

per workers, and the other an evening meeting for the purpose of promoting sociability among the club members and their invited guests. An address will be given by some well known literary worker and refreshments will be served.

One of the few organizations which withhold membership from any candidate not willing to work, is the club for the Study of Child Nature, in New York. The members are all mothers and have a vital interest in the subject of child study. During the twelve years that the club has been in active operation it never has held a meeting outside of a home, had a formal lecture or in any way courted publicity. The club was started by three women who met once a week for the purpose of determining the best stories to be read to children of various ages. Such inspiration was derived from the authors studied that the mothers determined to make personal investigations for themselves. Formed thus originally for study, the club has adhered faithfully to that principle, each member interpreting for herself the subjects treated in the text-books and comparing experiences with her associates at the meetings. It confines its attention mainly to the ethics of the home rather than with the outside life of children, with occasional discussion of subjects relating to the physical development of the little ones.

"There is no member of the club who fails to prepare a paper when her turn comes around," said the club secretary. "Some beg to be let off, pleading that they can write nothing original, but they are told that selections from accredited authors will serve the purpose and that a paper is obligatory and inevitable. Certain women dropped out for this reason. They were willing, even glad, to listen to the papers and arguments and profit thereby, but to take active part in the proceedings was too much for them.

"Others came to take their place and insight into human nature is gained through the association of opinions and ideas of so many minds all directed to one line of thought. We have fifty active members and are assured of a subject for a study which is inexhaustible in interest and certain to attract members as long as there are any mothers in the world.

"Our motto is 'Altiora peto' (I seek the higher), and we don't pretend to criticize or overthrow the old methods of doing, but to satisfy our own desire to find the best.

"In all the club's meetings the purely personal element is kept in the background from considerations of expediency; but a number of the most interesting subjects have developed from questions put anonymously in the question bag which had foundation in the immediate home circle of the questioner.

"The first book taken up for study was Rousseau's 'Emile,' and out of this grew discussions on obedience, how the true idea of property might be conveyed to a child, and the distinction that should be made between the property that is the child's through being bestowed upon it and that which it has constructed itself. After this topic there followed a prolonged discussion relative to toys, the result being that a majority of the members resolved to taboo extravagant or useless playthings for their children and to discontinue the acceptance of them as gifts.

"Dr. Stanley Hall's various theories on child nature have been carefully read, Dr. Adler's 'Moral Instruction of Children' has been a text book. And Spencer, Locke, Ribbster, Radestock, Blackwell and other authors have been painstakingly read and discussed.

"The studies are divided into two courses, the first pertaining to children under three years of age, and the other relating to everything touching on the

home and the social school life of children up to the age when they are unavoidably drawn into companionship other than that of the mother. The club meetings are limited to an hour and a half, but frequently topics taken up prove of such engrossing a nature that the time is protracted unawares.

"Obstinacy, whether due to mental incapacity or to sensitive temperament; and 'the germ and nature of various falsehoods, whether due to fear, love of gain or to exuberant imagination,' are subjects that have been looked into. Another point that is in need of settling which is yet a subject of debate is the amount of personal attention that a mother should vouchsafe her child, the question being: 'Is it right that the children should monopolize the mother's attention to such an extent that other members of the family, the father, for instance, may be at a disadvantage therefrom; and does the time devoted to young children stunt the natural growth of the mother?' A topic that aroused much interest one morning was 'Should language be simplified to meet the understanding of the child, or should the child be elevated to a feeling of ease in an atmosphere of refined language?'

"Our fifty members are all workers and women who take high rank in intelligence and loyalty to the subject undertaken. When the subjects reconnoitered have widened out in a manner that demanded much more study than was expected they have not shirked the task, but pushed the investigation to the furthest. 'Should the desire for the right of franchise be inculcated in daughters, and the influence of this right on social conditions?' was a subject that involved much heated argument and much research for opinions and sentiments to back up the respective views. 'A child's natural interest in questions relative to sex,' and 'a child's innate interest in religion,' are also posers which involve a long trail of argument.

"If in looking up matter for papers on subsequent topics a member stumbles on something concerning these mooted points she treasures it up for relating at the next meeting. And that opens the discussion again. Even in regard to subjects which we can't settle satisfactorily as a body the discussions kindle thought and are of help to the individual mothers who had half-formed conclusions in the matter.

"The club members who have young children are urged to keep a journal of their charges' development from the first awakening of the senses in a newborn infant on to the development of will power, of the mind, of language, disposition, tastes and so on, together with such miscellaneous jottings from time to time as may occur to the mother to have bearing on the subject.

"Baby ways are charming, irresistible, but our members find them none the less so because of their efforts to discover the order of progress that underlies them. To keep such a journal as we advocate is a task of years, but the interest never declines; only strengthens with time. The child may never reach the ideal standard, but the work will be its own reward, and out of it comes a fuller understanding of the child's individuality.

"The plan of classification adopted is based on Preyer's method. First, we make note of an infant's perception of light and dark, its first observation of objects and first intimation of a sense of color, its interest in bright objects, in moving objects, in strangers, in animals and in new impressions.

"The date is taken of the first time it betokened interest in looking out of a window or gave sign of noting a toy or any object in the room. Along with these notes is kept the times of its first sense of hearing and when it first

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