

PRACTICAL REFORMS.

A practical parent objects to the silliness of our nursery rhymes, for the reason that the doggerel is rendered pernicious by the absence of a practical moral purpose, and is introducing infants to the realities of life through an utterly erroneous medium. They are taught to believe in a world peopled by Little Bo Peeps and Goosey, Goosey Gander, instead of in a world of New York Central, Erie, Northwestern Preferred, etc. It is proposed, therefore, to accommodate the teaching of the nursery to the requirements of the age, to invest children's rhymes with a moral purpose. Instead, for example, of the blind wonderment as to the nature of astronomical bodies inculcated in that feeble poem commencing, "Twinkle, twinkle, little star," let the child be indoctrinated into the recent investigations of science. Thus:

Wrinkles, wrinkles, solar star,
I obtain of what you are,
When unto the noonday sky
I the spectroscope apply;
For the spectrum renders clear
Gaps within your photosphere,
Also sodium in the bar
Which your rays yield, solar star.

Then, again, there is the gastro-nomic career of Little Jack Horner, which inculcates gluttony. It is practicable that this fictitious hero should familiarize the child with the principles of the Delectus:

Studious John Horner,
Of Latin no scerner,
In the second declension did spy
How nouns there are some
Which, ending in *um*,
Do *not* make their plural in *i*.

The episode of Jack and Jill is valueless as an educational medium. But it might be made to illustrate the arguments of a certain school of political economists:

Jack and Jill
Have studied Mill,
And all that sage has taught too.
Now both promote
Mill's claim to vote,
As every good girl ought to.

Even the pleasures of life have their duties, and the child needs to be instructed in the polite relaxation of society. The unmeaning jingle of "Hey diddle diddle," might be invested with some utility of a social kind: I did an idyl on Joachin's fiddle,

At a classical soiree of June,
While jolly dogs laughed at themes
from Spohr,
And longed for a popular tune.

And the importance of securing a good *parti*, of rejecting ineligible candidates, and of modifying flirtations by a strict regard to the future, might be impressed upon the female mind at an early age in the following moral:

Little Miss Muffit
Sat at a buffet,
Eating a *boubon sucre*;
A younger son spied her
And edged up beside her,
But she properly frowned him away.

H. N. M. W.

We are sorry to record the first break in our ranks this term by the death of one of our number. The following resolutions will be self-explanatory:

Whereas, The students of the Provincial Normal school have heard with deep regret of the death of our beloved fellow-student, Maude V. McLean, therefore

Resolved, That we extend our sincere and heart-felt sympathy to her bereaved parents and friends; and

Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to her parents, and to the press for publication.

(Signed on behalf of the school).

HARMIA WILLIS,
MARY I. TRENHOLM,
EMMA J. DUNPHY,
ORISSA E. COLE,
EDNA M. GREGORY.

F'ton, May 8, 1891.

The pedestrian excursions, with the science instructor, on some of these fine spring mornings, form a pleasing feature of the natural science lessons. One class goes at a time; and plant life, bird life, the rocks, and the soil are carefully noticed. These outings are profitable both intellectually and physically. We are sure the students unite with us in thanking Mr. Brittain for his efforts to make the walks instructive.

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