

Our Women and Children

Conducted by Lucille Skaggs Edwards.

MOTHERHOOD

What does the word "motherhood" mean to the average person? What is the underlying idea of the concept? Does the son, grown to manhood, associate the idea of perfect motherhood with something tender and beautiful in his own experience; or does he have an ideal of motherhood as remote as possible from that experience? Does he want his wife to be like his mother and to bring up his children as he was brought up, or is it the other way round? When a man regards his mother as an example to be avoided rather than as an exemplar to be followed, then something has been wrong with his rearing. Some one has failed in the business of being a mother, and some one else has had to suffer the consequences of the failure.

Why do so many mothers fail? Is it not because they lack imagination? Because they cannot see the effect of their training on their children's later life? They have fixed rules to fit present circumstances. Their discipline is for today; none of it has reference to the future. If mothers had a little more vision, they would not try to govern their children to suit parental convenience, but they would let the youngsters be themselves. A mother should be able to see the man in the child, as the gardener sees the bush with its blossoms in the tiny sprout; and she should care for her children as he cares for his plants,—not trying to twist them into unnatural shapes, but providing the proper conditions for them to develop according to their nature.

A child who is reared according to an inflexible rule does not develop that elasticity of mind which enables him to adjust himself to changing conditions, to develop the power to think independently and wisely. Legality is one thing; morality is something altogether different. You can force a man to obey the law by standing over him continually with a club. But we can't have a policeman for every citizen. Morality is obedience to law, not through outward compulsion, but through inward conviction. Only he who complies with the law through choice can be called moral. A child may be forced to obey a person in authority, but his compliance with a law of his elders does not necessarily improve his morals or develop his character. Not infrequently it has just the opposite effect. Fortunately sometimes, the expanding life within the child proves stronger than any external force. It is like the growing oak tree that cleaves the stone.

Help your child to develop judgment rather than compel him to obey arbitrary rules. The arbitrary formulas of conduct you manufacture for him today may not help him in the least in his later relationships. When your son grows to maturity he will not be surrounded with the same conditions that made up the environment of his childhood. He will perhaps go to new places and come in contact with new people. Even if he does not leave his native town, he will have to face new conditions; for his town will change with the times. His city will not harbor the same ideas that prevailed in his youth. Men will think differently, and he will have to keep up with the procession. Are

you preparing him to meet the tests of life that will come to him when he is a man? Are you preparing your daughter to be a better mother than you are?—Mother's Magazine.

VACATION AND DETERIORATION

Thoughtful educationists are rapidly coming to believe that the average American school child gets too many days of vacation, and more especially that the summer vacation is detrimental to him mentally. Unhappily, there are altogether too many cases in which not only the intellect but the general character of the boy or girl suffers during the long vacation.

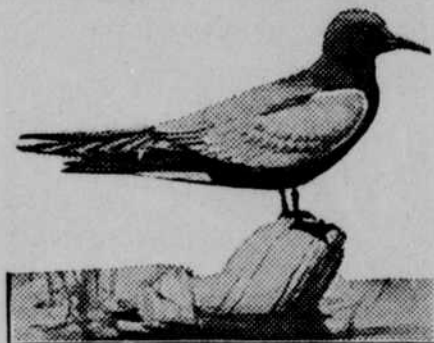
Habits of industry, punctuality, and self-control, which the school constantly teaches, are likely to be weakened under the happy-go-lucky plan of living which so many families follow in summer. It is well to have some fixed rules, therefore, even in vacation time. Every boy or girl should have daily duties to perform, in order to keep up the industry habit.

The boy or girl whose whole vacation is given to play, without a thought but for pleasure, is likely to deteriorate during vacation.—Mother's Magazine.

Phone your news to The Monitor, Webster 4243.

BLACK TERN

(*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*)



Length, ten inches. In autumn occurs as a migrant on the east coast of the United States, and then is in white and gray plumage. During the breeding season it is confined to the interior, is chiefly black, and is the only dark tern occurring inland.

Range: Breeds from California, Colorado, Missouri, and Ohio, north to central Canada; winters from Mexico to South America; migrant in the eastern United States.

Habits and economic status: This tern, unlike most of its relatives, passes much of its life on fresh-water lakes and marshes of the interior. Its nests are placed among the tules and weeds, on floating vegetation, or on muskrat houses. It lays from two to four eggs. Its food is more varied than that of any other tern. So far as known it preys upon no food fishes, but feeds extensively upon such enemies of fish as dragonfly nymphs, fish-eating beetles, and crawfishes. Unlike most of its family, it devours a great variety of insects, many of which it catches as it flies. Dragonflies, May flies, grasshoppers, predaceous diving beetles, scarabaeid beetles, leaf beetles, gnats, and other flies are the principal kinds preyed upon. Fishes of little economic value, chiefly minnows and mummichogs, were found to compose only a little more than 19 per cent of the contents of 145 stomachs. The great consumption of insects by the black tern places it among the beneficial species worthy of protection.

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