

### Child Growth and Study.

In the course of his address before the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Association, Dr. S. B. Sinclair, dean of the Macdonald College, referred to the activities of the child during the period of development, and what he may be expected to accomplish in the right training of his powers. The thoughtful attention of teachers is directed to the old, but ever new, statement so concisely put forth by Dr. Sinclair.

At each stage of child growth there are subjects which the child ought to master, and which he loves to study.

During the first three years of infancy he is chiefly engaged in gaining control of his senses and muscles.

In later infancy, from three to six years, he is interested in expressing and developing his new-found powers in spontaneous activity, which ends in itself, and is done for its own sake. He likes to play, to examine and draw objects of different colours, to talk, to hear short stories, and to learn to read them.

During the childhood period, from six to twelve years, he is interested in increasingly difficult activities. His play develops into a more or less complex game, with beginning, middle and end. He likes longer stories, and is anxious to begin genuine work, but does not possess the power or the inclination to persist at it for a long period. He is attracted by a sequence of events, and will watch a process carefully to see how it is going to come out, and finally he finds his chief delight in making the process turn out differently from what it otherwise would. He likes to work problems in arithmetic, which develop from his practical life experiences in manual training and other work, and, if properly directed, will discover the rule and make universal applications in the solutions of general and abstract problems. He likes to care for plants and animals, to study their life history, and to learn how to furnish the best conditions for their growth and development; he also likes to express in writing and in picture the characteristics of objects which he has studied. He is interested in local history and geography, etc.

During the period of youth, from twelve years upward, his body and mind undergo the changes peculiar to adolescence. He assumes a more scientific attitude, and inquires the reasons for things. He begins to realize that he is soon to be a citizen and member of society, and begins to consider himself in wider relations to the other parts of the social structure in which he finds himself.

Last year on this continent was spent: \$20,000,000 on chewing gum; \$60,000,000 on lace; \$128,000,000 on millinery; \$700,000,000 on jewellery; \$800,000,000 on tobacco; \$1,243,000,000 on harmful liquids. And less than \$10,000,000 on missions.—*Church Work.*

### Lessons in English Literature—XI.

BY ELEANOR ROBINSON.

#### The Faerie Queene.

After Chaucer died, in 1400, England had to wait two hundred years for her second great poet. In 1500, the first three books of the "Faerie Queene" were published, and the other three in 1595. The poet presented his book to the Queen in the following words:

TO  
THE MOST HIGH, MIGHTIE, AND MAGNIFICENT  
EMPRESSE,  
RENOWNED FOR PIETIE, VIRTUE, AND ALL GRACIOUS  
GOVERNMENT,  
ELIZABETH  
BY THE GRACE OF GOD,  
QUEENE OF ENGLAND, FRANCE AND IRELAND, AND OF  
VIRGINIA,  
DEFENDER OF THE FAITH, ETC.  
HER MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,  
EDMUND SPENSER,  
DOTH, IN ALL HUMILITIE,  
DEDICATE, PRESENT AND CONSECRATE,  
THESE HIS LABOURS,  
TO LIVE WITH THE ETERNITIE OF HER FAME.

It was a proud claim, but a true one; for the fame of the poem has lived with the glory of the great queen.

Edmund Spenser was born in London in 1552, and educated at the Merchant Taylors school and at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge. The boy began life in stirring times. It was while he was a child that Calais was lost; while he was a schoolboy, Mary, Queen of Scots, fled into England to begin her nineteen years imprisonment; he had just left college when Drake set out on his famous voyage; he was writing the Faerie Queene when the Spanish Armada was defeated. He had for friends two of the most famous men of the time, Sir Philip Sidney and Sir Walter Raleigh. Like Chaucer, he was employed in the service of the state, for in 1580 he became secretary to Lord Grey of Wilton, who was Lord-Deputy in Ireland. Ireland was in a terrible state of rebellion and misrule; there was constant warfare, with much cruelty and treachery, and the land itself was wild and barren. We cannot help seeing, as we read of the adventures of the knights in the "Faerie Queene," of the wildernesses and forests through which they journeyed, of their en-