

the ear; else ear-wax would form on it, causing it to form a plug that might injure the hearing. Many will, no doubt, thank the author for his idea. There is little trouble, but a great reward.—Dr. GOULLON, in Leipzig Pop. Z. f. Hom.

LOW TONES.

REV. EDWARD CHANDLER HERRICK.

The wear and tear of the nervous system occasioned by harsh noises has never been computed. Hitherto, it has been taken for granted that no one could help the noises which are so constant wherever there are people, and that there was no appreciable harm in them. But whenever harsh sounds have been softened, the degree of comfort resulting has been very pronounced, so that the question is being seriously debated whether most of the offensive noises cannot be dispensed with. Many hold that a greatly improved public health would be the effect of such a reform.

Certain it is that noise in the home can be lessened to the advantage of every member of the family. Contrast two homes in this respect. Let one be that of a family in which the tone of the voice has never been considered as subject to control. The children are always allowed to make all the noise they feel moved to make, on the ground that it is good for them. The table tones are high-pitched because so many talk at once. The members of the family call each other from different parts of the house. The mother raises her voice in shrill, harsh tones in order to be heard above the baby's wails. The boys clatter downstairs and shout, even though in a small room. The older daughters laugh loudly and sing boisterously. And yet all mean well, and count themselves a peculiarly happy family.

Some day one of these children will visit in another home where the matter of noise has received attention, and he will ask himself why it is that the atmosphere of this home seems, on the whole, so much more delightful than that of his own. Perhaps he will find out for himself that here low tones are the rule and that there are no unnecessary noises. The boys have learned to shout out-of-doors, where they do not disturb any one. The girls have found that loud laughter and boisterous singing do not express their true happiness as well as sweeter and softer tones. The mother never tries to drown her baby's crying by raising her voice, but has discovered the power of quiet ways. No one clatters down or upstairs. Every one has learned that gentleness of voice and still movements are marvelous aids to mutual enjoyment and sympathy.

Although it is not given to children to be the censors of their parents' manners, yet an occasional frank and unconscious remark from a child may impart a vast deal of wisdom. A little boy of kindergarten training heard his father thoughtlessly slam a door. Instantly he looked up with earnest face and said: "Papa, in the kindergarten we never slam doors." What a pity it is that any child should have to go without a training which would help him into so important a habit of life as a quiet manner! Who can tell how many other qualities of character would find easier growth if this quality preceded them? It is with tones much as it is with colors. There is a harmony which, when found, reveals unexpected beauty.

The artist has learned that beautiful effects can be produced only when colors have been rightly blended and modified. Glaring colors, indiscriminately mingled, are offensive. There are tone effects which charm the ear and win a hearing. But they are not the result of a careless

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