

THE KINDERGARTEN.

The Atlantic Monthly for March says Agnes Repplier in the Saturday Evening Post, publishes, the trenchant criticisms of a teacher who, working in the primary school, has had the doubtful pleasure of continuing the kindergarten child's instruction after he emerges from his three years of play. She finds him apparently less satisfactory than the neglected infant who has spent those three years in growing like a plant, and whose little mind is in a state of calm and healthy repose. The neglected one is at least unexacting; his intelligence, if he has any, is unperturbed. He does not expect his teacher to simulate a volcano with cotton and alcohol, nor a geyser with an old rubber ball. He does not insist upon the multiplication table being enlivened with song and dance. He is willing to learn his letters without a stimulus of a story attached to every one. He does not, when given an apple to draw a model, convert his sketch or his lump of clay into a bird's nest with eggs in it and take credit to himself for the inspiration. He is unused to being entertained, and still more unused to entertaining others. What he loses in alertness and in odds and ends of information he gains in the simplicity of his mental outlook, in his docile attitude, and in the healthiness of a mind unvitiated by forced sentiment or strained imaginings.

This pessimistic view of the kindergarten is at once too explicit and too urgently presented to be passed over in silence. Miss Marian Hamilton Carter has not only the courage of her convictions, but a most relentless hand in driving these convictions home. Moreover, she does not speak from the standpoint of the despised parent, but of the teacher, who is invariably sure of a hearing. If she permits herself some gentle sarcasms against the "paper folding" and the "sewing cards," she is grave enough in reprobating the maudlin literature of the "dear cow," and "pearly snow-drop," and "My chickie's name is Cuddle" order, with which we insult the dawning intelligence of a child. Her words await an answer from the earnest patrons of the kindergarten, who believe their methods good.

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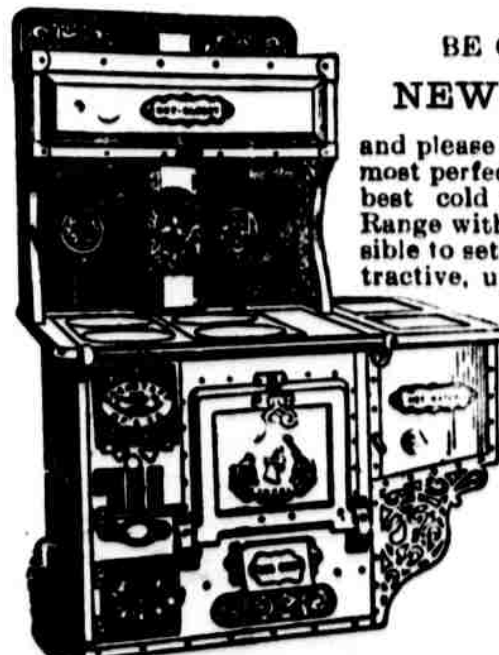
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