

THE KINDERGARTEN.

What It Is.

By Mrs. Emma O'Sullivan.

What is a kindergarten anyway? What are kindergarten methods? Do you believe in not allowing a child to learn his letters and to read until he is six or seven? Is it not a strain on a child to train his tiny fingers to the skill that produces such intricate examples of mat-weaving, that moulds from the clay such very true forms of nature, that evolves such attractive shapes from the cunningly-folded paper, that cuts from the paper such elaborate and such accurate designs? These are some of the questions I hear every day, and a full answer to the first would be a reply to all.

Whatever the wisest mothers have made use of in the successful training of their children, whatever the keenest observation has noted of educational value in children's plays—the popular plays that are common the world over; whatever can be learned from Nature by an ardent student of her ways and methods, all these were absorbed by the founder of the kindergarten system, Froebel, and born again of his genius a complete system of education—an education that he would have begun by the mother with her six weeks old babe and pursued steadily, perseveringly and systematically. Results show that his system, which aims to develop the whole child, not the child's body alone, nor his mind alone, but his soul, body and mind fits the growing child better for his life-struggle than other methods.

I said he would begin with the six weeks old child. A worsted ball of red or yellow he would have suspended above the foot of the child's cradle or bed, just an object to attract the babe's attention. Later this may be swayed from side to side or backward and forward, and soon the ball touches in its coursing the child's face, and he will strive to clutch it in his hands; and after many attempts he will grasp it. Now all mothers know the value of the bright soft ball that baby gets so much enjoyment from, but Froebel can give you a good reason for using the ball, and will tell you how it symbolizes unity, and as the child grows older would have you tell him the story of the sheep that provided the wool that covers the ball and that covers the baby too. Soon the worsted ball—in which the six primary colors are used—is changed for one of wood, and the child is quick to notice the smooth surface, the greater ease with which it can be rolled, that it is heavier, that it makes a greater noise, that he must exercise caution—self-control—in throwing it, it will hurt and destroy; he likens its shape to an apple, an orange, to the moon, the stars, and learns it is like the earth he stands on, and now he is given the opposite, a cube and the connecting link, the cylinder. He cannot but note in his handling the points of difference and of similarity; he is encouraged to trace likenesses in the world around him to these three simple forms. His attention is not distracted by color as in the worsted ball which first attracted him; he is taken up with form.

How often a mother will say "If I can only keep the children occupied, busy with their games they are all right and no trouble," and the anxious busy housewife will give her baby learning to sit on the floor "anything to quiet him," spools of thread, bracelets, spoons, even her watch in despair, when the baby is fretful and some particular work requires her attention. Well the Kindergarten keeps the child busy in his plays and games, and these are so calculated that he learns from them. The big circle itself is significant of unity in numbers and mutual dependence, while there is plenty of opportunity in the game

for each one's individuality. Every mother notices the difference that a child's environment makes in his manner and bearing. She knows however much she may aver, "it is no use trying to keep the child clean," that the child is quite sensible of his cleanliness and neatness, and hesitates more than others, perhaps, before smirking or disarranging either. The Kindergarten develops and strengthens this faint aspiration.

There is no more absorbing play for children than to make mud-pies—mud anything. The damp clay is a powerful material in the hands of the Kindergarten. She feeds the child's creative instinct with it, and as her child passes a heap of damp clay his instinct prompts him to make a rabbit perhaps of it where the untrained child will see only a splendid material to his hand with which he can hit something or somebody.

Death of Ambrose W. Cleary.

Died, at his residence in Courtright on the evening of Thursday last, Ambrose W. Cleary, mail clerk on the Michigan Central branch, between Courtright and St. Thomas. Mr. Cleary was a native of Borris O'Kane, Ireland, whence he came to this country in 1865. He was at one time chief caretaker and manager of the vineyards and wine growing establishment at Cooksville. Afterwards he became Principal of the Catholic Separate Schools in St. Thomas and edited the Catholic Record from its inception until it became the property of its present owner and editor, Mr. Thomas Coffey. About fifteen years ago he was appointed to the mail service and received several diplomas for successful competition at the civil service examinations. He was a man of superior ability as a writer of editorial matter, which he occasionally contributed to the local press, was a practical member of the Catholic Church and had always a very tender spot in his Irish heart for the land of his birth. His funeral took place in Courtright on Saturday. High Mass of Requiem was celebrated by his uncle Rev. Dr. Flannery. The sermon was preached by Rev. Father Mugan, P.P., of Co. runna. R. I. P.

Wedding Bells at La Salette.

On Tuesday morning last joy beamed on every countenance and the village of La Salette, Norfolk County, put on its gayest appearance and best of good looks. The most popular young lady of the district was about to be wedded to the man of her choice, and congratulations were hearty and general. Miss Mary Kernan, niece of the venerable pastor, Father P. J. Corcoran, was about to be married to Mr. Thos. McDonnell, of Windham Centre, and the joyous peal of the wedding bells spread the happy news.

The altar was tastily decorated and the church crowded when the bride and bridegroom walked up the middle aisle, accompanied by their respective witnesses and attendants. Rev. Father Corcoran, uncle of the bride, blessed the union of the happy young couple. High Mass was celebrated by Rev. Dr. Flannery of St. Thomas, who before the last blessing, pronounced a short but telling discourse on the blessings and happiness attending the celebration of a truly Christian Catholic marriage where all meet to rejoice, to bless and to offer congratulations. He drew a vivid contrast between marriages so highly recommended and those that were rushed into privately, contrary to the wishes of parents, the counsel of friends or the mandates and rules of the Church.

The groomsmen were Mr. McCorkle, of Windham, and Mr. David Murray, Montreal. The bridesmaids were Miss Mary D. Clarke, St. Thomas, and Miss Minnie Murphy, Woodstock. The choir, under direction of Father

Brady, Woodstock, rendered some beautiful hymns and Peter's Mass in the happiest mood and style.

After an elegant and sumptuous dejeuner at the parochial residence, the newly-married couple took the train for Woodstock, whence they left by the evening express for Ottawa.

C. M. B. A.

The Grand Council met in Toronto on Monday last and disposed of considerable business of a routine nature. Grand President O. K. Fraser presided at all the sessions and nearly all of the grand officers and several of Trustees were present.

Some time was spent in devising a new system of accounts to be kept by the Grand Secretary with the Branches, and it is highly probable that the perfected system will be put in operation by the first of the year.

It was decided to publish the official organ as an eight page monthly paper in English and French.

On Wednesday evening of last week an enjoyable smoking concert was given by the officers and members of Branch 49 Toronto. Visiting brethren from all the city branches



B. J. CRONIN,
President Branch 49, C. M. B. A.

were present as well as a great number of strangers, many of whom will no doubt shortly become members of 49, which is by the way already numerically the strongest branch in the city. The pleasure of the evening was much enhanced by the presence of a number of gentlemen of known ability, as singers and elocutionists. Short speeches were delivered by W. T. Kernahan, J. C. Walsh, D. A. Carey, and Dr. McMahon. This is the first of the series of the open meeting advocated by the Advisory Board, and its success is a credit to the officers of the Branch.

The election of officers for Branch 145 took place at their regular meeting on Tuesday evening with the following results.

Spiritual adviser, Rev. L. Brennan; Chancellor, J. C. Walsh; President, D. Millar; 1st Vice Pres., W. O'Connor; 2nd Vice



G. D. HEBERT,
Grand Trustee, C. M. B. A.

Pres., John F. Shaw; Recording Secy., James E. Day; Assistant Secy., P. L. Hamel; Financial Secy., J. F. Cleary; Treasurer, L. V. Byrne.

BRANCH 31, GUELPH.

At the last regular meeting of Our Lady's Branch No 31 C. M. B. A. (held Nov. 26th,) the following named officers were elected by acclamation for the ensuing year:

Frank X. Frank, President; Joseph B. Hunt, 1st Vice President; Felix O'Donnel, 2nd Vice President; Jas. Kennedy, Rec. Secretary; John Kellion, Asst. Secretary; M. J. Duignan, Treasurer; C. C. Collins, Fin. Secretary; Hugh Johnston, Marshal; Rudolph Richard, Guard; Joseph B. Hunt, Felix O'Donnel, Trustees for two years. JAMES KENNEDY, Sec'y.

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REV. GEORGE J. LOWE,

The Rectory, Almonte, Ont., writes: "I must ask you to send me another bottle of your invaluable medicine. I think your last bottle has cured me entirely, but some members of my family, whose cases are worse than mine, insist on my getting some more. Indeed we all think it an indispensable article in the household."

EXECUTORS' NOTICE

to Creditors of Catherine Bergin, late of the City of Toronto, widow, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to R. S. O. cap. 110, that creditors and others having claims against the estate of the above named Catherine Bergin, who died on or about the 13th day of November, 1894, are required to deliver or send by post prepaid to the undersigned, the solicitors for the executors of the said deceased, a statement in writing containing their names, addresses and full particulars of their claims with vouchers, if any, duly verified by statutory declaration on or before the 10th day of January, 1895, after which date the said executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said estate amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have notice and they will not be liable for any claim of which they shall not have had notice at the time of such distribution.

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