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AMERICAN FATHERS.

So much has been said about the frivolity, incompetence, or fussiness of American mothers that it will not be amiss to inquire into the characteristics of our fathers of families. With the best intentions in the world the time that a city man can spend with his family is usually very limited, and he is not always in the mood to exert a helpful influence, when he returns at night worn out with business cares, and often prefers the club, lodge, or neighboring corner to his family circle; his wife may see little of him and his children less.

It is not a matter of indifference, however, even in regard to health, whether the children enjoy a due proportion of their father's companionship, for that is or should be a vital factor in the children's growth and education, and whenever they are deprived of it, certain elements of character and mind are almost always absent. Look around among your friends where the children have grown up without a father, and see if your observation does not show that there is some quality of mind or heart, some check or balance wanting, that no one else could supply.

I observe that American fathers, whether from the exactions of business or other reasons, do not ordinarily come to my office with their ailing children. The whole matter is often left in the hands of the wife or some relative. Germans are more apt to come than Americans, and Hebrews most of all; and indeed I cannot refrain from expressing my admiration of the domestic life of the better class of Jews in New York, which, so far as I have observed it, is in many respects more nearly what it should be than that of any class in our community.—Henry L. Taylor, M.D., in The Popular Science Monthly for October.

COLIGNY COLLEGE, OTTAWA

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FAMILY PRAYER.

THE late Canon Liddon laid great stress upon the habit of family prayer. Not long before he died he wrote: "Depend upon it the worth of a practice of that kind can only be measured by its effect during a long period of time; and family prayers, though only occupying a few minutes, do make a great difference to any household at the end of the year."

A comparison between any two families, one which observes and the other neglects this custom, will verify the truth of his remark. There are occasional jars and clashing, fretful dispositions and hateful tempers, spirits of envy and petty spite in even the best of homes. But for even the time being, at least, these unholy feelings are allayed, as all bend together in humility and penitence before Him in whose sight all have sinned. The children go off to school in happier mood, the father faces his daily toil with brave heart, and mother takes up her duties with renewed cheerfulness, for this little tarrying in the presence of the Eternal.—Church World.

Learn all you can as a Christian, but put all your knowledge as much as possible into practice. You can neither know too much in religion nor practise it too much. The angels have perfect knowledge, but an equally perfect obedience. The divine command is, "Grow in grace," but in intimate connection stands the direction, "Grow in knowledge." The moral development must keep pace with the intellectual

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