

breeze. They should know the sound of the bees in a plum tree in May, of frogs in a bog in April, of grasshoppers along the roadsides in June, of crickets out in the dark in September. They should hear a leafless ash hum, a pine tree sigh, old trees groan in the forest, and the floating ice in a brook making its incomparable music beneath the frozen crystal roof of some flooded glade.

They should have a chance to chase butterflies, to catch fish, to ride on a load of hay, to camp out, to cook over an open fire, to tramp through new country, and to sleep under the open sky. They should have the fun of driving a horse, paddling a canoe, and sailing a boat, and of discovering that Nature will honor the humblest seed they plant.

Things that children can do in cities are not to be compared with such country activities. Out of the country and its experiences has come and always will come the most stimulating and healthful art of the world. One cannot appreciate and enjoy to the full nature-books, novels, histories, poems, pictures, or even musical compositions, who has not had in his youth the blessed contact with the world of nature.

I do not forget what cities have done for us, and always must do; but one can get all the best a city has to yield by visiting it, whereas one cannot reap all the harvests of the country except by living there in childhood. And I feel somehow that such a life in the country is the birthright of every child. There is truth in Cowper's statement that God made the country and man made the town.

I believe that every child of God has a right to see the country—the house his heavenly Father made for him—unobstructed by brick walls, unspoiled by filth and undimmed by smoke. And one of these days, somehow, all children born into the world will be given a

chance to enjoy to the full their inspiring patrimony.

Living in the country in childhood "the voice of the Lord God, walking in the garden in the cool of the day" is more likely to be heard; and, being heard by all, that Voice will be answered more universally, and with warmer love.

THE SMALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

The little Sunday School must appear as a truly worth-while institution before it will command the services of capable people. The leader should talk personally with those in the community who have the largest degree of gifts and graces for Sunday School teaching. Christian public school teachers make good Sunday School teachers. Those who consent to serve in the Sunday School should be carefully assigned to the age and grade of pupils for which they have inclinations and aptitudes. They should be steadily supported by sympathy and necessary material. Do not entertain anxiety if the classes are small. Small classes are better than large ones. If only teachers with meagre abilities are available, the leader, pastor, or superintendent should go with them over the specific lessons step by step. They should be taught how to study a lesson for themselves, and then how to select the parts particularly adapted to their pupils.—The Sunday School Journal

The Parents' Bible Class

By Rev. H. G. Crozier

How it has come to pass that the majority of churches do not have a Parents' Bible Class is a question which any up to date religious education specialist may well ask?

Our social workers in almost every city have established centres where mothers are taught how to care for the physical necessities of their children.

Our Sunday Schools are establishing teacher training classes where our young people may be trained for service as Sunday School teachers.

But in how many churches is there a Parents' Bible Class where parents may study together the problems of the home and receive that necessary guidance which will enable them to intelligently discharge their parental responsibility.

We all agree that unless something is done to lead our parents to shoulder this responsibility and train their

children, that all other efforts will be comparatively superficial and utterly inadequate.

Will any one venture to predict what results might follow the reconstruction of some Bible Classes and the organization of others with this definite object in view?

Let those who believe such a plan feasible try it out and hasten the day when our homes shall more intelligently fulfil the responsibility of training the children in the way they should go.

Winnipeg