

prove a beneficial exercise. Which version, then, is correct? The eye problem is mainly determined by the projection. If it is poor only harm can result. The main cause of flicker is old films. Films rapidly deteriorate, and when they reach the "rainy" stage they are a menace to the eyesight. The fault, however, does not always arise from this, for the operator may be careless or incompetent.

Another serious defect is "speeding." A reel ordinarily takes from fifteen to eighteen minutes to run off the screen, but the operator sometimes shoots the reels through at almost double the normal speed. The practice of flashing written letters and printed matter on and off the screen with almost lightning celerity puts the greatest strain upon the eyes. The audience in its eagerness to get an intelligent understanding of the action makes a strong effort to read the lines, but in many instances they are given no opportunity to read all of them, and are kept on a strain in the strenuous effort to grasp them at a fleeting glance.

When motion pictures are exhibited under ideal conditions, the only evil to be feared is watching the screen for too long a period.

The average photoplay program occupies about two hours, which has been declared the ideal period in which to view films at one sitting. The eyes are actually rested, but after this period weariness slowly but surely comes on. Even hardened newspaper-critics testify that such is the case. As most theatres are run on the continuous or two-show principle, a child is liable to stay and see the performance more than once, for it is a childish trait to watch a thing as long as possible.

A Cleveland teacher finds room on her schedule for holding an oral expression and story telling period once weekly. In connection with this she encourages her pupils to relate the stories of the photoplays they have seen. It has proved most popular with the children because it is a subject dear to their hearts.

The right kind of films actually assist the education of a child. A sixth grade pupil who

saw a film of the Panama Canal found this engineering wonder so fascinating that he borrowed books on the subject from the public library. Another boy stated that he liked natural history pictures because he was able to see how animals and birds live. A drama appealed to a little girl owing to the kindness and thoughtfulness of a small boy.

Bad films do untold amount of harm. In this category I would include sensational dramas and vulgar comedies, which leave such an impression upon the child's mind that he lies awake half the night thinking about them, and consequently is unable to concentrate at school on the following day.

Not all theatres show such undesirable pictures, so the child should be taught to discriminate between the good and the bad. The women's clubs are accomplishing a lot of good throughout the country in obtaining suitable pictures for children, and in many cases have induced exhibitors to give special children's performances once weekly.

The Grass Valley California, Board of Education, for instance, is working in co-operation with local motion picture showmen with the

WHAT does your anxiety do? It does not empty to-morrow of its sorrow; but it empties to-day of its strength. It does not make you escape the evil; it makes you unfit to cope with it when it comes. It does not bless to-morrow, and it robs to-day, for every day has its own burden. God gives us power to bear all the sorrows of His making, but He does not give us power to bear the sorrows of our own making, which the anticipation of sorrow most assuredly is.—*Ian Maclaren.*

prime object of securing more "better pictures" for children.

This plan might be adopted with advantage by school authorities elsewhere.

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Author of "Motion Picture Education."

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The difficulty of presenting a special children's performance has to be considered from a financial standpoint as it would cost something like \$75.00 for films alone, for such, but it might be taken up by the local school authorities, and the manager of the theatre guaranteed certain receipts, any deficit, through lack of attendance, to be made good by the authorities. In that way a most educational and instructive program might be arranged for school children.