

WATCH THE BOOKS.

How large a proportion of mothers and guardians exercise anything which can be called watchful care as to what books and papers the children shall read? And yet the booksellers' shelves groan under the weight of the most dissipating, weakening, and insidious books that can possibly be imagined; and newspapers which ought never to enter any decent house lie on the table of many a family sitting-room. Any one who will take the trouble to examine the records of any large circulating library will be astonished at the immense demand which there is for these average novels. And in our parlours and chambers to-day, myriads of little girls are curled up in corners, poring over such reading—stories of complicated modern society, the very worst kind of reading for a child; stories "whose exciting pages delight in painting the love of the sexes of each other, and its sensual phases." And the mothers do not know what they are reading; and the children answer, when asked what they read; "Oh, anything that comes along!"—*Anna C. Brackett.*

"I would not," says Mr. Beecher, "for all the comfort which I might get from the books of the Alexandrian Library or the Lennox Library, give up the comfort which I get out of nature. There is nothing that grows—no weed, no grass, no flower, no fruit—that is not in some way related to God in my thoughts; and I am never so near Him as when I am in the presence of His works—as when, night or day, I am in that solemn cathedral, the world of nature, and behind its ever changing beauty. There is no such frescoes in art as God's hand paints in the heavens. There are no such relations to God as come to us through nature. In the budding, blossoming days of spring, in the balmy days of summer, in the fruitful days of autumn, in the days of winter, in every day of the year, there is something that is a separate leaf to me in God's outside Bible, now that I have learned to read it."

HOW TO FIND PROFIT IN BIBLE STUDY.

Any Sunday-school lesson is full of interest to that teacher who commences its study with the wish and expectation of finding good in it. "Seek and ye shall find;" "According to your faith be it unto you;" are the injunction and assurance which God gives to all His children in their pursuit of spiritual blessings. If a teacher does not want to find good in a Bible lesson, it is not likely to be thrust on him. If he begins Bible study as a dry duty, he will probably finish it in the same way. If he enters on it as a pleasant and paying work, he will find it all that he expected. "Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures, then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and the knowledge of God." It is into the open mouths of the longing ones that the mother-bird drops the food she has gathered. It is to those who want good and look for it that God gives good abundantly. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."—*S. S. World.*

FOUR GOOD RULES.

1. A suitable place for everything, and everything in its place.
2. A proper time for everything, and everything done in its time.
3. A distinct name for everything, and everything called by its name.
4. A certain use for everything, and everything put to its use.

Much time would be saved, many disputes avoided, numerous articles kept from being lost or injured, and constant confusion and disorder prevented, by the strict observance of these important rules.

Think before you speak, and think before whom you speak; think why you speak, and think what you speak.—*Amos.*