

Mudie's Library at comparatively small expense. Many exhibitions of pictures, including the greatest masterpieces in the country, are free, and even good music is more easily attainable to the impecunious than in former times.

Girls who leave school too often let go at once what they have spent years in laboriously acquiring. I have heard of the head girl in needlework at a good school, whose work was the admiration of the strictest Inspector, being almost useless to her mistress when she went to service a few years later because she could not mend or make the children's clothes. Belgravia damsels are no better than plebeians in this matter. How often the rush and glitter of fashionable life are allowed to drive everything like intellectual occupation from the mind and life of the emancipated school-girl. In the middle classes lawn-tennis, dress-making, exchanging calls, and, too often, we fear, mere gossip, prevent anything like regular study or even serious thought. The mind, like the time, is frittered away in a series of petty engagements, good, perhaps, in their place, but not good when permitted to absorb the whole life of a young creature who ought to be growing wiser, better, and every way higher each year.

The improvement of the mind, however, is only a part of self-culture. The character is of even more importance, and to those around

us character displays itself in manners and behaviour. In well-to-do families daughters are often petted and indulged, especially by their fathers, and little is expected of them but to look nice, be obliging and good-tempered. They have not much to do beyond amusing themselves. Visitors pay them great attention, and if pretty, or clever and taking, they are apt to become persons of consideration in their home and circle. This is injurious in its effect on some minds. The girls forget that they owe their position largely to circumstances, grow selfish and exacting, vain and frivolous, or else, perhaps, pettish and discontented, always sighing for pleasures or intellectual advantages beyond their reach, or wider scope for the talents they consider they possess. Girls who snub their mothers, contradict their fathers, quarrel with their brothers and assume airs of superiority over their friends are making daily and hourly mistakes, which, unless speedily corrected, will affect injuriously all their future life.

Carelessness about little things, so-called, is one of the greatest mistakes of the young. One girl will strew the house with her personal belongings. Her half-knitted stocking adorns one drawing-room table, her German exercise book another, with a paper-weight inside to keep the place; her umbrella remains for hours on the landing outside the drawing-

room door; old envelopes with the notes inside, screws of paper containing ribbon or other little purchases, odd gloves, veils, reels of cotton, pairs of scissors and the like are scattered about every sitting-room she uses. Another is always late for her appointments, breakfast, lunch and dinner, club or committee. A third is so inattentive and inaccurate that she never gives a message correctly, or can be trusted for an account of the simplest matters of fact. It is not surprising that men whose sisters are of this type entertain something very like contempt for the fair sex, as pleasant playthings when in a good temper, but rather in the way than otherwise in the serious business of life. On the other hand, men whose sisters are sensible, practical, gentle, neat and punctual are not only better brothers in consequence, but make more considerate husbands when they marry.

Once more, let our girls beware of making the greatest and commonest mistake of all, that of being so engrossed in "things temporal" that they forget "things eternal." Not only youth, but life, even if extended to fourscore years, passes swiftly away, and sad indeed will it be when the call comes to journey to the "bourne from which no traveller returns" if no preparation has been made for departure, no refuge secured for the endless ages of eternity.

A MISSIONARY ALBUM.



MANY people possess a quantity of old missionary magazines, full of interesting pictures of foreign scenes and people, which can hardly be retained indefinitely as they are; yet it seems a pity to throw them away. Such odd numbers can be utilised in an excellent fashion

by cutting out the pictures and by making with them a missionary album. This will be found of great use either to lend to invalids, to suggest subjects for conversation at working parties, or to aid in teaching classes of young people. I know of one instance in which the making of one missionary album started quite a fresh interest in mission work, and put new life into various classes, stirring up young folks to read and learn about the people and scenes which had attracted their attention in the book. The album can be made of any size that is preferred; twelve inches by nine is rather a convenient shape, which will take in the largest sized pictures usually found in magazines.

The only requisite is good strong gum, which should be lightly applied to the outer edges of the pictures (after they are neatly cut and trimmed); they should then be placed on the pages very evenly and pressed down.

Some thought should be given to the arrangement of the book so as to make it illustrative and educational. The first page may have its title neatly illuminated either in pen and ink or colour. Then if we begin with the Palestine Mission, all the pictures relating to the Holy Land may be inserted. Sketches of the country, and mission houses, portraits of the workers, a picture of a camel, a water-carrier, a locust, anything bearing upon eastern life, will tend to enrich the book. Someone hearing of the work may have a water-colour sketch, or photographs which he will kindly bestow upon our album, and thus the pages be gradually filled. The book will become in

time a valuable record of the work going on throughout the world, if we take each country by turns and devote so many pages to illustrate its special features. Even if we have but very few pictures to begin with, there will be found, I think, all the more pleasure in waiting and watching for treasure-trove wherewith to adorn our album.

Teachers often sigh over the lack of interest their scholars show in mission work. Now I do not think it is at all difficult to create this interest if we set about teaching our classes in the right way. The instruction given must be made interesting and pictorial, and this demands not only some imaginative power, but also careful preparation on the part of the teacher; if possible some objects to show the children should also be forthcoming. Perhaps an example will illustrate my meaning.

We will suppose that the subject of the lesson is to be Uganda, in British East Africa. Either a large map of the country must be held up before the children, or the teacher should sketch on a blackboard the geographical outlines required. The great Victoria Nyanza lake, and the Sese, and other islands in it, the smaller Albert Nyanza lake fed by the River Nile; Toro, on the extreme west, not so far from the great dark forest in which Stanley and his party wandered so many months persecuted by the strange dwarf natives with their tormenting little spears and arrows; Mengo the capital, and all the other chief places of interest should be roughly sketched, or pointed out on the map. A picture of a native may be shown whilst a description is given of the dress, ornaments, colour of the skin, native weapons, etc. The difference between the neat white clothing of the converts, and the rough wild-looking natives will mark the change from heathenism to Christianity. If the teacher has well studied her subject, she should be able to give a word-picture of the interior of one of the Uganda churches at the Sunday morning service. As many as a thousand native Christians may be seen devoutly following the service in their own language, singing the hymns and responding with a heartiness that would put many an English congregation to

shame. After listening to the sermon with rapt attention, many of the hearers rise and come forward to deposit in the central aisle their weekly offering for the maintenance of the church. They are but very poor and have no money, so they show their love to God by giving of the things of their daily life. Baskets of shells, bark cloths, beautifully prepared from a kind of fig-tree (the bark being torn off, beaten with mallets and sewn together with plantain fibre), mats, fowls, ivory, bunches of plantains or sweet potatoes. The pile grows to a great size, and when the last gift is deposited a prayer of dedication is offered; the benediction given, and the service is ended.

This kind of pictorial teaching is sure to interest children and a wise teacher can instil many a lesson of sympathy and love into the young hearts that can henceforth picture in some degree the kind of life lived in far-away Africa. Each week some fresh place in the mission field may be chosen and illustrated in the same way, and if articles from foreign countries can be shown and explained there will be no difficulty in holding the attention of the children, for they love to see something real that they can handle and examine for themselves. The missionary album will often be in request, as its pictures will throw light upon various points under discussion.

If the class is in connection with a working party, then part of the proceeds of the work sold may be set apart for the maintenance of a little child in a foreign mission field. I have known this idea carried out with excellent effect, the children becoming keenly interested in their little Indian sister, eagerly listening to any information about her daily life, and sometimes writing simple child-like letters to her.

A child's maintenance in South India costs about three pounds a year, in other places it may be a little less or more. If it is possible to set apart ten pounds a year, then a cot in an Indian hospital may be endowed, and the young English workers will have the happiness of knowing that their efforts are the means of alleviating the distresses and perhaps even saving the lives of many little sufferers in far-away lands.

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