

CHRISTIAN TRAINING OF CHILDREN.

BY J. P. CUSHMAN.

May I suggest a few homely, practical hints, which may prove helpful in home-training.

Be with your children; reign in the nursery. Receive all their little experiences of joy or sorrow. Bring the thought of God's love and interest into their most common, everyday life. Never let them grow shy of religious conversation. Make it easy and natural to talk together both of God and to him. Secure to them a comfortable place for daily devotions. Be sure that the Sabbath is the brightest day of all the seven. Have books, toys, Noah's arks, Scripture plays and puzzles reserved especially for it. Give them little rewards for good lessons and orderly habits practised during the week. Take them early to church, and be watchful lest the service, so sweet to you, become a weariness to them.

Save your Sabbath afternoons for home instruction. The "Peep of Day" series will be of the greatest help. But study the Bible together; search it; there is no other work more delightful. Keep the fingers busy. Let the children build the tabernacle with their blocks till they know its structure and contents by heart. Help them write out Bible chronology and commit it to memory. While you read they can draw maps of Bible lands, trace Christ's tours and Paul's journeys. Teach them the books of the Bible, the Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, some of the Psalms, the dear, old standard hymns, and whole gospels and epistles. It is wonderful how fast little efforts count up and accomplish great things. Do not omit this course when the duty of example may seem to demand your children's attendance upon the church and Sabbath-school. Know what they are taught there, and the influences surrounding them, and make sure that the home school is the pleasanter of the two.

Tell them of the needs of the wide world. Twenty cents will secure the "Mission Dayspring," full of pictures and incidents of the work in foreign lands. If it comes to one of the little ones in her own name it will be doubly prized. Let them draw maps of mission stations, build mission houses and fill them with the proper workers of the station represented.

Nothing will so strengthen their interest as praying and giving, not in the mass, but for specific objects. Devise ways in which they can earn the pennies they wish to contribute. One cent a week for putting away the playthings before supper, another for freshening hands and teeth after each meal, or for lessons well learned and stints accomplished cheerfully, will make a child quite a capitalist in the course of a year. Some little ones have begun with much less than this would amount to. Having only sixty cents in each purse, they printed with a lead pencil, little notes to the secretaries of six benevolent organizations, enclosing ten cents for each cause as a Christmas gift to the dear Lord who gave himself for them. Every succeeding Christmas season has been celebrated in like manner, though the purses sometimes contain a score of dollars each, and the letters have increased from six to a dozen and more. Let me add that these six little notes, the first efforts in systematic beneficence, were so kindly responded to by the care-burdened, yet child-loving men who received them, that each officer is held as a warm personal friend, and his name is a household word, often following an emphasized adjective of affection.

Let the children work, too, with their unskilled fingers for the sick and needy. If there is no mission band in your church, form one. If too isolated for that, have one at home.

A thought of kindness is a seed from Heaven's own granary. Plant it and it will bring forth fruit unto life eternal perhaps, for many souls.

How many proofs could be given. They lie all about us. Two little bags, each containing a Testament, book-mark, needle-book, thread, buttons, tape, thimble and wax, always with a little note of loving interest, have gone each Christmas for ten years to Dr. S. H. Hall, of the American Seaman's Friend Society, to be given to sailors just leaving the port of New York.

Responses have been received from all parts of the world, with such expressions of help received, courage strengthened, faith increased and promised prayers for the givers, as surely must enrich any life. A mission circle, auxiliary to the Women's Board of Missions, though never having more than four working members, and two of them non-residents, and not active, has contributed in six years, \$550 to the Boston treasury. If it were asked, "How could two children secure that sum?"—the answer would be—"They never had a sale or fair, or entertainment; they never asked any gift but from God; yet he constantly opened hearts and hands for their help, even strangers over the seas becoming friends and co-workers." The truth will always hold, that a worker for God is a worker with God, and "He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think."

Help right heartily in the mission band, put fresh life in it if drooping; create one, if none exists. Permit me to describe the working of the little "Rainbow Band" to show that no attempt to do good is too feeble to receive the blessing of God.

The band is composed of girls in "short dresses," who meet at the parsonage every Saturday afternoon, and work for two hours to help others. Their comprehensive motto is:

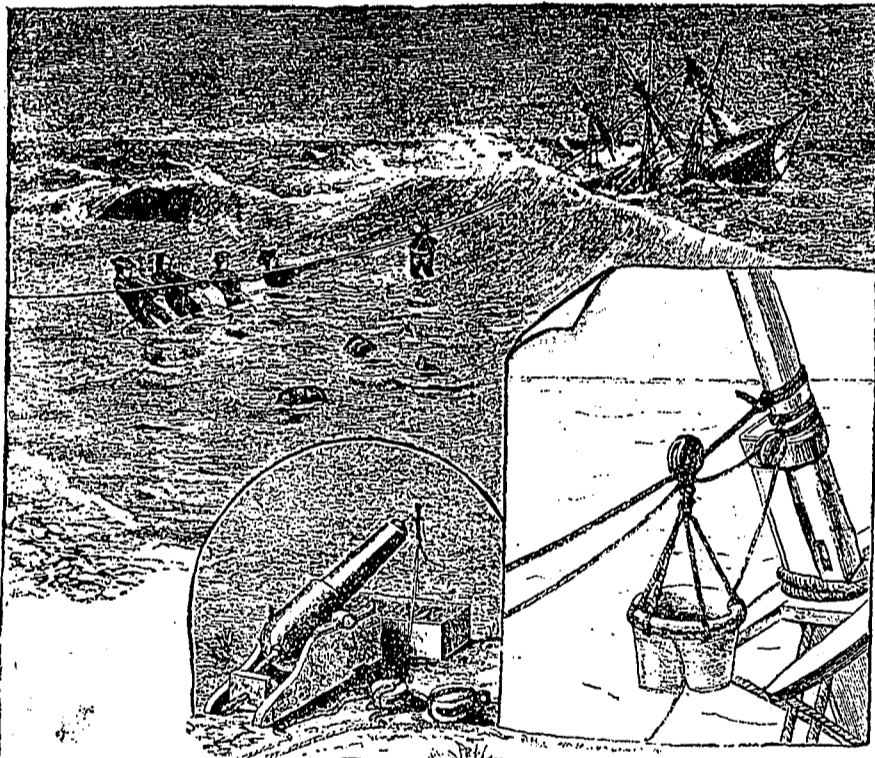
"For Jesus Christ's sake,
Do all the good you can,
To all the people you can,
In all the ways you can,
At all the times you can,
And as long as ever you can."

ing beads, etc. Sometimes there is reading aloud of incidents connected with the object for which our fingers are busy. Our session closes with singing. On the last Saturday of the month comes the delight of packing our box or barrel. The last Sabbath evening service in the vestry, each month, is given up to the "Rainbow Band." A report of the month's work and receipts is read, Bible verses and hymns are recited, and appropriate extracts read, with singing, and remarks from the pastor and others.

It hardly needs to be added, the work must be supplied and prepared for each meeting and carefully looked over, corrected, and brought up to the necessary point between Saturdays. The records too must be written, the programme drawn up for the concert, selections made and given out to be read or committed to memory. The expense is not great and is met from the tithes in the Lord's purse, and the time requisite is given by him, for whose sake we make the effort.

It seems only necessary to attempt something for the Lord though ever so small, and help is surely given. Others become interested and lend a hand. The parents make gifts and become honorary members, at ten cents a year, or at least, say an encouraging word.

The first year of the Band closed last month. From its annual report it appears that the total attendance has been 849, an average of sixteen and a fraction, weekly. The money contributed amounted to \$47.



HOW LIVES ARE SAVED.

There is no machinery of officers, organization or by-laws. Two books of records are kept. But one month is devoted to any object. The single penny brought each week, is almost always earned, and some little gift, suggested at the preceding meeting, is heartily offered to the Lord.

The meetings generally open with singing and repeating our motto in concert. Some one is asked to write in one of the blank books the names of those present. As she writes, she calls the names, and another carries the penny-box to each, as the name is called, announcing aloud what is given, and how earned, the scribe making a minute of it. A third, passes a basket for the gifts, the names being called a second time for the purpose, and due record made. The object for which we are to work is talked about, the records of the last meeting are read from the other book, and any letters which may have been received; the gift for the next week suggested, and we are ready for work. Two or three of the younger members are placed in the care of an older one, who superintends and helps them as needed. Work is of various kinds, sewing, cutting out and pasting pictures on sheets sewed together for a scrap-book, knitting, crocheting, making frames for little pictures, string-

ing beads, etc. Sometimes there is reading aloud of incidents connected with the object for which our fingers are busy. Our session closes with singing. On the last Saturday of the month comes the delight of packing our box or barrel. The last Sabbath evening service in the vestry, each month, is given up to the "Rainbow Band." A report of the month's work and receipts is read, Bible verses and hymns are recited, and appropriate extracts read, with singing, and remarks from the pastor and others.

HOW LIVES ARE SAVED.

The method of saving lives from shipwreck, at present in use at the United States Life-Saving Stations, may be best understood by supposing an actual case and describing the operations of the surfmen.

If the sea will permit, the people on the vessels are brought ashore in the "surf-boat." If a high sea is running, however, this is rendered impracticable, and recourse is had to the "Breeches Buoy."

When the discovery of a wreck is announced at the station, all the apparatus is at once carried along the beach to the point nearest the wreck. The Lyle gun, a small brass cannon, which weighs one hundred and seventeen pounds, is loaded with powder.

Then into its mouth is slipped a long steel "projectile," to the outer end of which is attached a light but stout line, called the "shot line."

Then the gun is aimed and fired. The projectile, followed by the long cord, flies out toward the wreck, passes over it, and drops into the sea, and the "shot line"

falls on deck. Thus the first means of communication is established between the wreck and the shore.

The crew of the vessel now pull in this "shot line," until they draw on deck a pulley block, which the men on shore had tied to it.

Through this pulley block is running an "endless line," that is, a long line which is called endless, because the two ends have been fastened together. It runs also through another pulley block, which has been kept on shore.

The sailors tie their pulley block well up on the mast, and the men on shore fasten theirs to a "sand anchor," which they have buried firmly in the sand.

You have often seen the double string which children, living across the street from each other, run between their houses and call a "telegraph." It is a long, endless line, running through a pulley, or a staple, at each end, and when a basket or other article is tied to one side of the double line, and the other side is pulled in, the basket of course moves off across the street.

This is like what has now been rigged between the vessel and the shore. When the pulley block is tied on to the mast, it presents somewhat the appearance indicated in the cut.

So now the men on shore can tie anything on to the endless line, running through a pulley block at each end, and starting the circular motion of the line, soon send it out to the vessel.

What they do tie on is the end of a great hawser, or heavy rope, and when this hawser is drawn on deck, it is at once fastened to the mast a few feet above the pulley block.

Then the other end of the hawser, which has been kept on shore, is hauled in as tight, or "taut," as possible, and also fastened a few feet from the pulley block, which has been tied to the sand anchor.

Now the "breeches buoy" is brought out by the men on shore.

This is a circle, or large ring of leather stuffed, of perhaps two feet in diameter. Hanging below it is a pair of stiff canvas knee-breeches.

It is now hung from the heavy hawser so that it can slide freely to and fro upon it. Then it is securely fastened to one part of the endless line, the other part of the line is hauled steadily in, and away moves the buoy, slipping along on the hawser from which it hangs, and drawn by the small endless line to which it is secured.

When it reaches the wreck, the relations of pulley block, endless line, hawser and buoy will be as represented in the illustration on the preceding page.

One person is dropped in through the circle, with one leg in each side of the canvas breeches.

The circular line, which has been described, is fastened also to the buoy, or rather to the pulley block of the buoy, and is again put in motion, and the buoy retraces its course to the shore.

The rescued person is taken out, and again and again the buoy makes the journey, until every one on board is brought safe to land.—*Youth's Companion.*

A BLIND GIRL came to her pastor and gave him a dollar for missions. Astonished at the large sum, the minister said: "You are a poor blind girl; is it possible that you can spare so much for missions?" "True," she said, "I am blind, but not so poor as you think; and I can prove that I can spare this money better than those that see." The minister wanted to hear it proved. "I am a basket-maker," answered the girl, "and, as I am blind, I can make my baskets just as easy in the dark as in the light. Other girls have, during the winter, spent more than a dollar for light. I have had no such expense, and so have brought this money for the poor heathen and the missionaries."—*Selected.*

A MASSACHUSETTS PASTOR, who is himself the embodiment of good cheer, preached at a well-known summer resort lately from the text, "Fret not thyself," and it is said that there never was so little fretting on a Monday morning in the kitchens of that town before! The good effect of the sermon was shown, also, at the hotels, where one man, who had grumbled daily over his food, on that Sabbath noon pronounced the chowder excellent, and continued to praise the cooking till he left town.