

parents? I think altogether too much is laid to the "cramming system." I have noticed different times, that the people who talk the most about it, are those who allow their daughters and their sons to "take in" all sorts of festivities in the evenings. Naturally enough, they are not in a fit condition to get up their school work properly, and too much is piled up for the last few weeks before examination, and then there is the usual wail over the land, "Mamie has been studying so hard getting ready for examination." She must go away for a rest." And, in most cases, if Mamie had honestly done each week's work, her papers would have been more of a credit to her, and she would have felt like enjoying her vacation, instead of being fagged out for the first half of it. I do not blame the girl, nor her teacher, nor the Council of Public Instruction; but I do blame the mother and father.

Of course, all the "Mamies'" mothers and fathers are busy people; but "there is always time to do what has to be done," and "put first things first" are the old, but true, words.

ELIZABETH.

Nova Scotia.

A Series of Essentials.

The importance of school influences can hardly be overestimated, since the whole being, body, mind and soul, is in a plastic condition during the period of school life. Hence, no means should be left unused which can improve the conditions for development of the future citizen.

Of first importance are those matters which affect the bodily welfare of our children, since health of body makes for health of mind and soul. The sanitary construction of the building in which they necessarily spend most of their waking hours, should be of interest to every father and mother. The heating is usually attended to, but quite as usually the systematic purifying of the air is neglected. Sometimes this neglect is caused by a lack of knowledge of the fact that a few minutes' breathing of the air of a room by the class occupying it uses up all its life-giving qualities, so that, if provision is not made for a continuous fresh supply, the children are inhaling the refuse from their own bodies and those of their companions, thus being slowly poisoned and made susceptible to many ills. Even that bugaboo, a direct draft from an open window, is preferable to a total lack of ventilation. Can it be true that school boards or ratepayers are parsimonious in so vital a matter? If so, it is a very short-sighted economy. A thorough ventilating apparatus is expensive, but some expense is worth while if it saves our children from going through life handicapped by diseases caused by breathing germ-laden air. The writer has had the privilege of teaching in a school ventilated by a fan system, which carried into the room every minute a change of pure air, warmed to an agreeable temperature. At the close of the day, teacher and pupils were as fresh and bright as at the beginning, whereas, the impure atmosphere of the old regime of faulty ventilation, resulted in drowsiness and headache, with a lack of zest in the work for all concerned.

Taking it for granted that pure air, pure water—with fountain taps, or individual drinking cups—are provided, and that our children sit in seats and at desks so constructed as not to deform their bodies, let us look to the no less important point of providing a teacher who is fitted by education to give them an adequate literary training, and who is also broad, strong, and wise enough to open those infinite avenues of culture wherein they may walk in "sweetness and light," as Arnold calls it—that atmosphere so essential to the growth of the delicate qualities of the soul, without which life is only half lived. Give them, too, the teacher of manual training, that they may learn to use hands in conjunction with brain, and you are in a fair way to turn out world-uplifting citizens.

N. E. BACON.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

Opposed to Homework.

As to the school question, would like to say that I am opposed to homework in the primary schools.

When a child is in school nearly six hours, has chores to do, and homework

after supper, there can be no music, talking, reading or games for any of the family, which makes home pleasant, rests one after the day's work, and can aid in general culture.

As for the amount of studying accomplished, I think the children would study with more zest, and learn more in school, for the complete change out of school.

MOTHER OF FOUR.

Essex Co., Ont.

The second question, "How to amuse children on a rainy day," will be dealt with in an early issue.

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Sabbath Work.

Two Highland farmers met on their way to church. "Man," said Donald, "I was wonderin' what you will be askin' for your bit sheep over at your steadin'?"

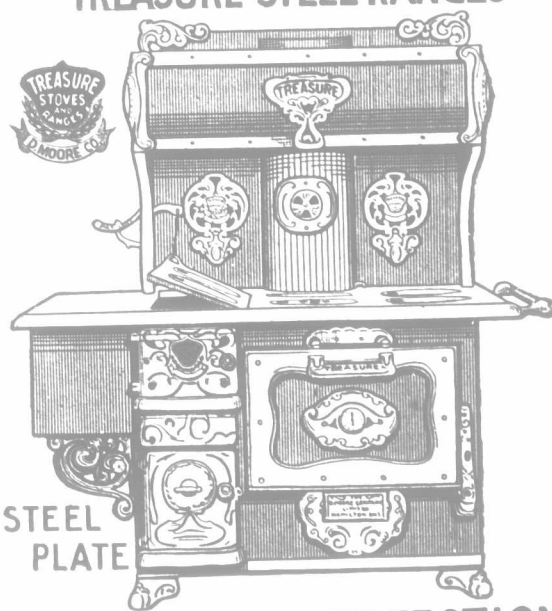
"Man," replied Dougal, "I was thinkin' I wad be wantin' fifty shillin's for that sheep."

"I will take it at that," said Donald; "but, och, man, Dougal, I am awfu' surprised at you doin' business on the Sabbath."

"Business!" exclaimed Dougal. "Man, sellin' a sheep like that for fifty shillin's is not business at all; it's just charity."

—Ladies' Home Journal.

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