

smooth, and after that it would be left to work the problem out for itself. This was then followed by the shape of the letters of the alphabet, the consonants in one color and the vowels in another, the letters being put on in rough paper on very smooth wood. In this way a child very rapidly learned to follow the shape of the letter, and, from following it with its fingers, quickly went on to making it with a pen or pencil.

Another scheme was to give a child a number of pieces of wood, all squares, but the centres cut out in different shapes. For instance, rounds, squares, crescents, diamonds and the like. A child would be handed the pieces fitted together, and, having pulled them out, he said it was interesting to note how at first almost invariably they tried to fit a round piece to a square hole, and how quickly on the whole they learned by observation to fit the pieces back into their proper places. In conclusion, Dr. Robertson said that this system of training made for the natural development of the child's faculties; it trained its sense of touch and sight, developed its memory, and taught it the ability to control its body in walking, to move without noise — in fact, to be an all-round developed human being, with a brain trained really by itself to observe and to act on its observation. It seems to me that in even these fragmentary

year. A few years ago the society sent out altogether, in Canada, to two thousand families, a parcel of literature monthly and two letters during the year. Personally I am very glad to find that this work is to be revived in Winnipeg. It ought never to have been allowed to drop, and there certainly never was a time when there were more people in our remote frontier districts needing good literature than there are to-day. A point on which Dr. Robertson dwelt was that in this work the city and the fringe of Empire were bound together, to the great advantage of both, as the woman on the farm, responding to the letters sent to her from the society, often gave to her city sister thoughts and aspirations which were far more valuable than the literature which she herself received.

Last month I said something of the work done by Mr. Arthur Hawkes in connection with a report to the Dominion Government on Women and the conditions of immigration in this country, with special reference to women. This month I am glad to be able to publish excerpts from this report, which is now in print. So far as we have been able to ascertain, it is the very first time that anything of the kind has appeared in an official report



Feeding the Family.

thoughts from his address there may be something for the busy woman on the farm which may help in the early education of her children.

Before beginning his address proper, Dr. Robertson spoke of the work of the Aberdeen Society, which he characterized as an organization for broadening, sweetening and strengthening the homes on the frontier. This organization had its beginnings in Winnipeg, and for many years there was an active body of workers here. Through the departure from the city of those most closely identified with the organization, however, the work has been allowed to lapse. It is quite likely that the Woman's Canadian Club will take this work up and push it once more. To those not familiar with it, the method is this: A branch organization collects all the good books, magazines, and weekly papers that it finds possible in its district, searches out families on the frontier who are not supplied with reading matter, and every month sends to such families a parcel made up so far as possible of literature suited to their needs. The society is a national affair, and has the privilege of sending its packages through the mails free. Another branch of the work is for each member of the branch organization to write to the families on their list at least twice a

to the Government. The section reads as follows:—

The 'vanguard of the pioneers' has never been adequately served or sung. An immigration service must regard it from the severely utilitarian point of view, but good sense and good sentiment are the twin bases of good immigration. One special recognition has been given the dwellers in the more solitary places—their representation in Legislature and Parliament is on a smaller numerical basis than that of urban communities. It is good for those who are nearer the multitudinous case of civilization to do something to redress the balance of deprivation that is cheerfully undertaken by those who go to the remoter frontier. A double portion of the public regard belongs to the men, women and children who hit the long trail. Draw the sharpest teeth of hardship and you greatly facilitate the filling up of vacant spaces with thriving, contented communities. One such aid to immigration provides all the elaboration that is necessary to enforce the connection between social service and the most commercial exploitation of natural resources.

"Get people to build up the provinces" is the unanimous demand. The replenished cradle is the choicest answer to the demand, for it is the sign, symbol and surety of the greatest natural resource of all. Human life is the most valuable where it is the rarest. A birth at the end of the long trail is the sub-

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