

upon the old methods in that, in all schools of the better class, the monotony and fatigue are, to some extent, relieved by the introduction of various exercises of a different kind, such as songs, marches, calisthenics, etc. Still, the hours spent in the schoolroom are too long by half for children under eight, and too long in proportions varying with the age and other physical conditions for older children. It is this, among other mistakes in method, which causes so many children to hate what should be a delight. We often feel a profound pity for young children in this city, who are not only cooped up for five or six hours a day in the schoolroom, but are actually robbed of a large portion of their evening and morning play by being obliged to do a certain amount of home-work. Truly we need another humane society—one for the prevention of cruelty to children in the schools—cruelty inflicted under the sanction of the law, and, in most cases, with the consent and approval of parents.

—Teachers cannot over-appreciate their free Saturdays and the two long months of holiday they enjoy in the summer. It is not too long, we agree, but how many there are—brainworkers, too—who have to content themselves with a very short vacation, after working six days a week all the year. It is true that there are few kinds of work as wearing as teaching and that few teachers could bear the strain of a longer teaching year. Fortunately, there is no need that they should do so. We trust the time will come when two hours a day for five days a week during nine to ten months a year will be considered enough time for one person to spend in actual class teaching. Then the teacher will be able to fully prepare her work without impairing her strength. Meantime, teachers very generally need to grow up to an adequate notion of what it is to prepare a lesson so that it may be given once for all, and become a “known” for future “unknowns” to be linked with. Progress moves along on parallel lines, a little on this and a little on that. Keep your line moving, teachers. Keep on improving your work, and your conditions will improve. Devote a part of the precious summer vacation to the collection of material for “nature lessons.” What more healthful recreation can you devise? The average summer school lasts three weeks. You could spare that, enjoying change of air and scene all the time, and still have a long resting space to “forget school” and thoroughly enjoy your novel and your hammock or your gay mountain parties. Ambition will be served and your love for your work increased by the summer school. But, above all things, realize that it is a very great, if a well earned, *privilege* to have all this care-free time.

—It has always been a question with the teachers in our public schools how to awaken interest enough in the every day affairs (of our own country in particular, and of the world at large) to get the boys and girls to read the newspapers.

In the few paragraphs following is given a practical plan which