

ACROSS THE

Editor's Desk

HOME from school every day come the children, some of them loaded down like young lawyers with brief cases and bags bulging with homework for tomorrow's lessons.

But book-laden or not, they bring with them a tremendously important assignment for their parents. Not in their brief cases! True, father or mother may lend a helping hand with problems in division and subtraction, but that is merely incidental. Homework for parents is bigger and broader, deeper and higher, than any course of study laid out in any school.

Parental homework does not—dare not!—stop with furnishing a pleasant, comfortable place for children to live, and providing them with a good breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day. It does not stop with seeing that they establish good health habits, and that their adenoids are removed and their teeth straightened. It is not enough to train them to be polite and mannerly. All these it must do, bit by bit and day by day as the years pass and each child grows toward adulthood. But it must do more, much more, if that child, when grown, is to do his part in making this land, and this world, a better place to live in.



FIRST STEP in this long-time program of homework which every pair of parents assumes is a simple one—simple, that is, to parents who love each other and love their children. It is the establishment of a feeling of family security, family stability. Finances are of relatively minor importance in this connection, tho too much or too little money may cause the kind of strife that upsets the delicate emotional balance of the home. It is an intangible thing, this feeling of family affection and trust, but it makes the firmest kind of foundation for the future emotional, mental, spiritual, and even physical stability of the adult that each child is destined to become.



MOST IMPORTANT and far-reaching of all the phases of parental homework is that of developing the character of each child in the way it should go. School, Sunday school, and church contribute to the formation of the child's character, but they can accomplish little without conscientious, unremitting homework on the part of the parents.

We devote a great deal of attention to shaping the minds and bodies of our children, we strive to help them attain charm and personality—too often forgetting that unless education and charm are rooted in firm integrity and sound character, they are a detriment not only to the individual who possesses them, but to the community.

Ella Frances Lynch, a wise and understanding educator, puts it this way: "Teach the children to be good. Unless they learn what is right and have the will to do it, you have no business sharpening their wits to prey on society, nor putting into their hands such powerful tools as reading and writing and arithmetic to be used against their neighbors."



HOMEWORK FOR PARENTS, like the homework that children do, is always for tomorrow. It takes childish ambition for a youngster to sit down after supper and learn a long list of words for next day's spelling. It takes far-sighted vision for parents to look ahead and to train the child, not so much to be a good child, as to be a good man or woman in the years to come.



HOMEWORK FOR PARENTS! It takes grace and understanding and judgment and forbearance, and thoro-going co-operation between father and mother to earn a passing grade. It's a big assignment, but, well done, it's the most important, most satisfying work in the world.

Editor

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