

point in the lesson is enforced and illustrated by a family experience, the telling of which brings us all nearer to one another.

In maintaining discipline I find that it does not help matters to become annoyed. Professor John Adams says that, if a teacher has a quick temper, it is a good plan to go to school with the mind prepared for something disagreeable. Not that we should go ready to find fault, but that we should be strung up to a pitch of preparedness that enables one to meet any emergency.

To develop and preserve a class spirit, we have a class name, and a class motto, "Shed a little sunshine, ere the sun shall set each day." We have had a class photograph taken, and we meet socially in the different homes. In summer we have occasional Saturday outings.

Lastly, we have entered into a covenant to pray for one another—they for me, and I for them, each one especially, and by name; and with thirteen prayers going up daily to God from one class, we are sure to have His blessing.

He has been very gracious to our class. Seven of the twelve have professed Christ, and are now in full communion with the church, one of them being a primary teacher.

Montreal

#### HEREDITY AND ENVIRONMENT

*By Frederick Tracy, B.A., Ph.D.*

If I plant a healthy hyacinth bulb in a rich, warm soil, and give it plenty of sunlight, air and water, I may reasonably expect that in due time it will put forth its bud, and develop to maturity its beautiful and fragrant flower. Change any one of these conditions and the result will be altered. Plant the bulb in a vessel exhausted of its air, or in a room devoid of sunlight, and the beautiful flower will be awaited in vain. Or, let the soil be ever so rich, the air ever so pure, the sunlight ever so bright and warm, and if, instead of a healthy bulb, I plant a feeble, scrawny specimen, or if, instead of a hyacinth, I plant a daffodil: in any of these cases the outcome will differ accordingly.

Obviously these various factors, that to-

gether determine the result, and each of which plays an essential part in that determination, may be arranged in two classes, those that belong to the nature of the plant itself, and those that belong to its surroundings. The former may be called the intrinsic and the latter the extrinsic factors.

In the life of every human being the influences that help to determine the outcome are many and varied; and some of these also are intrinsic, while others are extrinsic. Every child is born of a certain stock, and comes into the world with a certain native temperament, which, we say, is his by virtue of heredity. On the other hand, every child, from the moment of his birth lives and moves in an environment which, in countless subtle ways, exerts its influence upon the development of his powers and the unfolding of his life.

The influence of heredity is so potent that some have been disposed to regard it as virtually fixing the character of the child once for all, so far as the determination of the sort of man he is to be, is concerned. Others go to the opposite extreme, and maintain that if the environment were made what it ought to be, and exerted its pressure consistently from the outset, practically every defect could be remedied, and every evil tendency rooted out of human character.

Both statements are exaggerated. Each of these factors is potent, but neither is omnipotent. The two girls, M. and J., described in an earlier article, the one descended from a line of rough, strong, self-willed, and somewhat boorish ancestors, the other from delicate, high-strung, sensitive stock, could never be made exactly alike by any conceivable environment, acting in any conceivable way upon them. And yet, no doubt, the influence exerted upon them in the school did much to reduce the relative predominance of their most salient qualities, and to bring about a better co-ordination between these and the other qualities of their personality; so that the net result was a more evenly-balanced disposition, with a larger measure than would otherwise have been possible, of that control which is so essential to the highest character.

Into the mysteries of heredity we shall