

HOUSEHOLD.

Making Sunday Afternoons Pleasant and Profitable for Children.

(By Mrs. H. E. Thayer.)

In the Sunday training of the little ones, I would first emphasize that we make the Sabbath different from the other days of the week, and make that difference pleasant and attractive, instead of something to be dreaded. I would always give them some pleasure on Sunday that I did not give them on any other day.

If in your home there is the wee baby, spend at least an hour on Sunday afternoon with baby in your lap; sing hymns—never any secular airs during that time—and fondle the little one; keep a best rattle for Sunday, or a string of spools, a string of shells, or a box of pretty stones.

As baby grows a little older, have the Sunday picture-books, with short stories, perhaps of your own composition—stories that will bring to your child ideas of the beauties of patience, kindness and generosity. Take the large illustrated family bible—that in too many homes, I fear is worn only from being dusted—and, with the little ones on your lap, tell them the story of Daniel and the lions, and of Samuel, while they watch eagerly the pictures. Teach them, by precept, and by your own example, a reverence for the bible. Help them to commit verses.

Possibly some mother may think baby too young for such training. 'When he is old enough to understand,' she will teach him that he must not play with his week-day toys on Sunday. But I think when he is old enough to understand, I think you will find it very difficult to decide just which Sunday to begin the new regime. The little fellow will be likely to say, 'If I played with them last Sunday, why may I not to-day?' And I think you will find that your reasons are hard to explain, while the child will find them even harder to understand.

Children, as well as older people, enjoy being 'dressed up.' Hence I would keep the best gown for Sunday. Help your little daughter to realize that she wears her best gown on Sunday because it is God's day; that in doing this, she is showing a reverence for the day, and that she does not 'dress up,' to look well merely, or that others may see her good clothes.

Not long ago a little girl was sent to my home one Sunday morning, on an errand. In reply to my question, 'Are you going to church this morning?' she looked up into my face, and said: 'Why, yes, of course. And this is my best dress. I wear this to-day 'cause 'tis God's day, mamma says; and I always keep my best things for God. Don't you?'

The Sunday afternoon dinner may furnish its share in distinguishing the day, and it may do it very simply by making the dinner table brighter with some extra decoration, or by having some dessert of which the children are specially fond.

I know a family of three bright children where the Sunday afternoon reading by 'mamma' is looked forward to with the greatest delight. It is the exception for that mother to read to them during the week, but the rule for the Sunday afternoon.

'Evil is wrought by want of thought,
As well as want of heart.'

So always put away noisy playthings, tin horses, carts, trains of cars, trumpets, and drums, on Saturday night. Your infant will not know why it is done. So we often do not know why our Father takes certain pleasures from us and gives us others in their place. While you are training the tiny child, you are perhaps training yourself. You are hallowing the Sabbath day, and the whole atmosphere of your home will seem to be more holy, if for one day, in the week the toys are put away. — 'Sunday-school Times.'

Train the Children.

('Christian Work.')

Even in the family the rights of the individual must be carefully considered if we look to obtaining the best results. But along with individual development comes the social development as well. If the right

feeling prevails among the older members of the family, the children grow up with a thoughtful regard for the rights of others, which is the true aim of socialism. To teach a child to be self-helpful, according to its physical strength, to use its powers of mind and body, until tired enough to rest and recuperate, to do useful things and to think good thoughts,—these are the things which shall tend to make the world better.

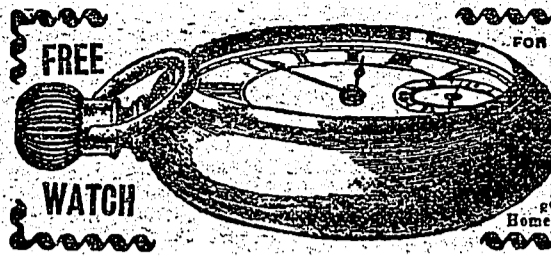
If every mother, or housekeeper, who has the care of young children, would take this lesson to heart and act upon it, we should find a vast improvement in the world about us. Babies can be trained from the time they are born. Children of four months old will manage to let their little needs be known to those who care for them, and if heed is paid to their baby language much trouble and washing for them can be saved. And all the way up to maturity, by painstaking with the child, the necessity of doing for him as an individual is decreased. He will become self-helpful—and work to eat. It is scarcely possible for every human being to go back to Mother Nature and till the soil, yet as an educational process every child ought to know something of how food is produced, how vegetables grow, how animals are fed and cared for, how to fish and hunt, and how to gather berries and other fruits. Whenever possible a child should be encouraged to work in a garden, and otherwise obtain food supplies. All this supplementary to helping himself to wash and dress and keep his person and wardrobe neat and in order. The lesson comes to all of us sooner or later in life, no matter how petted and how sheltered we may be, we must bear our own physical burdens to a greater or less degree. Happy for us if, as children, we have learned to endure little hardships, to bear little pains, to be self-helpful; to do both for ourselves and for those dependent upon us. For after the lesson of self-help, the care of the weaker should be early impressed upon children. A gentle thoughtfulness for the well-being of all with whom they come into contact and a kindly care for pets, helps to develop tenderness in a child's nature. And this side never should be forgotten, in the rounding out of a child's full development. Strength and tenderness should go hand in hand.

A child properly taught at home will not shirk his share of work in the world. Every boy and girl brought up to work in the right spirit will do his and her full share daily, so long as life shall last, to add to the real sum of the world's riches. Neither will become an idle hanger-on to the fringe of the world's woven web, pulling and dragging instead of honestly weaving.

And teaching a child, O Housekeeper, means much more than letting the little girl into the kitchen at stated seasons to make cake. It means a watchful care of the child and its goings from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same. It means seeing that its sleep is restful and refreshing, that its care of the body is thorough and cleanly, that it is taught to use its hands, to take care of its wardrobe, to understand about food and its preparation, to be honest in its procuring of necessities and luxuries, not to be greedy, but to share its good things—in fact, to develop its entire nature, physical, mental and moral. With a firm purpose on the part of every mother, throughout the land to do all in her power to so develop her children, the need of socialistic schemes would soon cease to be felt. The task seems a great one, but with God's help it is not an impossible one with any mother. Some degree of success must attend every well directed effort to lessen selfishness and to develop true nobility of character.

Yorkshire Pudding.

Two eggs, four tablespoonfuls of flour; a little salt; and milk to make a batter, the thickness of cream. When the beef is roasted, pour off the boiling dripping into another pan, turn in the batter, and bake it to a good brown.



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Selected Recipes.

Pineapple Bavarian Cream.—Cook together for fifteen minutes one pint of grated pineapple, and three-quarters of a cupful of sugar; add one-half a box of gelatine soaked in one-half cupful of cold water; rub through a sieve, and stir over ice-water till it thickens; add very gently the whip for one pint of cream. Turn into a wet mold, and chill thoroughly.

Lemon Jelly.—One-half box of gelatine soaked ten minutes in one-half pint of cold water; add one and a third pints of boiling water, and stir till the gelatine is dissolved; when nearly cool add one and one-quarter cups of sugar, and juice of four lemons. Strain into a mold, and let stand several hours in a cool place before serving.

Cream Potatoes.—Put a good sized piece of butter into a saucepan, a teaspoonful of flour, salt, pepper, a little grated nutmeg, and some chopped parsley and chives; stir well, and pour in a cupful of cream. Place the saucepan on the hot fire, and beat up till it comes to a boil; cut some boiled potatoes into even slices, add them to the sauce and serve very hot.

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