

SHOULD SCHOOL CHILDREN STUDY LESSONS AT HOME?

The Divergent Views of Four Educators and a Physician, Who Has Had Much Experience With Children.



There are many hundreds of school children in the city of St. Louis who carry their books to their homes at night and study from one to two hours in the evening...

Is this home work good for the pupil? Does it impair the mental and physical development? Many St. Louis parents believe there is too much home study in the schools...

By F. Louis Soidan, Superintendent of the public schools of St. Louis: The question of home work for school children is old as the public school system...

I do not believe there is any danger of harmful overstudy among school children; the inclination is more to understudy, and it is to overcome this that we encourage some study at home...

I would be very quick to condemn anything tending toward harmful home work. If I thought a pupil could learn enough during the regular school hours I would not add any home work...

physical strength in later life. This was true in colleges and universities to such an extent in former years that it was accepted as a fact that the persons who studied hard enough to win class honors were not going to amount to much in life...

We often see a precocious child. He can do things at 3 years that other children cannot do at 6. We call him a wonder, and many persons doubtless wonder to what great height of achievement this child will attain...

There are exceptions in all these cases, but the rule ordinarily applies. The gradual, natural development is the best. We regard with suspicion the mind which produces what we know as genius...

By Calvin M. Woodward, director of manual training school, member and former president of the board of edu-



ation: In my opinion home study for children of the lower grades is not beneficial. Boys and girls of 12 years or more may do some studying at home without injury...

When study is irksome it becomes unwholesome and useless. Education only follows conscious mental activity. When a child looks out of the window, study stops, and the child should rest...

In the most vicious doctrine on earth that educational growth can be measured by hours alone and that children can get twice as much development in six hours as in three.

A child must have change and recreation. The manual training school gives this. For ten years I worked for the establishment of the manual training school and the adoption of the recreation idea in education...

By Charles L. Howard, Principal of the Columbia School: Home study by children, when required by teacher or parent, I deprecate. If any teachers in the Columbia school require the children to study at home I am not aware of it.

I believe that a school system embracing this feature would be pernicious. The children not only would not benefit by it, but they would be harmed.

What is study? It is voluntary application under agreeable conditions. When poring over a book becomes irksome, it ceases to be study; it becomes drudgery and is utterly valueless to the child.

The task idea of study is execrable. When a bright child voluntarily studies at home, after having had a season of rest and recreation since the school day closed, there can be no harm in it...

In my opinion the present daily school session is too long instead of too short. For the kindergarten children and those of the lower grades, at any rate, the session should end at noon.

Education is development, and health development cannot be forced; it must come by the natural process.

Education is not a matter of so many hours spent in the schoolroom or with the books. Many parents have the impression that the more hours a child spends in what is commonly termed study, the more rapidly he will learn. This is a mistake...

Nothing is gained by trying to force education upon a child.

By Charles F. Curd, principal of Smith Academy: We have 400 boys at Smith academy. The majority of these do some studying at home. The very little fellows are exempt. Home studying is necessary at Smith. There are five and one-half hours of school...

The Bondman

By HALL CARR.

SYNOPSIS

Rachel Jorgenson was the only daughter of the governor of Iceland. She fell in love with and married an idler, Stephen Orry. Her father had other hopes for her and in his anger he disowned her...

"I wouldn't trust, I wouldn't trust," said Davy. "And he'll be thinking of marrying, I suppose. Isn't he, Davy?" said Mrs. Fairbrother.

CHAPTER III

THE WHOING OF JASON.

Now the one thing that Jason did not tell to Adam Fairbrother was that, on hearing from Jacob, as spokesman of his brothers, the story of their treatment of Greeba and their father, he had promised to break every bone in their six worthless bodies...

By this time Jason had spent nearly half his money, for he had earned nothing, but now he promptly laid his idle habits aside. No more did he go up to the mountains, and no longer out on to the sea...

"What has he done?" said Mrs. Fairbrother. "Nothing," said Greeba. "Have you anything against him?" "No."

"Davy," he cried, with the white teeth still going, "are there many corn mills on this side of the island?" "Oh, no, boy," said Davy; "but scarce as fresh herrings at Christmas."

"Any mill nearer than old Moore's at Sulby, and Callow's wife's down at Laxey?" "Aw, no, boy, the loke of them isn't in."

There is a full stream of water that tumbles into the sea over the brows of Port-y-Vullia, after singing its way down from the heights of Barrule. Jason had often marked it as he came and went from the hut of Stephen Orry...

time was come. She had thought of nothing save her treasure, and there it lay, yet it brought her no solace.

Two days she tossed in agony, remembering the past, and the price she had paid, and made others to pay, for all that she had held so dear and must leave so soon, for now it was nothing worth...

"Send for them all," she cried; "there is Kinvig of Ballagwnee, and Corlett's widow at Ballacreggan, and Corik of Cloughbane, and the children of Joughan the weaver at Sherragh Vane...

But the parson's deaf ears did not hear. "And, ah!" he said, "the things of this world seem worthless, do they not, when we catch a glimpse into eternity?"

"Less cry and more woe!" said Mrs. Fairbrother, dryly. "I wouldn't trust but old as you are you'd look with more love on a guinea than the Gospel calls for."

"Where's your brother, Lisa Joughan, she said to your woman at the foot of the bed." "Gone off to Meriky, ma'am, the girl faltered, 'for he couldn't live aft- he lost the land."

"Where's Quirk of Cloughbane?" asked Mrs. Fairbrother, turning to the parson. "The poor man's gone, sister," said the parson, in a low tone. "He died only the week before last."

"Come, let's have it over," she said, and then, one by one, Greeba read out the names. "Daniel Kinvig, twelve pounds," read Greeba, and thereupon an elderly man with a square head stepped forward.

"Kinvig," said Mrs. Fairbrother, fumbling the neck of the linen bag, "you borrowed a hundred pounds for two years, and I charged you 12 per cent. Six per cent was enough, and here is the difference back to your hand."

"God reward you!" she whimpered. "It's in heaven you'll be rewarded, ma'am."

(To be continued.)