

Home Kindergarten Methods.

Mrs. Crutcher asks about kindergarten methods at home. Yes, it is a splendid way to teach the little ones. I have tried it. You can wind some balls of different colors and teach them the colors. But to go backwards, get John to make a little table they can sit at in their little chairs, get him to cut a number of small sticks nice and smooth of different length, say two, three and four inches long, a handful of each. With these show them how to lay them down to form different shapes, always teaching them what they are as you go. Begin with a square, then oblong squares, three, five, six and eight sided shapes may follow then, houses, barns, churches, or anything your fancy may suggest. Teach them to count the panes in the windows, use the sash to teach them the difference between horizontal and perpendicular. You can cut triangles, squares and diamonds from colored pasteboard, buy some cardboard at any printing office, cut into any desired size and first tracing any simple form, as an apple, a pear, two or three cherries, a bird, morning glory and leaf, take a soft pine board to lay it on, take a big short darning needle, or better, get John to set one in a handle, and punch holes a short distance apart following the outlines, then give them to the little ones to sew with colored yarn. You can also prick squares of cardboard so they may be sewed in straight lines, squares, half squares and so on. You may get glazed paper of different shapes, cut a square say eight inches, and divide one way into even strips, leaving it intact about half an inch at each end, then cut strips the same width, and have John in again to make a needle of hard wood one-eight inch wide, flat and a splint in one end, the other nicely smoothed and rounded, then insert a strip of the paper and weave into the cut square over one, under one, then *vice versa*. This you may vary a great many ways as you will see. One who has means and lives in a city may obtain everything required ready to use.—[IMOGENE.]

A Wonderful Clock.

Another great clock has been added to the horological wonders of the world—a piece of mechanism that will vie with the elaborate marvel of Strasburg cathedral, and put the processional curiosity of Berne Tower into the shade. The latest effort of the renowned Christian Martin of Villinen, in the Black Forest, is said in its way to surpass anything of the kind yet attempted. It is three and a-half metres high, two and three-quarters broad, and shows the seconds, minutes, quarter hours, hours, days, weeks, months, the four seasons, the years, and leap years until the last sound of the year 99,999 of the Christian era.

Moreover, it tells on its face the correct time for various latitudes, together with the phases of the moon and a variety of useful information generally confined to the pages of an almanac.

It also contains a vast number of working figures representing the life of man, the creed of Christendom, and the ancient pagan and Teutonic mythologies. Sixty separate and individualized statuettes strike the sixty minutes. Death is represented, as in Holbein's famous dance, in the form of a skeleton. In another part appear the Twelve Apostles, the Seven Ages of Man, modelled after the description of Shakespeare, the four seasons, the twelve signs of the zodiac, and so on.

During the night time a watchman sallies forth and blows the hour upon his horn, while at sunrise chanticleer appears and crows lustily. The cuckoo also calls, but only once a year, on the first day in spring. Besides these figures there is a whole series of movable figures in enamel, exhibiting in succession the seven days of creation and the fourteen stations of the cross. At a certain hour a little sacristan rings a bell in the spire, and kneels down and folds his hands as if in prayer; and, above all, the musical works are said to have a sweet and delicious flute-like tone.—[Exchange.]



Pretty pigeons; what more appropriate pet for a little boy or girl. They are easily tamed, hardy, and become so attached to their house or cot. They will make flight of miles in length during the day, and always return home. In the States of Louisiana and Kentucky, millions of pigeons congregate in certain forests for breeding and rearing their young. The inhabitants shoot them in numbers, and when the young are about two months old the trees are cut down and the young pigeons killed for market. This wholesale slaughter carried on for so many years has diminished the number yearly, until now a flight of pigeons is a rarity. The domestic pigeon, with all its beautiful varieties, derives its name from the stock-dove, which implies its being the stock or stem from which other kinds have been propagated. I need not describe any of the different varieties here, they are too well known to all boys and girls; but those pigeons which are called carriers are easily distinguished from all others by their eyes, which have a broad circle of white skin, and their feathers a purplish black. Their capacity has been tested in yacht races, and they will always return from their trip safely. The letter is tied under the bird's wing, and, after feeding it well, lest it should stop by the way to eat, it is let loose to return. It flies to an amazing height upwards, then, with the greatest certainty and exactness, directs itself by some amazing instinct towards home. It is said that in the space of one hour and a half they can perform a journey of forty miles.

Pigeons will eat all sorts of grain, but their favorite food is peas. Their method of drinking is different from other birds; instead of sipping their water, as all other birds do, they bury their beaks in up to the nostrils and take a draught. They love to bathe, and can be seen splashing in a fountain basin, or washing their bright coats on the shore of a river in the sunshine.

What Shall the Children Read?

This is a question that every mother should decide herself, and judge whether it is good or bad before the child reads the first line. Don't say you've not time—take the time to read a large share of the book, or glance over the paper, before it is laid on the table for public use. A quick, intelligent eye, and a mother's eye, also, will do wonders in a turning over of leaves, reading here and there a few words, seeing if the language is pure, the style graceful, and the moral healthful. Much of harm is done to the young people by their reading. Sensational stories of the "blood and thunder" style, smuggled in and read secretly, or in some cases, openly, in illustrated weeklies, have caused many boys to rob and fly from their homes, seeking for "worlds to conquer," "bringing up" in a police station and being returned home.

Much of the blame is to be traced to the mothers—too much indulgence from a mother has ruined more families than a father's harshness—bad books and bad companions being easy stepping stones to wickedness. A good mother will do a great deal towards forming her children's character. The first few years they are wholly under her influence, and she is all to them. Then the school life begins, and teacher and schoolmates broaden the view, but the mother must not relinquish her watchfulness, but interest herself in their studies, plays, companions, and make herself necessary to their happiness. Keep hold of the children; don't let them grow away from you. A mother should never grow old to her sons and daughters; be one of them and gain their confidence; be their companion, even if you lose the acquaintance of some of your own age. Better make good men and women of your children than be a leader of fashion. But about the reading, "What shall they read?"

If possible, select the books, papers, etc., yourself. You can easily look over the book notices in a weekly, and this usually gives a tolerably fair criticism of scientific works, biographies, histories and novels. Boys usually like tales of adventure, and in a reasonable amount they should be gratified, for what would a man be without bravery and courage? When my boys were at the age to be attracted to such reading, the principal of the grammar school they attended put a list of books on the blackboard for the use of such pupils as cared to profit by it.

There was the War of the Rebellion, Life of Washington, and others I fail to remember, but various kinds, and for light reading, one or two of Scott's or Dickens' novels. I always felt grateful to him and think the plan might be followed by the teachers.

At the public libraries, sometimes an attendant will tell of a popular work, but that is not always safe to go by, as not always is a popular book a good one. You must find out about the books in your own way, but be sure to find out in some way. There are many books and papers in the world, some people say too many, but there's more good ones than bad ones, and you must sift them out. Don't trust the innocent child to do it for himself. If a home life is what it should be, bad books and bad companions will not be there, and mother at home evenings will be friend and companion to the boys and girls. By this I don't mean they are to have no friends or mates, but you'll see they will feel so proud of their mother they'll bring them to see you, and you will be able to judge whether they are fit associates or not. In all this, remember the mothers have the love of their children, the fathers the respect, it is said, but let us have both.—[Mrs. Frances C. Mixer, in Good House-keeping.]