

HOUSEHOLD.

Overcoming Evil With Good.

Not long since two boys of nine and ten years were almost successful in an attempt to derail a train near London. They were caught by the police, and a significant confession was made by them. They had not been moved by what would be termed a criminal motive, having no idea of robbery nor a desire for wanton murder. They had simply been reading a sensational story in a penny magazine, which found good circulation among youngsters of their age. The younger boy honestly exclaimed, 'We knew some hero like Lord Hildegard would spring forth to the rescue, and we wanted to see him.' The fact is that the tastes and ideals of these lads had been perverted—their morals had been derailed before they attempted to conjure up a 'hero' by such extraordinary means.

Now, it is hardly putting it too strongly to say that it would be fortunate if vicious literature resulted only in train wrecking. Then the evil would be so apparent that a speedy moral censorship of the press would result. As it is, the harm is in ruined characters, perverted and exaggerated ideas of life and often the overthrow of the moral sense.

The liquor traffic is an evil producing such immediate and plain results that its overthrow is constantly, and justly, the object of aggressive warfare on the part of good people. But there are other evils just as deadly and nearly as widespread, if not quite. That of vicious literature is one. Passing by stories that are simply useless or so exaggerated as to appear ridiculous to anyone of sense, we refer to such printed songs, poems, stories, and even pictures, as are obscene, and which are distributed, read looked at secretly.

A person of most upright life and noble purposes not long since said to the writer that she had so continually refused to listen to anything vulgar, obscene or sensational that she was well along in life before she realized what there was of evil in the world. Doubtless she would never have known it, had she not happened to enter a profession which of necessity led her to see beneath the surface of life generally. Then the revelations startled her.

Now, too many good people get a wrong idea of duty just at this point. The careful housewife does not seek to cover up the dirt, nor refuse to look in dark corners for fear of offending her sight, but rather resolutely sets herself about searching every nook and cranny that her home may speedily be rid of dust, dirt and ever certain forms of life. By so doing she not only has a home pleasing to the eye for its cleanliness, but one where disease finds little chance of lodgement.

An certainly this very sensible rule of the physical life should be applied in the moral. It is wrong to mistake ignorance for innocence.

It is a rather singular fact that many parents are extremely careful about the manners and morals of their children so far as outward appearance goes, but never think of a rigid investigation of the things that may be secretly bringing about ruin in after years. As soon as a boy learns to read he has a key to a new world, and it is not in human nature to refuse to enter.

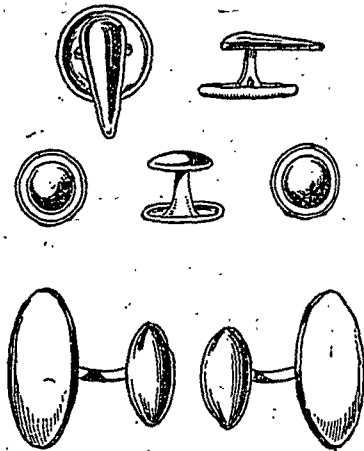
It is astonishing how rapidly a thing done in secret will travel, and before the parents of a respectable boy are aware of it, if they ever are, the boys, and even the girls, are covertly reading books that are worse than 'trashy.' Moreover, literature of this kind is read by mere children, whose very inexperience and ignorance renders it the more dangerous. So it is also with the circulation of low songs, poems and pictures. The city, school and church furnish libraries of healthful books, but there are presses at work striking off whole libraries that are never reviewed in the public magazines and papers, whose existence the Christian mother perhaps does not suspect; and these things are printed because they find sale among the young, and many who do not buy have them loaned or given to them.

Parents must remember that children of necessity have playmates and schoolmates, and a story that is attractive will find readers among children from avenues as well as from alleys.

One way to counteract this evil, which we

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learn from authoritative persons is widespread, is for parents to face the danger sensibly. Don't be afraid of suspecting that your child is in danger. He is not likely to inform you of it himself. In his own heart he will respect and even admire the vigilance that does not overlook his secret shortcomings.

Again, as the child begins to read, place before him such as will attract and entertain without harm. Simply to prohibit evil without putting anything in its places is a poor way of doing good. A family reading circle, which has as its centre the family altar, is a strong bulwark. When one is used to sharing good with others he is ashamed of partaking of evil in secret. The singing of sacred and other uplifting songs in the family is also an attraction to the young and an influence not to be overlooked. Give the hungry young minds food that will make pure thoughts, and create right tastes, and with due watchfulness great dangers may be avoided.—Union Gospel News.

The Philosophy of Flannels.

'All the year round flannels are shrinking,' and why?

What is 'shrinkage,' really?

It is a twisting of the fibre of one woollen thread with the fibre of another, much the same as two 'burs' interlace, when pressed together.

When flannels are wet, the fibres soften and separate from their special thread; and the more they are 'rubbed,' the more the fibres are loosened, and then in the rubbing, twisted into all the other fibres next them; by the time they have been handled enough to cleanse them, and have been wrung by hand or pressed through the wringer, these short fibres are all massed together, and if allowed to dry together, the flannel is 'fulled' or thickened, and stretching soon tears them.

Stretch them thoroughly, while wet, and the fibres separate easily. Place both hands in a wet vest sleeve (if not already 'fulled,' if so patience and repeated proper washings will help the situation,) and it will stretch easily to its full size. Do the same with the body, and with legs of drawers.

Stretch flannel shirts widthwise of each breadth.

The next 'bad philosophy,' is to dampen flannels and dry under a hot sad-iron. The heat coaxes out the fibres and the pressure 'mats' them together, and here the flannels are 'fulled' again. I've tried all ways, hot and cold water, and the same temperature

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of waters, so highly recommended, and still my flannels are shrinking each week,' someone says. Now try the stretching so well recommended, and do not iron at all; stretch again when taken into the house, fold neatly, and if very particular about the smoothness, place a board over them with weights upon it, as all wise people do in drying blankets.—Sara M. C. Aldrich in New York 'Observer.'

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