

exceptional cases, you will say, and so they are; but are they not sufficient to bring us to frown upon everything in the shape of perfunctory religious exercises in school. The regulations of the Protestant Committee require that the first part of the school-day shall be devoted to religious exercises, including the reading of scripture, prayer and praise; and to make these exercises effectual, every teacher knows that a previous secular drill must be had, in order that the proper attitude of body, intellect, and soul may be secured when the pupil comes to enter into the presence of God during the short service. As I have said in my hints to the teachers of my inspectorate this year in anticipation of my annual official visit, "Every devotional exercise in school should have a purpose, a serious solemn purpose, and the singing and simultaneous reading should be of the very best." Indeed, unless this proper attitude towards the primary Christian beliefs can be secured by the teacher in his school, the reflex heart-effects in the pupils will not rise above the average effects produced on the souls of a paid choir during the singing of the anthem in church, or on the gay party on the river of an evening with their mixed programme of "Hold the Fort," "John Brown's Body" and "Jerusalem the Golden."

To be practical this moral drill in school must deal with the primary religious beliefs; and the first of all these beliefs, the fundamental anthem note of all religion—the ever present supervision of the Most High—must come first in the order of a special training. "Thou God seest me" is the first lesson in religion that must be learned in school. The state recognizes God, a parliament opens with prayer, the witness-box still has Him for its shield; and the public school continues to invoke His presence. But how is the school invocation to be made to mean more to the child's soul as a guidance for the day, than the Chaplain's prayer on the floor of the House of Commons, or the kissing of the Book in a court of justice? That is your problem, teachers, and for me to point out the way this evening would involve the resolving of this association into a Teachers' Institute and the illustration of my suggestions by an actual preliminary drill. Your physical drill is excellent and develops the tissues through activity; but have you ever thought that the best physical drill, the drill that acts upon the whole being, body, mind, and soul,