

The Home Department.

Fool Youngens.

Me an' Bert an' Minnie-Belle
Knows a joke, an' we won't tell!
No, we don't—'cause we don't know
Why we got to laughin' so;
But we got to laughin' so,
We ist kep' a-laughin'.

Wind wuz blowin' in the tree—
An' wuz only ist us three
Playin' there; an' ever' one
Ketched each other, like we done,
Squintin' up there at the sun
Like we wuz a-laughin'.

Nothin' funny anyway;
But I laughed, an' so did they—
An' we all three laughed, an' nen
Squint' our eyes an' laugh again;
Ner we didn't ist p'ten'—
We wuz shore-nough laughin'.

We ist laugh' an' laugh', tel Bert
Say he can't quit an' it hurt.
Nen I howl, an' Minnie-Belle
She tear up the grass a spell
An' ist stop her yeers an' yell,
Like she'd die a-laughin'.

Never sich fool youngens yit!
Nothin' funny—not a bit!—
But we laugh' so, tel we whoop'
Purt-nigh like we have the croup—
All so hoarse we'd wheeze an' whoop
An' ist choke a-laughin'.
—James Whitcomb Riley, in The Century.

Should Children Follow Their Bent?

The question appears to almost answer itself. At first glance it seems unreasonable to suggest that the bent—the bias of a child's nature—should be contradicted or reversed. I am aware that it is a question for debate and that it is impossible to review the "pros" and "cons" thoroughly, within the limits prescribed, so I shall state simply my own personal belief. A natural inclination toward certain lines of occupation is a part of every personality—the more pronounced the individuality the stronger being the predilection. Hence the child from infancy should be allowed absolute freedom to reveal, then to exercise, his special talent. If parents would only watch and wait they would inevitably find, as Carlyle puts it, that "of all paths a man could strike into, there is, at any given moment, a best path for every man; a thing which here and now, it were of all things wisest for him to do; to find this path and walk in it, is the one thing needful for him."

How necessary then, for the parent to give the youthful mind time to discover itself rather than to attempt, as too many do, to force it into an uncongenial, hence unsuccessful life work. It is plain, for instance, if we will only see, that Tom, in his dextrous handling of his pencil, and enthusiasm over his first "cartoons" has an entirely different "gift" from Ned whose fingers fairly "itch" to get at and into that big piece of machinery; to "feel the very pulse of the machine," and yet I have seen that very Ned, without nimbleness of tongue or logic of mind, by the mistaken ambition of parents to have a "professional man" in the family, forced to "follow the law," which of course is

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A quick, safe, and sure relief for sick or nervous Headache, Backache, Stomach Pains, Neuralgia, Nervousness, Irritability, Sleeplessness, Rheumatism, Sciatica. Contain no opium or morphine, and leave no bad after-effects 25 doses 25c. At druggists.

done but shamblingly and at a distance, because his bent is not that way! This wrong conception of a lad's mentality and overzeal in behalf of the professions is going to deprive us of many a needed skilled artisan and fill our offices and pulpits with most unskillful incumbents.

Parents should beware lest they instill their own preferences, coming from their own individuality, into the baby mind, thus to "crib, cabin and confine" the rightful output of their offspring's brain. Success, happiness, character itself depends on following the course leading to the vocation dearest to the soul and most congenial to the man who is to "live his own life." Because the ministry seems to her to be the most beautiful, sacred and the safest vocation, how many a devoted mother has set her heart upon it for her son. Almost every mother knows the thrill of fancying her son in the sacred desk, but how often that very boy, is learning from nature and through nature from God himself that his work is to be among the fields and woods—his sermons are to be "in stones," his "books in the running brooks," and that he will better fill his niche, whether as naturalist, scientist, agriculturist or plain plowman—his bent will show!—Mary H. Ashman, in Practical Farmer.

Toast

One of the most wholesome and nutritious breakfast dishes is toast—not the so-called buttered toast, but plain toast moistened with warm milk. The process of toasting, if properly done, converts a portion of the bread into predigested food. Heat converts dry starch into dextrine, a form that all starchy substances take after the first process of digestion. This relieves the stomach of a part of its work. If the preparation of toast in the morning be regarded as too troublesome to be practical, it may be made by taking advantage of the strong fire in the range for the midday cooking or baking. Of course, in an hour or two such toast has absorbed moisture and apparently becomes stale and toughened. If, however, it is put in the oven for ten minutes in the morning its crispness is restored as perfectly as if newly made. Toast should be thoroughly and evenly browned on both sides.—Central Farmer.

Little Employments.

When we realize what little things bring happiness to a child, it is pitiful to see how many little ones are unhappy. One great means toward this content lies in keeping them busy at some amusement or occupation suited to their years.

Busy mothers, who must be nurses as well as housekeepers, may often feel that they have not the time to plan or prepare the little employments, but I think after a few trials even the busiest mother will consider the time well spent when she finds how much quicker her tasks will be accomplished with happy, smiling little ones around her. I think, too, they will be surprised to see how soon the babies will begin

to arrange plays for themselves with only a suggestion now and then.

Sometimes a cheerful smile or a few pleasant words will chase away the frowns and completely change baby's whole little world. Fretfulness easily becomes a habit that spoils the sunniest temper. If any of you busy mothers have a doubt as to whether a spotless house or your baby's happiness is of the first importance, I pray you give baby the benefit of the doubt, for if you send forth from your home men and women of a happy, cheerful disposition, you have helped the whole world.—Farm and Home.

Sorrow, Anger, Fear.

Marcus Aurelius, who lived some 1,700 years ago, said: "He that is either sorry, angry, or afraid is a fugitive."

To spend strength and thought in being sorry for what is past is to make poor use of the present time and opportunity.

To become angry is to display weakness where strength may be needed.

To be afraid is to invite what is feared

Have you ever read the meditations of Marcus Aurelius? If not you have a treat in store.

One cannot read everything, but there are some things that would be good for every one to read.

Once upon a time when the writer was trying to see the biggest and best things in Rome in two days (think of the absurdity of such an undertaking) he succeeded, in true American fashion, in taking in enough to give food for reflection for years to come.

Among the wonders of that ancient city, however, he saw nothing more deeply impressive than his seventy-nine-year-old guide who acted as if he might have discovered what Ponce de Leon vainly sought in Florida, the fountain of eternal youth.

Having the history of ancient and modern Rome glibly at tongue's end, Francisco Tartaglia had for his rule of life the motto: "Never cross, never lazy, never sick."

This fine old Italian, old only in years, insisted that to allow oneself to be cross or indolent or both was to invite sickness.

It is surely a foolish thing to travel at the mad pace most Americans set for themselves in sight seeing abroad, but it is quite conceivable that one might spend two years in the wonderful city overlooking nothing of religious, historical or architectural value and still come away with less than Francisco was able to impart in so brief a time.

The best medicine in the world is cheerfulness and wholesome activity for mind and body.

Change of work or thought is restful.

Keep busy and keep sweet and you can let the anxious thought for the morrow take care of itself.

Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler, probably the greatest woman pianist in the world, says: "A few years ago the doctors told me that I would die if I didn't rest. So I rested; I did everything the doctors told me to do, and I got worse and worse. Then I rebelled and played again—played and got well."—Live Stock World.

Value of Vegetables.

Tomatoes rouse torpid livers and do the work, ordinarily, of a doctor's prescription.

Lettuce has a soothing, quieting effect upon the nerves and is an insomnia remedy.

Celery is an acknowledged nerve tonic, and is more and more used in medical prescriptions.

Onions are also a tonic for the nerves, but people will be forever prejudiced because of their odor.

Dandelions purify the blood and generally are declared to tone up the system.—Farmers' Advocate.

I Will Cure You of Rheumatism

No pay until you know it.

After 2,000 experiments, I have learned how to cure Rheumatism. Not to turn bony joints into flesh again; that is impossible. But I can cure the disease always, at any state, and forever.

I ask for no money. Simply write me a postal and I will send you an order on your nearest druggist for six bottles of Dr. Shoop's Rheumatic Cure, for every druggist keeps it. Use it for a month, and if it does what I claim pay your druggist \$5.50 for it. If it doesn't I will pay him myself.

I have no samples. Any medicine that can affect Rheumatism with but a few doses must be drugged to the verge of danger. I use no such drugs. It is folly to take them. You must get the disease out of the blood.

My remedy does that, even in the most difficult, obstinate cases. No matter how impossible this seems to you, I know it and I take the risk. I have cured tens of thousands of cases in this way, and my records show that 39 out of 40 who get those six bottles pay, and pay gladly. I have learned that people in general are honest with a physician who cures them. That is all I ask. If I fail I don't expect a penny from you.

Simply write me a postal card or letter. Let me send you an order for the medicine. Take it for a month, for it won't harm you anyway. If it cures, pay \$5.50. I leave that entirely to you. I will mail you a book that tells how I do it. Address Dr. Shoop, Box 515, Racine, Wis.

Mild cases, not chronic, are often cured by one or two bottles. At all druggists.

Qualities That are Valuable.

Our solicitude is concentrated upon Senator Tillman. Here is a man who has grown—or, perhaps, has made himself understood—very greatly within the past few years. He has a rough tongue and his ideas of genuflexion are still in the formative stage, but he has convinced many of the most scholarly and polished members of the senate—republicans as well as democrats—that he is as honest as he is bold, as sincere and incorruptible as he is aggressive; and, somehow, these qualities are steadily increasing in value.—Washington Post.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box, 25c.

A Suggestion to Grosvenor.

Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio is indulging in very just and proper denunciation of the shoddy makers, who oppose the bill to compel them to stamp all goods made of their product with the name of the material. They deserve all the contempt he visits upon them. But it would tend to a better understanding of the conditions under which so-called woollens are made and sold in this country if Mr. Grosvenor should introduce an amendment to the shoddy bill requiring every piece of cloth and every garment offered for sale as woolen to bear on it an enduring label stating the average duty collected by the United States on imported woollens and woollens, which happens to be just about 70 per cent.—New York Times.

A Cure For the Tobacco Habit.

Mrs. M. Hall, 3177 Eleventh St., Des Moines, Iowa, has discovered a harmless remedy for the tobacco habit. Her husband was cured in ten days after using tobacco for over thirty years. All desire for its use gone. Can be filled by any druggist. Mrs. Hall will gladly send prescription free to any one enclosing a stamped envelope.