

Put yourself down in that boy's place. How much better would you feel, how much more clearly would you think, how much more cheerfully would you afterward study, if your teacher were to make a public announcement of your stupidity? Would you not be either utterly discouraged, or righteously indignant? What right, then, have you to outrage that scholar's feelings by your cutting words? If his father were sitting in your school-room, think you that you would utter such harsh words? And have you the thoughtlessness, or the meanness, to use language in the father's absence which you would be ashamed, and would not dare to use in his presence? Is it not your duty to remember that boy has sensibilities to be moved, feelings to be respected, as much as you have? And have not his parents a right to demand that you shall treat him with kindness and patience? Will you not do away, then, with all bitter words, assured that they do no good, but much harm?—*Mass. Teacher.*

Thoughts on Education from various Authors. (1)

(Continued from our last.)

II.

DUTIES OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

Children's clothes should be neat, but not rich, even if the means of the parents will permit it.

For temporal wealth is transitory; while rich clothing usually infects a child's mind with pride.

To cure or hide bodily defects, and to let the soul remain ugly, is nothing but whitewashing a sepulchre full of fashionable bones.

To bring them to baptism, or to the Lord's Supper, and then not to instruct them any further in Christianity, is a dangerous custom. It quenches the spark of faith, and may destroy a soul, which at the last day will cry Ah! and Wo! over the neglect of its parents.

As the years pass on, it is the duty of parents to see that their children learn something which may enable them to be of service to God and to the commonwealth.

Reasonable parents will consider not only for what their sons are fitted, but whether their own means will allow of it.

It is contrary to prudence to risk anything in hazards.

And in particular, it is an over-haste which deserves punishment, to undertake to devote children to a particular calling, even before they are born. Such destinations often have bad results.

It would be well if women were not merely made to stick fast to household affairs, but were to have their understanding cultivated and their moral nature developed, so that together with Martha's attainments in family management, they might with Mary choose the good part. Luke, x; 42.

Moderate correction with the rod, in case of positive obstinacy is better than a foolish bugbear.

Fear and terror are injurious, and often may become impossible to be removed during the whole life.

As reason grows with years, it will be well for parents to instruct children in their duties towards God, themselves, and their neighbors; to exhibit to them the reward of virtue and the punishment of vice, so that they may not go astray and fall into immorality.

Above all, parents should set their children a good example.

For children are like tinder, which quickly catches fire.

CHRISTIAN BUCHNER.

If you are blessed with children, so act that your children shall be carefully trained to the knowledge of God.

If a prince had honored you by presenting you his portrait, and you, out of folly or lack of respect, had permitted it to become covered with dust, cobwebs and dirt, could you hope to receive any further favors from him, if he should become aware of your carelessness, or should see it?

But your children are the image of God.

If you act wrongly by them, the Omniscient will not leave you unpunished.

Men must consecrate to God the firstlings both of their thoughts and of their youth.

Then He will bestow his blessings on the rest.

You ought to pray for and with your children.

When your children have arisen, and are clean, washed and dressed, let them come to you and bid you a good morning.

Then you can see if there is anything wrong about them, and how to adjust it.

Then place them before you, and with uncovered head pray the prayer for parents over them, and bless them with laying on of hands; so that they may hear and understand how the eternal well-being of children is earnestly desired by their parents; so that they may not only be made

more obedient, but may in the subsequent management of their own children do the like.

Watch that no wicked habit comes upon the children; for their depraved nature will otherwise always be before their better nature.

Boys and girls should always sleep in separate rooms; and brothers and sisters should not see each other without clothes.

Wherever possible, each child should have a separate bed.

Do not permit your children to hear loose and frivolous stories.

A child's Bible with pictures, to be explained by you, picture by picture, is the best book for children.

Christian parents should be very careful what sort of persons they have about their children; for from these, if they are immoral or vicious persons, they often learn tricks, improper speeches and curses, which they would otherwise never have heard, much more learned.

The rod should only be used on important occasions.

Children should be made to give brief and intelligent answers. Permit no obscurity and no conceit of cunning to appear in their words. Do not praise witty children, but rather God-fearing ones.

They should be early cured of coarse and awkward habits.

Empty threats should be avoided.

The love for their children of many parents is a really foolish mere animal instinct.

Many parents admire the foolish and apish gestures and tricks, and even the improper speeches and wicked actions of their children; and thus do not love them as human beings, but amuse themselves with them as if they were young apes.

MOSCHEWICZ.

Parents are indisputably most immediately called, and most naturally bound, to provide for the cultivation of the bodily and intellectual powers of those to whom they have given life.

An instinctive impulse makes them fittest and most skillful to attend to the first necessities of their children, and to endure their weakness with patience.

Early habituation to the company of their children makes it almost indispensable to parents in whom the voice of nature is not silenced by unhappy circumstances or by corruption of morals.

They thus learn to feel that these beings, at first so helpless, depend entirely upon their strength and their will; and this feeling which no other person can have so strongly as parents, except, (during their earliest years,) a nurse, strengthens their interest in their little ones.

The home, the family, will always be the most appropriate place for the growth of a child.

A child is like a young plant, to which a too early transplantation is injurious, even if the new soil is the best.

It is only in the family that certain impressions can be received, and certain feelings awakened, which, as being those most distinctively human, should be deeply and strongly rooted in the human breast; such are love of parents, sense of domestic happiness, early sympathy in all that relates to the family; pure susceptibilities, which contain the germ of those feelings for universal humanity, which are so easily quenched for ever.

Children who by accident or convenience, or perhaps the mistaken views of their parents, are thrust too soon out of their homes among strangers, usually cease to be children too soon, and perhaps even to have childish faults, but without becoming for that reason any better.

They omit a step in their experience which, according to the wise arrangements of nature, should not be omitted.

But the advantages above mentioned can only be expected where the parents, by their own example, awaken and nourish the germ of a pure humanity in their children, for this means is undoubtedly more efficient than all possible positive instrumentalities and institutions.

It is entirely natural that children should respect and value nothing so much as what is commended to them by the words and actions of those whose offspring they are, under whose protection they grow up, and who are thus the first objects of their reverence and love.

The influence, moreover, of constant association, and the tone of family life which proceeds from the character and spirit of parents, have so uninterrupted and strong an influence, although it is imperceptible, that this cause alone will serve to explain all the peculiarities of children, not only the resemblances, but also—for they are not all brought up under the same circumstances and the same time, if they are by the same parents—the dissimilarities of brothers and sisters.

It is true, however, that not even the highest degree of morality and education in parents can of itself protect their children from injuries; for the world and actual life, work along with them, and join in the work of education.

NIEMEYER.

Whoever has a father, or mother, or both, must be educated by him, her, or both; and no one, neither father nor mother, can for gold or good words hire another mother and another father for their children.

Parents can infinitely lighten their duties in this respect, by apportioning to themselves such parts of the child's training as are most proper for each of them, and at the same time a corresponding part of the enjoyment arising from every advance in knowledge or usefulness.

The mutual instructive affections of teacher and pupil, in this case also diminish by at least half, the labor of the occupation.

But what is it that people of rank—the question is worth considering—secure by employing all sorts of nurses for their children?