

NOBODY KNOWS BUT MOTHER.

Nobody knows of the work it makes
To keep the home together;
Nobody knows the steps it takes,
Nobody knows—but mother.

Nobody listens to childish woes,
Which kisses only smother;
Nobody's pained by naughty blows,
Nobody—only mother.

Nobody knows of the sleepless care,
Bestowed on baby brother;
Nobody knows of the tender prayer,
Nobody—only mother.

Nobody knows of the lessons taught,
Of loving one another;
Nobody knows of the patience sought,
Nobody—only mother.

Nobody knows of the anxious fears,
Lost darlings may not weather
The storms of life in after years,
Nobody knows—but mother.

Nobody kneels at the throne above,
To thank the Heavenly Father,
For that sweetest gift—a mother's love,
Nobody can—but mother.

—Selected.

THE HOME.

Sentiment and Experience.

The amount of time and physical strength which is daily expended in mere sentiment, in words which are but specious of practical ideas, is a cause of regret with sensitive people, who regard usefulness as the highest end. By this term usefulness we mean no shallow thing, no mere sentimentality, and physical strength, but that state of usefulness to our fellow-men which is the highest end. It is the first duty of individuals to investigate their life and work, to see if they are tending to a useful end, and if not, to turn them to it. How many people with good intentions, however, are in the habit of thinking that they are living wisely and well, who feel rebellious toward Heaven because of their continual failure, and yet keep on the old course. It is a huge mass of error, the most common of which is the belief that we must have great breadth of character who can say deliberately: "I am in the wrong, and my neighbor, whom I considered shallow and foolish, is in the right." Why should one expect a person absolutely correct in judgment, which was never given to mortal man? The greatest and best of people make errors of judgment. The fact of expecting to be infallible is the greatest error. It is not possible to lay out a life as a straight line, on which to fit all our acquaintances and friends, though there are individuals who attempt so foolish a task, who lay down certain theories of life and expect to fit the world to them. This is a very possible error. We must take the events of life as they come, the actions of our friends as they come, and thus live day-by-day, instead of laying out a plan for the universe and expecting the universe to adjust itself to our plan.

Where people live a distance from the cities and great centres of human life and civilization, they are apt to get in the way of living on theories rather than practice. They do not come in contact with the world enough. They are hedged in, narrowed down, confined to too slender a space. The only way they can broaden their experience is by extensive reading, that they may gain by the experience of others, if indeed that is possible. This is a very common error, and is very insufficient and often produces purely a visionary life. Nothing will take the place of contact of man with man. The blessing of work among the poor is not alone for those who receive, but for those who give. They gain by contact with people who live in another sphere in life, an experience which if rightly used is invaluable. The hardest thing to overcome in work among the poor is their personal prejudices. Undoubtedly people often feel that they gain a certain dignity by asserting their ideas, founded, as they too often are, on gross superstitions, which it is impossible to argue against. In spite of all one may say to nine-tenths of the people who apply for help will spend the means which are given them by the charitable in the most absurd and extravagant manner, and the tenth one, who does not do so, is likely to be one who will not long remain in want.

The Bad Boy.

There are some genuinely bad boys; they are most hopelessly bad; not only boisterous and rude, but vicious, exasperating, desperate. They devote their energies to devising ways and means of tormenting not other mean boys, but the innocent. If they find an animal that is powerless to harm them, they delight in tormenting it. The more pitiable is the cry, the greater their enjoyment. They are never quite so happy as when they find a way to make a good boy miserable, unless it become a device for making a good man or a good woman wretched. They focus all their wit upon making the good and the innocent of this world suffer through their acts.

It requires the highest human ingenuity and the greatest skill to do anything for them, or through them for the good of the world. It is about as much as the average philanthropist can hope for, to protect the innocent from their malice; and yet the fact remains that, if properly dealt with, they often make the grandest men in the world. They have the energy and intensity and grit that make mighty men, if only they can be roused from themselves. It is of little use to lay down any rules for dealing with them; it requires an expert, a genius in the art of training, to accomplish anything with them or for them. Who ever has such a boy to deal with in home, school, church or society should witness the training of a vicious horse by the genius. There was never a horse so vicious that he was not susceptible to the arts of an artist. A horse that has bitten, kicked and stamped his keepers to death is turned loose in the presence of a man, who does not leave him till it is safe for a child to come into his presence. There was never a sane boy so mean, so base, so cruel, so fierce, that in the hands of an expert he could not be made as gentle, as serviceable to humanity, as the horse that came from the hands of Rarcy.

Experts are not numerous, and the bad boy has a rare genius for keeping out of their way. There are, however, a few

principles that may be laid down safely regarding his treatment. He must be respected. We must never be impatient with him, never irritated by him. There is no possibility of controlling or benefiting such a boy if we allow ourselves to get "rattled." Just as he continues to torment the kitten in proportion to the intensity of her crying, will he invent devices for our vexation so long as our irritability is apparent. There must be no weakness, no vacillation, no hesitancy to apply heroic treatment at the right time in the right way. No one on earth so respects authority, so bows before a master, as a wild, fierce, desperate boy. I have seen a wild Mexican horse that had never been touched by the hand of man, with every fibre of his being thrilling with strength, and every impulse vicious, so conquered in five minutes as to be led quietly by the bit. The treatment seemed so cruel that my blood almost chilled; but I saw that it was the greatest possible kindness to do promptly, vigorously, all that would ever need to be done to show him that he was in the hands of a master.—A. E. Winship.

A well-regulated family has an admirable plan for infusing into the minds of their children an interest in books. Each is furnished with a nice little bookcase containing shelves, doors, lock and key, which they call their "library, just like father's." Result? Their school-books find safe lodgment here, also books which come to them as gifts, and some purchased with their own money. Having a nucleus it is surprising how rapidly the library grows. Friends send the youth so much interested, present them books when otherwise they would not think of it. Having the books, they read them, and this fosters desire for reading more and accumulating more books. Growth of the library and "book-knowledge" is not likely to cease, but will continue so long as the person participates in the activities of life.—Helen Whitson.

Many households fail to make the most of their own resources. In the way of intellectual improvement. They are too dependent upon outside influences for a stimulus to reading and study. They work enthusiastically as members of a Reading Club or a Shakespeare Society, but if hindered from joining such an organization they never think of forming one within the family circle. In contrast to this general neglect of opportunities close at hand is a plan pursued in a certain home for the study of current events. The busy mother has time to gain a class for this purpose, but she, together with the father and three oldest children, reports systematically at the breakfast table upon events recorded in newspapers of the preceding day. Sunday mornings they give their accounts with the Sunday school lesson, and Mondays they confine their reports to religious news gathered the previous day. The children are all under sixteen, but it would be difficult to find a home in which there is a more lively interest in the progress of the world's affairs and in the advance of Christ's kingdom. This a capital way to lay the foundation for an interest in foreign missions.—Sel.

Helpful Hints.

An English physician recommends plunging the feet and hands into water as a remedy for colds and a remedy for bleeding from the nose.

After trimming lamps the wicks should be turned down quite low until time for lighting. Otherwise the oil will overflow on to the outside.

If china plates are piled on top of each other in the closet it is well to separate them by circles of folding cotton or flannel. It makes a pretty finish to pink or scallop the edges.

Avoid going into the presence of any contagious disease when perspiring or when the system is not properly fortified by food. An empty stomach and open pores increase the susceptibility to take the disease.

It adds to the attractiveness of the dining-room to have the chairs at the head and foot of the table a different pattern from the others. It is also easier to carve and to pour tea and coffee if seated in a chair which is a little higher than the usual height.

Do not try to wring flannel cloths, for use in illness, out of hot water with the hands. Roll the cloths tightly in a towel, then twist both ends in opposite directions until sufficiently dry. Carry to the bedside thus protected and caution to retain the heat as long as possible.

In reply to a subscriber who asks how to restore old mahogany, we would say that the only proper way is to have a competent man scrape off the several coats of varnish, etc., and then have the pieces of furniture refinished. We have failed to learn of any preparation which will secure the desired result.

Beds, when occupied, should not be placed with one side close to a wall. In this position the sleeper's breath is thrown back and inhaled again, a most pernicious practice. Another objection is possible dampness from the walls. Let there be a free circulation of air all around the bed, especially if there are two occupants.

Hairbrushes are best cleaned by dipping the bristles in warm water to which ammonia has been added. The proportion of a teaspoonful to a quart of water. Then rinse in clear, cold water, shake well and dry in the air, but not in the sun. Soap, soda or borax softens the bristles and turns the ivory backs of the hairbrushes yellow.

Grease spots can be taken out of white marble by an application of whitening saturated with benzine. Let the mixture stand a short time and then wash off with soap and water. Another mixture to be used in the same way consists of two parts of washing soda and one part of each of ground pumice stone and chalk, all finely powdered and mixed into a paste with water.

It is important that every mother should know what constitutes a normal pulse and temperature, both for the children and the adult members of the household. This knowledge will enable her to determine whether the variation from the standard of health is slight or great and to act accordingly in incipient illness. The family physician is usually willing to instruct her on these points and to teach her how to take the

temperature with a thermometer. This knowledge is specially valuable in cases where the doctor cannot be readily summoned.

Many careful housekeepers are oblivious to the need of airing closets. Let the door of the closet in which everyday clothing is kept stand wide open during the night, unless so situated that one is liable to run against it if called up suddenly. In that case let a volume of fresh air be admitted into the closet each morning when the beds are being made. Shut snugly right up the door at night until thoroughly aired, and under no circumstances roll them up and place under the pillows when not in use. All garments should be shaken and aired before being hung away.

THE FARM.

Blame Where it Belongs.

At an institution in Southern Missouri I felt it my duty to tell the farmers that they did not prepare their farms for the winter. I saw that they had many lumpy fields. Two or three jumped right up to inform me that this had been an unusual season, and it was so dry that they could not pulverize the fields. It is less in this case to harrow down and rolled at the end of each half day, when ploughing, could they not have pulverized the lumps? I have seen here and there a field in perfect condition. Again, when riding by carriage twenty miles, the other day, I saw a very rough piece of wheat; but to get off stones, or for some other purpose, a stone-boat had been drawn across the field several times here and there, and where this had been the lumps were quite well pulverized. The wheat decidedly better. The general chance for wheat in now quite poor.

When the short harvest comes how many will take the blame right upon themselves. I told how I would care for clover. A farmer said he was guilty of turning his stock on to his new-seeded fields this fall. The clover was pretty thoroughly gnawed and trampled to death. He will put the blame right where it belongs when he meets with partial failure next season. A member of the Missouri Board of Agriculture followed up my clover talk yesterday. He told of his experience in the same line; of land producing but 10 or 12 bushels of wheat, and 25 or 30 of corn, which he had clovered systematically, and was now getting 30 to 40 bushels of wheat and 75 to 80 bushels of corn, and this change was caused by clover only, no other fertilizer whatever being used.—Ohio Farmer.

One of the best remedies ever found for a fresh wound is to bind on granulated sugar and moisten it a little with water. Perhaps other sugar will answer as well; I have never tried it.

Some have a rule not to retain any sheep beyond five years of age. But many ewes are at their best then, and even later. If the ewe is a good mother, drops twins, has a capacious and sound udder, a good milker and raises her lambs well, I would not dispose of her were she ten years old. A ewe that raises twins produces a great percentage of profit. Old sheep, if healthy, are readily fattened by grinding the grain fed them.

Much vexation, lawing and time are wasted by inability to find wooden landmarks set at the corners of lots (especially timber lands). I helped survey a lot whose corner mark was a small pile of stones and hemlock stake on wet ground. Twenty years later, when the lot was surveyed again, a party of five persons searched an hour for the corner without success. The law ought to compel use of imperishable metal or a solid stone shaft for this purpose.

I ploughed a field never ploughed before except a skimming of the surface when the first crop was sown. The plough ran steadily when cutting minding deep, which turned up too much cold soil. The field was injured and did not produce well for years in comparison with other new fields on the farm not so deeply ploughed. It is easier and more profitable to render new land fertile with clover and shallow ploughing at the outset than by turning up too much cold soil in the first ploughings.

We speak of the "tune the old cow died of" without thinking how such an expression came into use. Perhaps no cow ever died of a tune, but some certainly have of starvation. Here is a verse of the song which is the origin of the saying:

There was an old man, and he had an old cow,
And he had nothing to give her.
So he let her starve and starve he a tune,
Consider, good cow, consider!
This is no time of year for the grass to grow!
Consider, good cow, consider!

—Apropos of noteworthy litters, a farmer who burns wood for fuel saves all the splinters, small chips and pieces of bark loosened from the wood as it is cut and split in the woodhouse. These he rakes up and deposits in old barrels and boxes. If green or wet they dry out in summer. They are used to kindle fires, and the supply is continuous. There is no "splitting kindling wood" with him, and never a "chip-heap" to be cleaned away and carted off, or to remain an insect incubator and general nuisance.

C. Wolley Dod, an English amateur lily-grower, says that of all sorts, the old L. candidum—the white lily—is the most beautiful yet. It is the most fragrant, too, and will grow and do well for anybody who plants it in August, respects its leaves and leaves it undisturbed to get better and better year after year. No one need care for any of the novelties so showily presented and extravagantly lauded in florists' catalogues until this fine old and faithful flower has been given a place to show its purity of color and its grandeur of form in every July, and to fill the air about it with fragrance. It is a plant for a shrubby front, where dark leaves will give it a suitable background and where its own leaves will not be exposed to trampling feet. Mr. Dod says that lilies generally like a mulch and come best through the spray of low shrubs, if not too thick. Offset bulbs of the candidum can be obtained in almost any neighborhood, and that is the reason why it has little said about it in the catalogues. August is the only time to transplant them successfully. They begin their new growth then.

TEMPERANCE.

How It Doesn't Help.

According to official statistics, the liquor consumed in the United States in 1890 was over 9,000,000 gallons, and its value at a low estimate is \$1,000,000. This amount is greater than that of all the exports for the same year; greater than the income of all American railroads; greater than the value of the corn crop, and is only exceeded by the value of all the cereals for the same year. Are not these facts alarming? A great many honest farmers are deceived by the statement that the liquor traffic provides a market for their grain. The same tables show that the amount of grain consumed in the manufacture of liquor is so very small as not to be worth considering as an argument for one moment.

When we think of the great evils resulting from this traffic it is not strange that the people do not banish the monster from the country? The greatly increased costs of courts, jails, penitentiaries, almshouses, and asylums are largely due to this unholy business. But farmers should think of the great benefits that would be derived if the money now wasted for liquor could be turned into the legitimate channels of trade and commerce. How many products of the farm, the store, the shop, this money would purchase. And last and greatest, think of the many families now unhappy and destitute that would feel cheery, happy and prosperous. Every honest citizen should conserve himself to the destruction of this enemy of the home, the church, schools and society.—Indiana Farmer.

The Remedy for Intemperance.

One class of reformers have sought to destroy intemperance by advocating laws forbidding the supply of liquor to those who seek it, another class by pleading men not to use it, and still another by substituting something else to satisfy the appetite which craves it. Though none of these methods have proved altogether satisfactory, there is much in the progress of the reform to encourage those who would help their fellowmen, especially in the fact that the church is coming to realize the breadth and depth of the problem and to believe that nothing short of the complete renovation of society in the way pointed out by the teachings of Christ can ever destroy intemperance. Dr. James Stalker, of Glasgow, in his lectures to Yale theological students last winter, put the matter in these wise words:

There is one of the causes of social misery, and that the very chief, against which the church, especially in our country, has nobly asserted herself. Drink is the cause to which magistrates and judges, and all who are brought under the influence of the fallen and criminal classes, attribute three-fourths of the evils of society. Drink is the despair of every Christian worker who has ventured down among the pariahs of our civilization. Against this the church have not been inactive. But we are just beginning to acknowledge that, though drunkenness is the great cause of misery, there are other causes behind it which must likewise be coped with. Why do the people drink? This question, when it is impartially considered, will bring many abuses of our social system into view, which must be put out of the way before the evils of drunkenness can be stopped. Excessively prolonged labor exhausts the system and makes it crave for artificial stimulus. Excessively low wages, with no prospect of rising in the world, beget a spirit of recklessness, which makes men ready to turn to anything that promises to bring a gleam of sunshine into their monotonous lot. Ill-furnished and insanitary abodes drive forth their inmates to seek the brightness and comfort of the saloon.

There is one type of remedy which the church has not supplied. To those already fallen she has extended a helping hand. The time has come to ascend higher up the stream than has hitherto been done and cut it off at its source.—Er.

Nervousness, weakness, debility often rises from wrong action of the stomach, liver and bowels, and are best treated with B. B. B.

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S. E. WHISTON, Esq., Principal, WHISTON'S Halifax COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.

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