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## Child's Right

Entitled to Opportunity to Live and Be Healthy

By DR. LUTHER HALSEY GULICK,  
Director of Athletics, New York Public Schools.



Children are the dependence of a city. They are its very backbone.

There is a strong economic reason that should induce every city and township of the country to take an interest in the welfare of its children. Few people know it, but four-fifths of the entire school registration of New York enjoys only the first five years of our elementary school work. The last three years' work, for which the city each year appropriates money, is enjoyed by but one-fifth of our children. The remainder are forced to miss grades by reason of ill health and conditions at home.

Some day the boards of education in every city in the country will awake to the need of studying the health of the school children. To-day in New York city we have over 600,000 children who for ten months of the year look to the representatives of the department of education even more than they do to their own parents, but there is not one single medical officer whose duty it is to study those children to find, not cures for the temporary ills, but preventives for the future.

The health of our children is far too important a matter to be treated lightly. Enough care could not be taken of them. What if it was necessary to employ hundreds of scientists to conduct long and expensive searches for the causes of the ills of our children? What if only one out of all the scientists made a discovery worth while? Would it not be worth the time and money spent?

Play is vital to the child. The young of all the animals of the world do nothing but play. To grow strong and healthy is worth more than any amount of learning.

By attention to exercise, sleep and proper clothing, the city child could grow as well as the country child and in many respects better. One hundred years ago four per cent. of the population was in the cities; to-day 60 per cent. The conditions of the city are the conditions of the future in this country.

We have gained by the change, but we must raise men and women like our sturdy ancestors. We have taken the time from play and added it to study and work and we have taken away the play rooms. The games of the ages have gone from the cities.

We must get away from the idea that healthy children cannot be brought up in the city. City business men, too, could keep as well as their country brothers if they cared. A few moments' exercise night and morning, a few breathing and setting-up exercises at one's office, with judicious use of holidays and vacations would develop better health and physique than most farmers have.

## The Bible For Men

By REV. A. C. DIXON, D. D.,  
Pastor Moody Church, Chicago.

is inexplicable without the Bible.

The poet's corner cannot be appreciated without a knowledge of the Bible. It will be conceded by all lovers of poetry that among the greatest English-speaking poets Shakespeare, Tennyson, Longfellow and Browning, and a knowledge of the Bible is absolutely essential to the understanding of any one of them. They teem with Biblical allusions. Milton and much of Byron are sealed books to the man ignorant of the Bible. Indeed, if you would write poetry, you cannot become great if you ignore the great thoughts about God, infinity, eternity, life, love and immortality which the Bible contains. Take out of English literature the classic books that demand a knowledge of the Bible for their proper appreciation and you have blotted the sun out of our literary sky.

Would you study the history of art in sculpture and painting, you must be acquainted with the Bible, for the best paintings of the old masters and the finest statuary were inspired for the most part by scenes and ideals drawn from the Bible. You must remain ignorant of the genius of Raphael and Michael Angelo if you refuse to know the Bible, for the scenes and characters they depicted with brush and chisel were Biblical. The paintings of Dore, Tissot and Sargent, modern master artists, cannot be understood without a knowledge of the Bible.

The great musicians, whose masterpieces have thrilled the souls of millions, cannot be interpreted and appreciated without a knowledge of the Bible. Handel's oratorios of the "Messiah," "Esther," "Saul," "Joshua," "Jephthah" and "Israel in Egypt," all of them masterpieces of musical composition, cannot be understood without a knowledge of the Bible. Mendelssohn's "Elijah" and Beethoven's "Mount of Olives," both the work of musical geniuses, are enigmas without Biblical knowledge.

If you would know the history of education, from the little country school house to the great university, you cannot ignore the Bible, for these schools and universities were founded by men who read their Bibles and drank from its pages the love of knowledge as well as of virtue and religion. The Pilgrims and Puritans of New England built first the church and then the school house. Next came the college and the universities. The great universities of the old world were founded and fostered by men whom the Bible inspired with the love of learning.

The Bible in the hand and heart of the missionary has revolutionized the educational systems of China and Japan, while it has transformed cannibal tribes into civilized communities. Charles Darwin frankly confessed that it had done for the Terre del Fuegians what he thought was impossible. The study of great modern movements which have emancipated the human mind and given to millions civil and religious liberty compels us to take into account the Bible as the mightiest factor in bringing about these results.



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