

It may be that this theory marks a great stride of human progress. Perhaps children are naturally good; perhaps the old theory that they could be trained to proper behavior only by an artificial association of the opposite with consequences not agreeable to any child, was wholly wrong. But, even so, the practice of the new system evidently calls for vastly greater endurance on the parents' part. In fact, it may be said that the function of the modern child is to teach its parents to endure. To send a child away from table for not saying "thank you" and "please"; to put it in a closet because it will seat itself on its grandfather's chair just when the old gentleman wants to make himself comfortable in it, is a comparatively simple matter. Any parent can bring up children by such means, and all parents once did so, with a quiet glow of righteous satisfaction; it was not pleasant to hear the child roar, but still it was for the child's good. But to tell a child fifty times a day that it is not polite not to say "please" and "thank you," and to go no further; to tell it to keep out of the best chairs in the room when they are wanted by older people, only to find the rule invariably disobeyed; to tell it every day to "make less noise," and yet to hear the din

increase—to do all this for long years patiently and without complaint, and often without any visible improvement, either, on the child's part—all this calls for and we may add produces an endurance such as the elder parental world never dreamt of. It is a notorious fact that the present generation of parents, far from being irascibly irritated by children's noise and bad manners, suffer it gladly and with increasing competence. There is not a hotel piazza, nor a car gangway, nor a steamboat's deck from one end of the United States to the other, where constant evidence of the fact may not be collected. The trait has been celebrated in story, if not in song. Noise, racket, contradiction, impertinence, impudence, and even insult—all are endured from children with a patience which in parents is a new thing. For irritability, shortness of temper, high-strung nerves, and quickness of resentment, it is on the child's side, not the parents', that you must look. This is no doubt one of the things which make the amiability of Americans so marked a trait everywhere. They really get from children the training which under the old system the child was expected to get from the parent. A person trained to endure children as now brought up can endure anything.

PROFESSIONAL HINTS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

A SCHOOLROOM REVELATION.—Among the revelations which the school makes to the child there is one whose force is far-reaching. It is the revelation of a man or a woman, presented by this teacher. He has had a presentation of manhood in his father and of womanhood in his mother, but the revelation of manhood or womanhood coming from his teacher has a different appeal and attacks his sensibility at a different point. The

writer overheard two mothers engage in conversation opposite him in a street-car a few days ago discussing their children's school relations, and one of them, the mother of a third grade boy, said: "I have had to abdicate, the teacher is queen. The teacher's statements are gospel, mine are commonplaces." It is true, the teacher is queen for her pupils, and happy for them if she is a royal woman, and he a kingly man.—*Ex.*