

A Philadelphia Experiment.

Principal George H. Cliff, of the girls' normal school, has established a unique experimental class, consisting of little boys of about the age of six years, who have thus far been taught only what is right. They have no knowledge of the wrong way of doing things. When they do make a mistake, it is not called so by the teacher. No distinction between right and wrong is drawn. Only the best models of conduct and work are persistently held before them. These they are taught to follow. The children are conscious when they do not attain to the standard, and they are taught to strive more diligently to reach it; but their failures are not called errors or condemned as wrong. Hence the children have no consciousness of wrong-doing, and having no fear of punishment for it, they do not seek to evade the results of their shortcomings. In this way it is thought the temptation to lie is eliminated. The pupils are candid and straightforward, free from the habit of evasion. The old-fashioned idea was to teach the child the nature of sin, and its consequences, with the idea that it would avoid sin or wrong-doing because of the inevitable punishment. The new plan consists in the ignoring of the existence of sin, and the inculcation of good and wholesome concepts only. As sin is but a comparative thing, after all, it seems only reasonable to suppose that the elimination of the comparisons might do away with sin, or at least all that is acquired by training and is not innate. *Primary Education.*

Nature Study and Moral Culture.

In President Jordan's new book, "The Innumerable Company," appears an article on nature study and moral culture. He says: "The essence of character building lies in action. The chief value of nature study in character building is that like life itself it deals in realities. The experience of living is of itself a form of nature study. One must in life make his own observations, frame his own deductions and apply them in action as he goes along. The habit of finding out the best thing to do next and then doing it is the basis of character. A strong character is built up by doing, not by imitation, not by feeling, nor by suggestion. Nature study, if it be genuine, is essentially doing. This is the basis of its effectiveness as a moral agent. To deal with truth is necessary if we are to know truth when we see it in action. . . . The rocks and shells, the frogs and lilies, always tell the absolute truth. Association with these under right direction will build up a habit of truthfulness which the lying story of the cherry tree is powerless to effect."

Recitation Rules.

1. If you expect to have lessons learned at all, make them short.
2. Assign but few lessons to be learned at home: children must have time to work, play, eat, sleep and grow.
3. Keep your explanation down to the level of your pupils' minds. A great deal of teaching "flies over the heads" of your pupils. You must learn to talk in household Anglo-Saxon, such as men use in business and women at home.
4. Your chief business is *to make pupils think*, not to think for them; *to make them talk*, not to talk for them; *to draw out their powers*, not to display your own.
5. Keep your voice down to the conversational key. A quiet voice is music in the school-room.
6. Train your pupils to recite in good English, but do not worry them by interruptions while they are speaking. Make a note of incorrect or inelegant expressions and have them corrected afterwards.
7. *Seldom repeat a question.* Train your pupils to a habit of attention, so that they can understand what you say the first time.
8. Give your slow pupils time to think and speak. The highest praise given by an English inspector to a teacher was "that he allowed his slow boys time to wriggle out an answer." *Sewett's Methods of Teaching.*

It is hoped you do not need to be reminded that a school without singing is a cave of gloom. You doubtless have music in your soul, but it may lose its melodiousness in passing over or through your vocal cords. Well, do not be discouraged. Better have music in your soul than to be "fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils." But it is necessary to get some of the music out of your soul into the atmosphere of the schoolroom. If you really cannot sing, it will be easy to find a boy or girl who can lead. Cheap books, full of cheerful melodies, are abundant. Let all sing. *Western School Journal.*

TO FIND DIRECTION BY A WATCH. When the sun is sinking hold the watch horizontal, face upward, with the hour hand pointing toward the sun. Then a line drawn from the pivot on which the hands turn, through the point half way between the point of the hour hand and XII on the clock face will point directly south. At 10.00 o'clock such a line would extend from the pivot, through the figure XI. Why is this true?