

all he thinks, says and does. It has a far-reaching influence on his life outside of school, and after leaving school.

To say that the very first task a child is taught to do, should be taught with the finished product neatly done, is not beyond practise. This theory of neatness observed in every task, even the caring for his baby toys, makes its imprint on the child's future life. His childish tasks, if neatly done, will shine through his later life work. However, the child's life before school age is a problem beyond the teacher, but I mention it merely to emphasize the importance of beginning his training early.

Perhaps the most outstanding characteristics of any person, to an onlooker, is their neatness of appearance. This in a child can only be hoped to be gained by example, talks on the subject, and never failing to remark on improvement. In speaking of example, it is obvious that the child must always have before him an example of these habits well formed in the teacher. If on going into a class-room we see a teacher neat and fastidious in her person, carefully cleaned and decorated blackboards, order and cleanliness prevailing everywhere, we may be sure that teacher is teaching the habits of neatness and accuracy in all her school work. So much for example. Cleanliness and simplicity are the foundations of neatness in dress. The teacher should acquaint herself with the child's home surroundings in order that she may best help him. Incidentally, under this head may be brought in many important matters on personal hygiene, such as care and use of hair, eyes, nose, lips and teeth.

The following plan was adopted by a very original mother. There were several children in the family. They were all inclined to be slow and untidy in the morning. She tried several means to stimulate them to activity and neatness. Rewards failed. Those who hurried to receive the reward generally came with teeth untouched, hair badly combed, boots unbrushed, or left very untidy rooms. Instead of the usual rising bell, with its commonplace "ding! dong!"

she struck forth a few notes of alarm. Her children were the fire brigade, this was the alarm, and their sleeping rooms were the fire hall. As they hurried down stairs, they were inspected as a brigade, their sleeping rooms were also inspected, marks of merit and rewards were given the brigade. I must say just here, that class praise always appeals more to me than individual praise. We can readily understand why.

Neatness of work on the other hand is wholly under the direction of the teacher, and mainly the primary teacher. Children are prepared to undergo a complete change when they enter school. They are very receptive and easily led; therefore give them neat examples of work to follow, and neat methods of putting down work. I do not think time is ever wasted in the primary grades, ruling, making boxes, fences, yards, or whatever else we may call our devices, in order that the child will produce a nicely written page. Untidy work is entirely new to him, therefore help him to remain foreign to it. Give them the idea that only neat work could be correct. Untidy work can never be correct. From the first the child must understand that only its best work will be accepted. Hence he learns to be careful in writing every letter, and in making every figure. Neat work becomes a pleasure, and that is the aim to make the child have a passion for thorough work. This of course necessitates constant watchfulness on the part of the teacher at first. The child knows that the teacher is going to see his work, and that if it is not done accurately, it will have to be done over and over until it is his very best. The child soon knows how much the teacher demands of him. It may be some time before he does his work well from pure love of doing it, but never the less the habit is under way.

Some of the devices which may be used with good results are: Praising the child before the class. Written work collected and best work put on top. Children who have done the best work distribute books. Have best work