

The Country Homemakers

CONDUCTED BY FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

ANOTHER WOMAN SCHOOL TRUSTEE

In the election of Mrs. Hamble to represent Ward 4 on the Winnipeg School Board the feminists of Winnipeg have scored another triumph. In the by-election, which took place on May 19, Mrs. Hamble was opposed by a labor candidate and one other, and polled more votes than her two opponents together.

An old-timer in the city, and one who has an enviable reputation for honor and integrity wherever she is known, Mrs. Hamble was one of the easiest of candidates to elect. The great difficulty was to get the voters out. The indifference of the average citizen to civic matters is notorious even in regular civic elections, and it is doubly hard to work up any enthusiasm over a by-election. A little of the slow-dying prejudice against women's participation in public affairs was encountered, but in this instance Mrs. Hamble's well-known business success and the fact that she was a widow with no husband to neglect and whose children were both out in business left them little to grumble about.

One of the most outstanding features of the campaign was the campaign fund which, apart from contributions of five dollars and less from four interested societies, a collection taken at a public meeting and one single anonymous contribution of five dollars, was made up of subscriptions of one dollar and less. The idea of the people who were managing Mrs. Hamble's campaign was that the candidate should not be asked or permitted to pay the expenses of the campaign, since a poor woman should be as able to run as a prosperous one. Neither should she be put under an obligation to any person by receiving large contributions from individuals, however well-meaning and interested they might be. The result justified the theory that a clean campaign fund to cover the essential expenses of a campaign, such as printing, telephone and advertising, was absolutely feasible.

SYMPATHY OF PARENTS NECESSARY FOR CLUBS

The success or failure of the Girl's and Boys' Club movement will depend very largely upon the attitude of the parents towards this enterprise. It is one of the most brilliant inspirations of the Department of Agriculture for checking the cityward trek of country children, but unless it has the co-operation of the fathers and mothers in the country it will not meet with a very large measure of success.

In the first place, where a child is sensitive, care should be taken to see that his undertaking is not made the butt of the family joke. In the second place he should have the active co-operation of his parents in the matter of equipment for cultivating his plot or raising his stock. In the third place it should be regarded as a sacred right of the child to receive and disburse the returns from his labors, after paying the actual expenses. For a parent to swoop down upon the income and add it to the family account or even insist upon the child doing something with it that he doesn't in the very least want to do, would be a fatal error.

In this undertaking the government has an ulterior motive of making the next generation into especially good farmers. This abstract motive would appeal to few children, but the idea of having money of his very own appeals to everyone. Perhaps the child will spend it foolishly. Grown-ups do likewise, and only learn by their mistakes.

FRANCIS MARION BEYNON

TRAINING THE CHILD'S CHARACTER

Second Prize Article

Preparation for the training of the child's character should not begin after its advent into the world, but long before. For what our children become depends not only on their environment, but also on what they are at birth.

"It isn't all in the bringing up."

Let folks say what they will.

You may polish with silver a pewter cup.

But the cup will be pewter still.

There are cases where children born of vulgar and debased parents, being adopted into families where the environment being everything that could be desired, have developed noble characters. But such instances are rare. There also are cases of children born of upright parents having developed evil characters owing to surroundings turning out differently from those desired. But, generally speaking, if our children are endowed with noble instincts and worthy tendencies, and if our training of them physically, morally and mentally is what it should be, their characters will be all that is good and true.

So it is your duty, parents—this applies to fathers as well as to mothers, for many strongly think the

mothers should do all the child training—to improve your natures by whatever good qualities you possess and wish to have as your children's heritage, to cultivate whatever noble ambitions and desires you have not, but would like your little ones to possess, and to rid yourselves of those habits which, if transmitted to your children, would not help towards the formation of a complete character. As the parents are, so are the children. Nature is inviolate. We reap what we sow.

Now there are three elements entering into the work of properly training a child in the way he



MRS. A. C. HAMBLE
Who came off victorious in a closely contested election for school trustee in Winnipeg

should go, his physical welfare, his moral upbringing and his intellectual culture.

The sound mind and the sound body which comes as the infant's natural heritage, if its parents' lives have been clean and healthy, may be kept in that condition if our children are to form the highest type of character. Constant cleanliness of its body, the proper quality and correct quantity of food given at proper intervals, clothing suitable for every kind of innocent play, a sufficient amount of sleep in a well ventilated room, or out of doors if possible, all these are necessary to the baby's physical well-being. If, for lack of a proper amount of any one of these his health suffers in the slightest degree, then his mind is likewise impaired and he is not given every opportunity to be of the noblest type of manhood.

Side by side with the physical culture must go the moral, for a person's character is judged by his morals. If they are honest and evil in type, then his character is honest and evil. If they are upright and true, then his character is upright and true. Now morals are a result of habit, so character is formed as a result of acts which have become habits. A person fails to shield himself. The next time it is much easier to tell a falsehood, the next time still easier, and so on till the habit of lying has been formed. A child is tempted for some reason to steal money. He is not found out. The next time he desires money, and has none, the temptation to steal is much stronger than it was the first time, and he keeps at this criminal act until he has formed a habit of stealing. It is the same with cheating, with losing one's temper, with using profane language, with intemperance of any kind, with all wrong acts. The child quickly forms the habit of doing wrong before he really knows the difference between right and wrong.

Parents Must Set Example

Beginning with the cradle the parents must set before the child the example of whatever excellent and praiseworthy traits of character they desire to cultivate in him, for it must be remembered that children have very susceptible minds and try to imitate every action, bad or good. If we wish them to be gentle mannered and self-controlled we must be gentle mannered and self-controlled. Of what benefit is it to the child if he be punished severely for bad outbursts of temper if the parents are easily stirred to hasty wrath? If the young boys and girls are to be truthful they must see

the truth constantly. Why tell the child when he asks too often for cake that there isn't any when he knows that there is? If honesty in all dealings is to be one of his fine characteristics he will have to have the model of honesty before him. It is of no use to promise your boy five dollars for his pet pig and keep both the pig and the money. If daddy can do such things it cannot be wrong, so the boy thinks, and so the seeds of dishonesty and untruthfulness are sown. If you want your children to be kind, loving and lovable it does not avail anything to abuse and maltreat every animal within your gates, nor does it do for father and mother to be continually nagging and scolding each other nor to be forever finding fault with their neighbors. Charity and sympathy are fostered in the child by exemplification of those qualities. How quickly the little one responds to the loving embrace of the parent. How grieved it is to know that the poor old beggar at the door is hungry and ill. How anxious it is to help the sufferer, be it a human being or a beast, and if only mother or daddy assist him in his acts of kindness and sympathy how delighted he is. If your language is tainted with obscenity or profanity how can the little boy and the little girl know what words are pure and proper?

But besides a noble example there are several other things which enter into the proper guidance of a child's character. The most important are the desire for approval and the desire to escape punishment. It would not do to let the child go unchid for acts which would lead to wrong morals just because "it is only a baby yet." When, for example, an infant strikes its mother, or commits some similar act, it shows the cruel side of its nature. Such must be checked. When the mother shows that she is grieved the child soon learns that such actions are not approved of by those around it. To have their love and approval he must do kindly acts.

Punishment Should Fit the Crime

And as to punishment, if we would try to make the punishment fit the crime it would be better for all. For instance, if your boy is given a task to perform and he shirks it, instead of making him go to bed without his supper—which will harm his stomach as well as sour his nature—punish him by enforced idleness, explaining to him that apparently being not too fond of work he will remain idle for a time. It works most effectively. If your daughter does not come when you call, treat her as she has treated you, that is, pay no attention to her when she calls you. She will soon learn that to be given attention she must give attention. Penalties of this kind are more effective than corporal punishment. Altho I believe a bit of corporal punishment administered in the right spirit is efficient in the case of some children, with others it would be of no use. We must remember that no two children can be trained exactly alike. And we must also remember that children have rights that we must respect. It is better to give a request than a command. "Don't do this," and "Don't do that" only serve to make the child all the more eager to do the forbidden things. The kindly correction of a fault is better than a nagging criticism. We do not care to have our actions criticized, but if the flaws are kindly pointed out to us we will try to correct them. So it is with the child. Above all do not humiliate the child, even when a baby, in every fancy and whim, or you will have a selfish, spoiled, disagreeable man or woman.

Parents must be the constant chums of their children. Romp and play with them when you can if you wish to keep them cheerful and contented with their home. Take an interest in their work and in their sports at school. Take an interest in Sunday school. Know the teachers. Keep in touch with church affairs. Teach your children to reverence sacred things. Be careful of their playmates from boyhood. Know what your boys and girls read. Read with them, helping them to cultivate a taste for pure literature. What pictures you have may not be expensive copies, but let them be good. Encourage their confidence by answering, insofar as you are able, all their questions, no matter what the nature is. To turn aside the desire to know with "Little girls shouldn't ask such questions" is to make them all the more eager for information, which they will get from some other source and in most cases from an impure one. Make yourselves such faithful companions that your children will choose you before all others.

Now a word as to mental training. Give your sons and daughters as liberal an education as your purse will allow, for according as they are developed intellectually so they become unselfish, broad-minded and refined in their tastes, which characteristics make the accomplishment of an able, upright character all the more easily obtained and the more readily maintained.

A COUNTRY MOTHER