

Our Montreal Letter

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
THE HOME TRAINING SADLY NEGLECTED.

In this age of enlightenment, civilization and progress, the question of education is a vital issue. But there is one great factor, even the foundation stone, and that is sadly missing in hundreds of families to-day—the Home Training, or co-operation with the teacher. When the parents do not give their children the proper home training in the art of morals and manners, I fear for the safety of such children, even with the results of the best education received in schools. The Home Training is fast becoming a thing of the past, even in well educated families. The late hours at night roaming around the streets visiting the "movies," no attention is paid to their home exercises and lessons, their tardiness in arriving on time in the morning, and their frequent absence during the scholastic year, tell the same old story in the same old way. No Home Training, and the loss of parental control. The records of our Juvenile Court can reveal many instances where children have started on the downward path owing to the want of proper home training. Impudence and independence seem to be the chief things inculcated in them even at the early age of 7 and 8 years. And parents think this is "smartness." Parents who are neglecting to give their children a proper home training are simply making for themselves a whip of knotted cords that their children will scourge them with and make them shed tears of sorrow and shame and hurry them on to an early grave. The jail records of young boys of 17, 18 and 19 years of age bear silent and convincing testimony to over indulgent, negligent and careless parents. Let me quote a few authorities on Proper Home Training. "Our Sunday Visitor" says:—

Educators of the present day lament the evident lack of reverence on the part of those placed under their direction. Irreverence is a sign of wrong thinking, of unworthy standards, of improper training. The cure for this public, social cancer is an insistence upon correct principles by means of proper education.

The home is the fruitful nursery wherein reverence must be instilled in youthful minds.

"The worst thing that could happen for the present system of education would be for it to succeed," said Prof. Gus Dyer of Vanderbilt University, in an address on education delivered at Peabody College.

"Our whole system of modern education is artificial," he said. "It aims at training the intellect, and does not train the whole mind. We do not live, move and have our being in the intellect. Intellect is only a subordinate part of the mind, a tool to assist the will to obtain the heart's desire. Emotions, passions, morals, religion, love and hate—these make up the important part of the mind, the part that feels. Our education does not touch it. Our system is intensely narrow."

"The first system of education was God's system—education of the child by the parent. Next came the 'me and God' system and not it is just 'me.' The home is the greatest school, but our present system, instead of supplementing the home, attempts to replace it. We substitute the school teacher for the mother. The typical school teacher is a thoughtless young girl who is teaching only until she can get married or can get a better job. She is supposed to be able to train the child better than its parents, but few are the schools where this is really true."

"In the old-fashioned home the child was an asset. Now we make the child a liability! This compulsory school laws shoulder serious responsibilities on the parent. No longer is a family considered fortunate to have a large number of children. We have made the child a parasite instead of a help to his parents. In doing so we have deprived the child of his best training, work. We have taken him out of the real world of his play and put him into an artificial world. Anything that deprives a child of his opportunity to work is doing him an injustice."

"What are the results of this system? In the 'Athens of the South' we cannot get half the citizens to the polls to vote, and one of the crime centers of the country is this Athens." "Charles Schwab employs 150,000 men. But Schwab says he has had only one college man that made good in an administrative position. The fruits of our system do not justify its cost."

"We must restore the home as the chief educational institution. We must permit the parent to direct the child's activities. I would like to see the time when we have schools for fathers and mothers. We must discover Nature's laws for the development of man, and co-operate with Nature."

Under the heading of "Education and Moral Rights," the Los Angeles Times says:—Real people are getting tired of education, so called, that stops short of the real thing. And education that stops short of conscience, character and courageous citizenship is not the real thing. It is even a dangerous thing. The dull-

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er the knife in the hands of a fool the better. It is dangerous to furnish an idiot with a loaded gun. Let the guardians and the conservators of our Christian American civilization beware of the educated moral idiot and of any institution that fosters conditions to produce him—or her.

William Penn has the following words of wisdom:—Above all things endeavor to bring children up in the love of virtue, and that holy plain way of it which we have lived in, that the world in no part of it get into my family. I had rather they were homely than finely bred as to outward behavior; yet I love sweetness mixed with gravity, and cheerfulness tempered with sobriety.

Bishop Langley, Episcopal Bishop of Iowa says:—"The safety of the home, and indeed, the safety of civilization, is dependent on the spiritual education of the boys and girls of to-day. We must learn that a civilization conceived in spirituality will quicken the life of our world, and we are sadly lacking in imparting spiritual education to our children. We must teach them that our coun-

try and the world can never rise higher than the individual lives, and as we put spirituality into our lives, we can ennoble all life."

ROYAL EDWARD INSTITUTE FIGHTS WHITE PLAGUE.

Fresh air, sunshine, good food and happiness have cured thirty little children of the white plague who spent the summer at the Royal Edward Camp at Ste. Agathe in the Laurentian Mountains. One girl grew

three inches and gained fifteen pounds. No child gained less than six pounds.

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A NEW BUILDING FOR THE GAZETTE COMPANY.

The proprietors of the "Gazette" are about to erect a new building of eight storeys facing on St. Antoine Street. The building will be erected two blocks further west than the present one and will occupy a block.

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN CANADA.

A despatch from Quebec says:—"The second oldest building on the American continent, the old Jesuit residence at Sillery, will shortly become the property of the Provincial Government, and be preserved, as a historic monument. According to an announcement made by Hon. Adolphe Turgeon, speaker of the legislative council, and president of the Historic Monuments Commission, two Quebecers, Alfred Dobell, K.C., and William Dobell, sons of the late Hon. R. Dobell, have donated the building to the Government. The house, built in 1639, is the oldest in

Canada, and on the continent is second only to a house in St. Augustine, Florida.

In his book on historic monuments of the province Pierre George Roy recalls that it was from this old house that Jogues, Brebeuf and other Christian Fathers were sent out.

The house is still in good condition. It was here that Father Masse died in 1646, at the age of 72 years. He was buried in a church which formerly stood directly opposite the house, and in the ruins of which his remains were found.

R. J. LOUIS CUDDIHY.

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America is not Loved

You may have seen cartoons depicting the attitude of the losers in a poker game towards one big winner, with all the chips piled in front of him. A visit to Europe brings home the unpleasant conviction that America is regarded as having emerged from the World War with all the chips. And the losers do not take great pains to conceal how they feel. Briefly most Europeans feel that America dodged her share of the responsibility imposed by civilization through her delay in entering the World War and also that, worse still, "she let us down" by repudiating the obligations and agreements entered into by the head of the nation, President Woodrow Wilson. There are, of course, many expressions of abject gratitude from those weaker peoples who received bountifully of American charity. But, somehow, charity rarely begets genuine gratitude. As for the other and stronger nations, they feel bitter over the whole course pursued

by Washington since the world war ended. "What is an 'unofficial observer'?" one is repeatedly asked. The askers usually supply their own answer, along some such lines as these: "An 'unofficial observer' is something we do not understand. He is neither fowl nor fish nor red herring. All he does is to assume the role of a superior kind of censor, a self-appointed umpire who accepts no responsibility for his actions." Our recent handling of Japanese exclusion is cited as an illuminating illustration of our arrogant attitude towards other nations. Superficially, Americans receive courtesy nearly everywhere. But when you get down to talking heart to heart, you find that the attitude usually is that of the losers towards the big winner in a card game.

Unpleasant, yes, but I am here attempting to record, not explain or defend.—B.C. Forbes in Forbes Magazine (N.Y.).

The new five cent size of Ivory Soap is dainty enough to fit the most delicate of slim feminine fingers.—ad., 17

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- Peas, Green, large, lb. 10c
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