire or silver draining spoons to lift them out.

But the young men of the family going off to business in Haarlem do not even trouble the tea and bread and butter, much less the eggs. About a small cupful of milk and a wafer of rye bread, often nothing but a hasty glance at the morning papers, and they are off smiling with bon jours to the ladies left behind. And bon jour is echoed back to the husband bound to the law court, with viol plaisir (much pleasure) added to the irrepressible soon to become a Benedict, who is off to the Hague to see races or the Downs to try sporting dogs in a chaise, and who will send notes at night to an English acquaintance on his sport in Holland to be published in The Field. Many men whose business is in Amsterdam, but who have houses in Haarlem for economy and quiet, will go to their offices and work till 1 or 2 p. m. without food.—Holland Cor. New York Graphic.

PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

A Fountain of Youth—The Electro-Magnet Removes Needles from the Body.

It is a good recipe for any one who wants to keep young—not to look young only, but to be young—that he cultivate a fondness for games. The mere games you know the more chance of finding somebody who can play at one of them. Chess has proved a boon to thousands. Backgammon has diverted some of the greatest minds. Pinochle has conquered emul a thousand times, and even solitaire can sometimes put the "blue devils" to flight. A man or woman who can play at all sorts of games and suggest things for other people to play at is invaluable in company, and will seldom lack opportunities for amusement and diversion. He will always have something to keep him from worrying—and worry makes people old faster than anything else. He will retain his interest in life as long as he remains on this planet. There is nothing like a love of games as a preservative. But the love of games is based on something else. At bottom the principle is that so long as you can keep up a lively interest in things that are going on around you, just in that proportion you will defy the benumbing influences of age. Live in the present and the future, and you cannot grow old.

Care in Health and Sickness.

Care is a prime condition of continued health, affirms The Companion, even in persons who are physically vigorous. When, however, one is stricken with a disease that naturally ends in death, this care is imperative. By care the patient's life may be prolonged many years, while a single act of carelessness may precipitate a fatal result.

Most people when informed that their heart is seriously affected feel as if there was but a step between them and death; but the heart is a very strong organ, and even when greatly obstructed or weakened can manage, with the intelligent co-operation of the patient, to keep the blood carrying life through the arteries for many years. Often it has to force the blood through a shriveled opening not much larger than a goose quill; and this it does by working harder, thus causing its own enlargement.

But the enlargement may at length cause a dangerous thinning of some portion of its walls. Sometimes the wall of the aorta—the large arterial trunk into which the heart empties—loses their elasticity, and swell out into a great thin tumor (aneurism). Sometimes the tough fibers of the heart are changed to fat. In such cases a fatal termination may long be delayed by avoiding undue excitement.

Removing Needles from the Body.

Dr. Littlewood describes in The Lancet a method by which he has in seven cases successfully removed needles from the body. The part supposed to contain the needle is thoroughly rubbed over with an electro magnet, so as to magnetize the metal, if present. A delicately balanced magnetic needle is held over the part. If the needle is present its position can be ascertained by the attraction or repulsion of the poles of the magnetic needle. Having ascertained the presence of the needle, and rendered the part bloodless and painless, an incision is made over the needle; the electro magnet is then inserted in the wound, and the needle felt for and withdrawn. If the needle is firmly imbedded the positive pole of a galvanic battery is placed on the surface of the body of the patient, and the negative pole in contact with the needle, which becomes loosened by electrolysis, and can then be easily removed by the electro magnet.

The Eye and the Stomach.

M. Grandmont, of Lyons, is of the opinion that many troubles of the eye are of dyspeptic origin, and not due to anomalies of refraction. The visual defects observed from faulty assimilation of food consist in a diffused pain of the globe, radiating toward the temples, the forehead and even the scalp. Other patients complain of darkness, half sight, double objects and moving objects. All these ocular disturbances may be cured or greatly ameliorated by careful attention to diet and hygiene, and by the persistent use of moderate doses of saline laxatives and alkalis.

When Quinine Will Break up a Cold.

It is surprising, says a family physician, how certainly a cold may be broken up by a timely dose of quinine. When first symptoms make their appearance, when a little languor, slight hoarseness and ominous tightening of the nasal membranes follow exposure to draughts or sudden chill by wet, five grains of this useful alkaloid are sufficient in many cases to end the trouble. But it must be done promptly. If the golden moment passes, nothing suffices to stop the weary sneezing, handkerchief using, red nose and woo begone looking periods that certainly follow.

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE.

The Fire of Courtesy Should Always Glow on the Domestic Hearth.

If there is any place where the amenities of life should be freely exchanged it is, in the opinion of Good Housekeeping, at home. Courtesy should be the rule, not the exception. It prevents jarring, it dissipates moodiness, it heals wounds, it ennobles human nature. It is wonderful in its subduing influences. It is contagious. It extends to the whole household. The boys, with inward pride over their father's courteous demeanor, will be chivalrous and helpful to their younger sisters. The girls will imitate their mother in gentleness and patience, even when big brothers are noisy and heedless. Even the domestics will show their appreciation.

It seems strange that a man will speak more rudely to his wife than to any other lady, or that a brother will be harsh to his sister, while to her female friend he is everything that is respectful—perfect gentlemen in society, but bores within their own homes. It is a sad commentary to say that some, nay many, mothers, wives and sisters are indebted for most of the politeness shown them to those who are not members of the household. Family ties were designed to make us sociable. We are not made to live alone. We must have a heap of embers to have a glowing fire. If we scatter them they will flicker and die. In the same way, if we want to live a healthy and vigorous life, we must have a group of lives to afford comfort, encouragement and support. Courtesy is mighty in its influence to glorify the home and to benefit the world.

A Point in Table Manners.

As a general rule authorities agree that cheese of any kind should be eaten with the fork. Of the hard cheeses one may, however, convey a morsel to the mouth with the forefinger and thumb; but cream cheese, Brie, Neufchatel and all the soft cheeses require the use of the fork.

Inelegant Expressions.

The expression "lady friend" is, according to The World, not correct, but a vulgarism whose use stamps the person employing it as lacking in refinement. The same authority advises a correspondent not to "keep company" with a lady, but to "pay her attention" instead.

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