

THE CHILDREN'S RECORD.

BAD BOOKS

Never be tempted by curiosity to read what you know to be a bad book, or what a very little reading shows you to be a bad book.

Bad books are the most fatal emissaries of the devil. They pollute with plague the moral atmosphere of the world

Many and many a time a good book, read by a boy, has been a direct source of all his future success; has inspired him to attain and to deserve eminence; has sent him on the paths of discovery; has been as a sheet anchor to all that was noblest in his character; has contributed the predominant element to the usefulness and happiness of his whole life.

Benjamin Franklin testified that a little tattered volume of "Essays to do Good," by Cotton Mather, read when he was a boy, influenced the whole course of his conduct, and that if he had been a useful citizen, "the public owes all the advantages of it to that little book." Jeremy Bentham said that the single phrase, "The greatest good to the greatest number," caught at a glance in a pamphlet, directed the current of his thoughts and studies for life. The entire career of Charles Darwin was influenced by a book of travels which he read in early years.

On the other hand, it is fatally possible for any one—especially for any youth—to read himself to death in a bad book in five minutes. The well known minister, John Angell James, narrated that, when he was at school, a boy lent him an impure book. He only read it for a few minutes, but even during these few minutes the poison flowed fatally into his soul, and became to him a source of bitterness and anguish for all his after years. The thoughts, images, and pictures thus glanced at haunted him all through life like foul spectres

Let no one indulge his evil curiosity under the notion that he is safe. "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool."

"O, who can hold a fire in his hand

By thinking of the frosty Caucasus?
Were we not warned two thousand years ago that "he who toucheth pitch shall be defiled?" and three millenniums ago the question was asked, "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk upon hot coals, and his feet not be scorched?"—F. W. Farrar

HOW HEATHEN CHILDREN SUFFER.

A young woman of twenty in China, was compelled to eat an entire full grown dog as a medicine supposed to correct some internal difficulty.

A little girl was brought to our Foochow hospital, whose bandaged feet were in such a condition that though they were immediately amputated, nothing could save her life. It was a sacrifice to bound feet.

A Christian young woman in China said of her little girl-baby, "I may be able to prevent my mother-in-law from drowning the baby, but I cannot keep her from giving it away in betrothal as a slave.

One little slave girl had every toe and finger bone broken by her mistress, who was a Chinese lady, in Tientsin. Often these children are found with their flesh torn by the delicate long nails of their owners.

One of our physicians in China met the other day a woman who accosted her: "See my new slave. She cost only fifteen dollars! She can't speak a word of our dialect." The child looked very sad, a mere baby among strangers.

In one of our famine orphanages is a little girl eleven years of age. She has had two husbands, the first an old man, from whom she ran away with a boy who gave her sweets. This child is permanently injured by bad treatment.

One of the women of Pekin visited by our missionaries was found with a little baby but a few days old, with whom the mother-in-law was so angry that it was a little girl that she would allow it nothing to eat, saying that a girl must die, while she half-starved her daughter-in-law because she had not strength to do the usual cooking service for the family.

A little girl in China greatly desired to study with her brothers, but was punished every time she attempted to repeat a few lines she had overheard when her brothers had recited their lessons aloud. She has just married into a family who have no objections to her learning to read, an opportunity she is improving to the best of her ability.