SHOULD SCHOOL CHILDREN STUDY LESSONS AT HOME?

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

en interdation

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, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

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. Some of these are convinced that the practice is harmful. The majority would like to know if it is harmful. The Post-Dispatch has investigated the sublect. It has secured statements from

not it should continue:

By F. Louis Soldan, Superintendent of the public schools of St. Louis: The ruestion of home work for school chilfren is old as the public school system. in the public schools of St. Louis the pupils do considerable home work. bough not permitted to do so during the first four years of school. After children cannot do at & We call him the fourth year we consider that the a wonder, and many persons doubtless hild is sufficiently developed to un- wonder to what great height of achievetertake some study at home, and this ment this child will attain if he keeps work increases up to the High school learning things at the rate he has start. these departments made the children dames, where home study is under-,stood to be limited to two hours.

I do not believe there is any danger of harmful overstudy among school velopment in his early years. shildren; the inclination is more to unterstudy, and it is to overcome this that we encourage some study at home. The gradual, natural development is We believe that the boy or girl from ten the best. We regard with suspicion academy. The majority of these do to sixteen years ought to be learning the mind which produces what we know some studying at home. The very litsomething of voluntarily doing things as genius. We do not consider it nor- the fellows are exempt. Home studying tevelop independence in the pupil and prepare the child for the serious things normal, to be like the people around one hour of this is devoted to recita-

I would be very quick to condemn mything tending toward harmful home we must see that they develop, mental- very little time for study at the school; work. If I thought a pupil could learn nough during the regular school hours We must not crowd them. I would not add any home work. But the children must make much of the 'aw years in which they are receiving former president of the board of edu-learly in the morning.



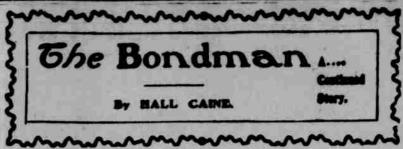
physical strength in later life. This thy development cannot be forced; it was true in colleges and universities must come by the natural process. men qualified to know how much home to such an extent in former years that Education is not a matter of so many work is done by the school children of it was accepted as a fact that the perhours spent in the schoolroom or with it. Louis, what are the effects of it, sons who studied hard enough to win the books. Many parents have the imwhat is the need of it, and whether or class honors were not going to amount pression that the more hours a child to much in life. In a measure, too, i spends in what is commonly termed

was true, for these students studied study, the more rapidly he will learn. much and too hard, dwarfing mental This is a mistake. When a child spends development and physical health. Ath- too much time at study he becomes nonletics in colleges have largely remedied receptive. this

We often see a precoclous child. He mestic science departments of Columbia school were established, some parents can do things at 3 years that other complained that their children were wasting one-fifteenth of the time spent at school. The fact was thet the recreation and the change afforded in more receptive when they returned to ed out. Within a few years the precotheir ordinary studies, and therefore clous child has become forgotten. He they gained time. is paying the price of a too rapid de-

There are exceptions in all these cases, but the rule ordinarily applies. Academy: We have 400 boys at Smith be geniuses, but would prefer to be and one-half hours of school. All but us. We want our children to be so. We tions, and the other hour goes to phys-

want nothing freakish about them. And ical recreation, singing, etc. There is ly and physically, along natural lines. with the older boys there is practically none. It is necessary that they take By Calvin M. Woodward, director of their books home with them and study manual training school, member and in the evening, late in the afternoon, or



STNOPSIS

in love with and married an idler, Stephen Orry. Her father had other hopes fo her and in his anger he disowned her. Then orry deserted her and ran away to sea. Of this union, however, a child was born, and Rachel called him Jason. Steanother son was born. Rachel died a broken-nearted woman, but told Jason of broken-nearted woman, but told Jason of his father's acts. Jason swore to kill him and if not him, then his son. In the meantime Orry had described his ship and sought refuge in the 1ste of Man, and was sheltered by the governor of the island. Adam Fairbrother. Orry want from had to worse, and maried a disso-lue, and their child, called Michael Sun-locks, war born. The woman died and Orry gave their child to Adam Fair-brother, who adopted him, and he be-came the playmats of the governor's only daughter, Greeba. Time passed and the governor and his wife became estranged, their five sons staying with their mother on account of their jealousy of funlocks, who had become a favorite with the gov-tror. Finally Stephen Orry confesses his misdeeds to Hunlocks, who promised to go to Iceland to find Rachel if possi-ble and care for her, and if she was a brother. He bid good-bye to his sweet-heart Greeba, and started on his journey. Meantime Jason had started on his journey. Meantime Jason had started on his journey. Meantime Jason had started on his journey, Meantime Jason had started on his journey. Meantime Jason.

## CHAPTER III.

THE WOOING OF LASON

Now the one thing that Jason did no tell to Adam Fairbrother was that, on Nothing is gained by trying to force hearing from Jacob, as spokesman of his brothers, the story of their treat ment of Greeba and their father, he had promised to break every bone in their six worthless bodies, and vowed never to darken their door again. His vow he could not keep if he was also able for himself. We consider that this will mai or healthy. We would rather not is necessary at Smith. There are five to keep his word with Adam, and he deferred the fulfilment of his promise: but from that day he left Lague as a home, and pitched his tent with old Davy Kerruish in Maughold village, at a little cottage by the Sundial that stood by the gates of the church. To: old for the sea, and now too saintly for smuggling. Davy pottered about the churchyard as gravedigger-for Maughold had then no sexton-with a living of three and sixpence a service, and a marvellously healthy parish. So the coming of Jason to share bed and board with him was a wild whirl of the wheel of fortune, and straightway he engaged an ancient body at ninepence a week to cook and clean for them. By this time Jason had spent nearly half his money, for he had earned nothing, but now he promptly haid his idle habits aside. No more did he go up to the mountains, and no longer out on to the sea. His nets were thrown over the lath of the ceiling, his decoy was put in a cage, his fowling piece stood in the corner, and few were the birds loved him, and that she must hear that hung at his belt. He was never from him soon, or be lost to him forseen at the "Hibernian," and he rarely ever. scented up the house with tobacco

the last have he had snared, and

"Davy," he cried, with the white teeth

still going. "are there many corn mille

"Oh. no, boy," said Davy; "but scare

"Any mill nearer than old Moore"

at Sulby, and Callow's wife's down at

"Aw, no, boy, the loke of them im't

"Any call for them nearer, Davy ?"

There is a full stream of water the

tumbles into the sea over the brows of

Port-y-Vullin, after singing its way

down from the heights of Barrule. Ja-

son had often marked it as he came

and went from the hut of Stephen Orry

that contained his stuffed birds, and

mill. He remembered it now with

chase of a rod of the land that law

the thick of his opterprise.

ody that wanted to build a water

hened interest, and bowling away to

meuhed it in vast mouthfuls.

on this side of the island?

mill before now, Davy?

boy, clever!

as fresh herrings at Christmas."

meant to do next day. When his skill Rachel Jorgenson was the only daugh-ter of the governor of Iceland. She fell a day in had thinking hard and then got a day in bed thinking hard, and then sot up and worked yet harder. In less than two months he had his first roof-timbers well and safely pitched, and if he went no farther it was because the big hope wherewith his simple heart phen Orry was seard from in the Isle of had been buoyed up came down with in paying she had withheld too much had been buoyed up came down with for money in seizing for mortgage she a woeful crash.

> "Aw, smart and quick, astonishin', said old Davy of Jason to Mrs. Fairbrother at Lague. "Aw 'deed, yes, and clever, too, and steady still. The way he works them walls is grand. I'll go bail the farming men will be thinking diamonds of him when he makes start."

"And then I wouldn't doubt but he'll be in the way of making a fortune, too." said Mrs. Fairbrother.

"I wouldn' trust, I wouldn' trust," said Davy.

"And he'll be thinking of marrying waste of time for them to come." suppose. Isn't he, Davy?" said Mrs. Fairbrother.

"Marrying is it?" said Davy: "aw divil a marry, ma'am. The boy's innocent. Aw, yes, innocent as a baby."

mumbled the old parson through his toothless gums, "for right is right, and justice justice."

"Chut!" said Mrs. Fairbrother. Mrs. Fairbrother had her own good But the parson's deaf ears did not easons for thinking otherwise, though hear. "And, ah!" he said, "the things of Jason came to Lague but rarely. So this world seem worthless, do they not. with hint and innuendo she set herself when we catch a glimpe into eternity." to see how Greeba stood towards the "Less cry and more wool," said Mrs. future she had planned for her. And Fairbrother, dryly. "I wouldn't trust Greebs was not slow to see her moth-

but old as you are you'd look with more er's serious drift under many a playlove on a guines than the Gospel calls ful speech. She had spent cheerful hours at Lague since the sad surprise The people answered the parson's that brought her back. Little loth for

time was come. She had thought of

nothing save her treasure, and there if ay, yet it brought her no solace. Two days she tossed in agony,

embering the past, and the price she had paid, and made others to pay, for

all that she had held so dear and must

cave so soon, for now it was nothing

worth. Then she sent for the parson,

Parson Gell, who was still living, but very old. The good man came, think-

ing his mission was spiritual comfort,

but Mrs. Fairbrother would hear noth-

ing of that. As she had lived without

God in the world, even so did she in-

tend to die. But some things that had

gone amiss with her in her eager race

after riches she was minded to set right

before her time came to go. In lending

she had charged too high an interest;

for money; in seizing for mortgage she

had given too little grace. So she would

repay before it was too late, for Death

"Send for them all," she cried; "there

s Kinvig of Balagwne, and Corlett's

widow at Ballacreggan, and Quirk of

Claughbane, and the children of Jou-

ghan the weaver at Sherragh Vane, and

Tubman of Ginger Hall, and John-Bil-

ly-Bob at Cornah Glen, and that hard

bargainer, old Kermode of Port-e-Chee.

You see, I remember them all, for I

never forget anything. Send for them,

and be quick fetching them, or it'll be

"I'll do it, Mistress Fairbrother."

was opening her hands.

ummons quickly enough, and came to the life of the farm, notwithstanding Lague next morning, the men in their Ross' judgment, she had seemed to fall rough beavers, the old women in their into its ways with content. Her mothlong blue cloaks, and they followed the er's hints touched her not at all, for old parson into Mrs. Fairbrother's room. she only laughed at them with a little whispering among themselves, some in of her old gayety; but one day within a doleful voice, others in an eager one. the ret weeks she met Jason, and then some with a cringing air, and others she felt troubled. He was very serious, with an arrogant expression. The and spoke only of what he was doing. chamber was darkened by a heavy curbut before his grave face her gay tain over the window, but they could friendliness broke down in an instant. see Mrs. Fairbrother propped up by pil-Hurrying home she sat down and wrote a letter to Michael Sunlocks. lows, whereon her thin, pinched face showed very white. She had slept never Never a word had she heard from him since he left the island four years ago, a moment of the night; and through all the agony of her body her mind had so he made excuse of her father's gobeen busy with its reckonings. These ing away to cover her unmaidenly act. she had made Greeba to set down in and asked him to let her know if her writing, and now with the paper on the father had arrived, and how he was. counterpane before her, and with a linand where, with someparticulars of en bag of money in her hand, she sat himself also, and whether he meant to come back to the Isle of Man, or had ready to receive her people. When they ntered there was deep silence for a moquite made his home in Iceland; with many a sly glance, too, at her own ment, wherein her eyes glanced over them, as they stood in thir strong odors condition, such as her modesty could not forbear, but never a syllable about of health around her. "Where's your brother, Lisa Joughan," Jason, for a double danger held her si-

the names.

ward.

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gan to cry.

ma'sm."

lent on that head. This she dispatched she said to young woman at the foot to him, realizing at length that she of the bed.

"Gone off to 'Meriky, ma'am," the girl faltered, "for he couldn't live after he lost the land."

smoke. On his first coming he lay two And waiting for Michael's answer "Where's Quirk of Claughbane?" ask

"Trantel Kinvig, twelve pounds,"

ead Greeba, and thereupon an elderly

man with a square head stepped for-

"Kinvig." said Mrs. Fairbrother, fum

bling the neck of the linen bag, "you

So mying, she counted twelve pound

notes and held them out in her wrin-

"Mrs. Corlett, two pounds," read

Greeba, and a woman in a widow's cap

and a long cloak came up, wiping her

The woman took the money and b

"God reward you." she whimpered.

"It's in heaven you'll be rewarded.

kled fingers, and the man took them

the difference back to your hand."

"Go on." she cried, sharply

without a word."



in education. They must be urged to (cation: In my opinion home study for j I do not believe young people ale children of the lower grades is not ever harmed by home study. I never to as much as they can. I do not besave there is any danger that teachers beneficial. Boys and girls of 12 years saw a pupil I thought harmed in this will make the tasks harmfully heavy. ) or more may do some studying at home way. I admit that harm would result if save not seen any indication of any without injury, but they should not be studying at home were practiced to anch intury to pupils in St. Louis and forced, nor should they have certain excess, but we would not permit that at tasks sut before them. nany of them are doing some of their

work at home. The children of the public schools are in school five hours and one-half.

'n this time they are principally encaged in recitations. There is not a great deal of time for study and this as resulted in the work at home. I to not consider that this is injurious to he girls and boys. I rather think it selps them. It trains them in industry and voluntary work, while the teacher a not around, and nothing but good an come from this. I like the hom work. I like the way it trains young scople to make the most of their early portunities to learn. Excess in the practice would make it harmful, but I tee no danger that any such excess will ult from the little work carried home the children of the public schools St. Louis. Adding the hours of recitation with those of study, and it is but short day. The young people will have much longer and harder days of work as they attain their growth. and of IL. they will be fortunate if. In their school Ife, they were trained to promote their swn development when the teacher of superior was not watching.

By Dr. Edward W. Saunders, sp statist in children's diseases: I have men a close student of this subject of me study in the public schools. It is an old subject, concerning which the tors of Germany have made some anbie observations. The Germans save proved these things

A young pupil is mentally at his best ay morning, after two days

He is at his worst Friday afterno ter five days of work.

He is brighter in the morning than he the afternoon, indicating lessoning power as the day progresses and

face of these well-catablished very wrong to let a young by at home at night. Such injere a High If not overdoon, if yours 

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

child should rest. It is the most vicious doctrine on earth that educational growth can be measured by hours alone and that children can get twice as much develop. ment in six hours as in three.

A child must have change and re creation. The manual training school gives this. For ten years I worked for the estublishment of the manual training school and the adoption of the recru ation idea in education. When the mattle was won I guit fighting. By Charles L. Howard, Principal

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

I believe that a school system embracing this feature would be permicloug. The children not only would not benefit by it, but they would be harmed. What is study? It is voluntary apolication 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 exectable 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 unless the strength of mind or of body is overtaxed. In the higher grades there are pupils who take their books home and study at night, but not by require-

ment of their teachers. In my opinion the present daily school sion is too long instead of teo short the kindergarten children and the of the lower grades, at any rate, th ould end at noon. The chilm would learn more than they do under the prevailing system of both morn-

Smith. We would be able to tell if a pupit were overstudying, and would stop it.

When the manual training and do-

By Charles P. Curd. principal of Smith

education upon a child.

How People Lose Their Teeth. When the beautiful Swedish girl opend her mouth the illusion vanished Instead of the flashing of pearly teeth

there were two rows of blackened, un sightly stumps. It was these that had brought her to the dentist's office. "I want them all pulled out." she said

reginning to weep bitterly. "When I come to dis country"-what with the toss of her teeth and her faulty Eng lish it was not easy to catch her words -"I hat all fine white teeth; not one bad. Now, all like dis! I never comed if I know!"

"Do you know," said the dentist, after making an appointment with the girl, "that is only a typical case. There are thousands of servant girls who come from the farms of the old world less than five years ago with perfect, sound, white teeth, and now have only black-

ened stumps like this poor girl. "The reasons? Only two-change food and lack of exercise. At home these girls ate little sugar. A conti sental housewife locks her sugar bow up with her spoons and doles it out, so many lumps a day. Here sugar is as free as water in most households. Susar's a good food, mind you, but they're not used to it, and they overdo it.

"Besides their diet is utterly change in other respects. Instead of vigorously chewing coarse rys bread they have more measy foods, easily swallowed without chewing.

"Then there's exercise. You nev heard that exercise had anything to de with teeth? Well, there may be other things you haven't heard of. It does though. Take a man out of an office and set him traveling six months. If be's wise he gets his teeth fixed up beore statting. He's out of doors a let. valks, climbe mountains, cate beartily is teeth will be in much better shape when he returns.

"Exercise enables one to digest his food better. Bad digestion is both a cause and a result of bad topik."

d Jason. If she saw him of ed Mrs. Fairbrother. days and nights in bed without food on sleep, until Davy thought surely he the road she cut across the elds, and parson

"The poor man's gone, sister," sald if he came to the house she found was sick, and, willy-nilly, was for havsomething to take her out of the kitch the parson, in a low tone. "He died ing his feet bathed in mustard and hot en. He saw her purpose quickly, and only the week before last." water, and likewise his stomach in

his calm eyes saddened, and his strong Mrs. Fairbrother's face assumed i rum and hot gruel. But he was only darker shade, and she handed the paper face twitched, but he did not flinch; he settling his plans for the future, and went on with his work, steadily, carto Greeba. having hit on a scheme he leaped out "Come, let's have it over," she said.

nestly, only with something less of of bed like a grayhound, plunged his heart, something less of cheer. Her and then, one by one, Greeba read out head up to the nack in a bucket of mother saw it, too, and then the playcold water, came out of it with gleamfut hints changed to angry threats. ing eyes, red cheeks and vapor rising

"What has he done?" said Mrs. Fairfrom his wet skin, and drying himself with a whir on a coarse towel, he laid brother. "Nothing." said Greeba. hold with both hands of a chunk of

"Have you anything against him?" 'No.' "Then why are you driving him from

borrowed a hundred pounds for two vears, and I charged you 12 per cent. the house?" Six per cent was enough, and here is Greeba made no answer.

"Are you thinking of someone Amain Greebs was silent. "I'll beg of you to mend your man pers," cried Mrs. Fairbrother. "It's full time you were wedded and gone."

"But perhaps I don't wish to leave borne" said Greeba

"Tush!" said Mrs. Fairbrother. "The had is well enough, and if he hasn't "Aw 'deed, yes, boy, yes; and the land he has some money, and is likely

farmer men alwis keen for one in Maug "Bella Corlett," said Mrs. Fairbrother, to have more. I'll give you a week to hold, too. Aw, yes, keen, boy, keen; and when I took over Ballacreggan for think of it, and if he ever comes and if a man was after building one here my unpaid debt, you begged for the they'd be thinking diamonds of him." speaks for you I'll ask you to give him feather bod your mother died on and his civil answer. You will be three and "Then why hasn't somebody set up the chair that had been your father's. twenty come Martinmas, and long be-I didn't give them, though I had enough fore your mother was as old as that "Well, boy, ye see a Manxman is just besides, so here are two pounds to you, she had a couple of your brothers to the cleverest of all the people goin' at and God forgive me.

fend for." takin' things alsy. Aw, clever at R, "Some of my brothers are nearly

> marry," said Greeba. "That's a different matter." said Mrs

But Mrs. Fairbrother brushed her Fairbrother. mide, with an angry word and a fret-It turned out that the week was more ful gesture, and called on Greeba for than enough to settle the difference be the next name on the list. tween Greebs and her mother, for in

eas time than that Mrs. Patrbrother "Peter Kermode, twenty-four pounds told himself what a fine site it was for en shillings, read Greeba, and a Hitle vas stricken down by a mortal illness old man, with a rough head and a grim, It was only a month since she had turned Adam from her door, but her hard, ugly face, jostled through the Mrs. Fairbrother at Lague for the purpeople about him.

"Kermode," sald Mrs. Fairbrother. you always tried to cheat me, as you She had grown old without knowing a try to chest everybody else, and when day's filness; her body, like a rocky you sold me those seventy sheep for all headland that gives no sign of the sea shillings apiece last back and you ons, had only grown harder every thought they were all taking the rot. rear, with a face more deeply seamed; but when she fell it was at one blow and you lost thirty pounds by them

and brought yourself to beggary, and serve you right, too. But I sold them safe and sound for a pound aplece thre days after; so here's half of the dif had taken her death-warrant. The knew the worst, and faced it, but and it isn't worth while to be

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time was already at hand, and more than he predicted had come to pass.

tween the road and the beach, to the Bailiff for the right of water, and to old Coobragh for the hire of a cart to fetch stones from the screes where the stains quarried them, he was so

of life's ocean. Three little days she He set the carpenter to work at h wheel the muith at his sale, and the had lost appetite, on the morning of the courth day she had found a never in a safe : ann at his stones, but for the walks and roof of the mill itself he had no help but old Davy's. Early and late, from ad into the well, and before night she the rest of your days. And it won't had taken her death-warrant. eglected outlie trough that had drainnd swalling, and when night fell in he

leaned over the bedge and smoked and her terror was abject. Sinty-five years measured out with his eye the work he she had scraped and seratched, but her

