

YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE.

IN one way or another this is demanded of everyone who wishes to be useful to others. Sometimes both are given ungrudgingly: there are many noble examples of this. But there are many who give only their money as being the least trouble to themselves, without a thought as to whether its bestowal will do good or harm; and there are others who have little or no money to give, who give the attention and trouble of a life, often the most valuable of all.

Desultory acts of charity are of very little use, and do not benefit the recipients much. There must be system and order in this, as in every other work, if it is substantially to benefit anyone, and it is wonderful how easily one gets into the habit, once begun, of doing one's work in orderly fashion. The first thing is to know what you have to give, and then to give it with care and judgment. In spite of the enormous waste in households throughout the land, there seems to be an increasing disposition to save for others, which meets one at every turn. Your spare cash is demanded for every conceivable object and in the most ingenious ways. Bazaars and begging letters are now supplemented with A B C and other cards for penny subscriptions, which are pressed upon you by almost every friend. Heart-rending appeals also reach you by post from people you have never seen, and for objects for which you have no sympathy. Your spare clothes are requested for Board School children, hospitals, and institutions of every kind. Your spare food and scraps are valuable to those who undertake soup kitchens, and other means of feeding the deserving poor. Flowers and fruit from your garden, and eggs from your poultry-yard, are thankfully received by invalids; Christmas cards and pictures for hospital scrap-books; and if there should be anything for which you cannot find a use, it will not be long before you will hear of an "American fair," at which *everything* finds a

sale, from odd gloves to old saucepans: so that nothing need be wasted, and it is only a question of time and opportunity. When once the habit is formed you find yourself almost unconsciously arranging things in little heaps, and soon a system arises out of apparent chaos.

One department has interested me most, and that is the distribution of magazines and newspapers, which is not done so much as it might be. Some people are considerate enough to send or pass them on to friends, and this is a great kindness; but much more might be done.

My effort began some years ago, first by lending nice magazines to our servants for Sunday reading, then to putting aside interesting papers for an invalid confined to her room but of a very active mind. This soon extended to my sending papers abroad to friends; then to giving our cabman a paper with his fare whenever we engaged one; then to giving my newspaper to the porters when I had read it in the train. And then a great plan began to arrange itself in my brain for a much wider distribution. One friend promised me 2s. 6d. a month, and with some of my own means added I ordered from the local newsagent a good number of illustrated and other papers. I began with the illustrated papers and some of the best magazines.

First I took a selection to the cabmen on the ranks around, then to our local fire-engine station, to the men who changed the horses for the omnibuses, the hospital, police library, postmen, etc. These were regularly taken, but besides these I never went out without a packet for casual distribution to men engaged in building or road-making, at their dinner-hour. These were most pleasantly and gratefully accepted, as well as sheet almanacks. There were some papers, however, that were of a higher class, not suitable for such people. Well, I soon found a use for them. The ladies' papers were gladly received by an invalid lady,

who never saw them unless I sent them to her; also by a friend abroad, who valued them for the housekeeping and general information. Children had the *Infants'* and other magazines, and a clergyman in Canada was thankful for religious and scientific literature. A parcel was occasionally sent to a lads' institute in Whitechapel, and to a mission church library; and then I began to wish to buy some of the delightful books one sees reviewed. But alas! the time then came when, as many workers have to record, my income diminished, and I had to retrench. Now I am able only to keep up those who seem to have the most claim on me, and hope for better times.

But I write this in the hope of getting some of my readers to try the experiment—perhaps not on a large scale—remembering to give their literature to those who cannot get it for themselves. It is not only a question of having the pennies to buy them—these papers are not publicly exhibited and sold as they should be, or I am sure there would be much more purchased instead of the poisonous literature which is doing so much harm. Working men and women will not go into a shop and order them, but they will buy what is offered to them, and it is a great wish of mine to see in every parish a book hawk, who will take these books and papers to people's own doors, where they will be readily bought. Till this is done much may be done by individual effort; and I can answer for it, that it results in much that is pleasant to the distributor and to the receiver; and who knows what a chance word or the record of a noble life and deed may produce in the far future?

"Hearts, like doors, will open with ease
To very very little keys;
And don't forget that two of these
Are 'Thank you, sir,' and 'If you please.'"

C. M. FINN.



HOW TO OBTAIN KINDERGARTEN CERTIFICATES.

THE Kindergarten system has lately made so much advance in England that the demand for properly-trained Kindergarten teachers has greatly increased; and though, during the last three years, the number of Kindergarten candidates at the Froebel Society's examinations has quadrupled, the demand far exceeds the supply.

It may therefore interest young teachers, who at present look upon their profession as one already overcrowded, to realise that their prospect, should they elect to study the science and method of teaching as elaborated by Froebel, would be considerably improved.

We put this motive first because it is better to ascend than to descend, and because young girls on first entering on their career are unlikely to realise the full responsibility or the loftiness of the vocation of a teacher.

If they are attracted to the methods of Froebel by an appreciative sense of the beauty of his philosophic system and of his lofty ideals the advantage is great, and no doubt their standard of excellence and the calibre of their teaching will be higher than if pecuniary remuneration was their only motive for thus qualifying themselves for their profession.

But, whatever the reason—and we cannot blame nor ignore the first, though we admire and prefer the second—there is a general desire among the educational community for definite information as to how a student may best prepare herself for her career as a Kindergarten teacher.

There are several Kindergarten training-schools and colleges throughout England which prepare for the Certificate Examination of the National Froebel Union. Among the principal colleges are the Maria Grey Training College, 5, Fitzroy Street, W., where full training in the theory and practice of Kindergarten work is given to students preparing for the Higher Certificate of the National Froebel Union.

Madame Michaelis, one of the pioneers of the system in England, is opening the Froebel Training School of Primary Instruction at 11, Norland Place, Notting Hill; and her long experience and successful work at Croydon will make her removal to London a matter of pleasure to those who reside in London and could not attend at a distance. Students are prepared by her both for the Elementary and

Higher Certificate of the National Froebel Union.

Miss Franks, 13, York Place, Baker Street, is also a successful trainer, and makes blackboard and other drawing a special feature of her work.

There are several other Kindergarten training institutions in London, many of which are advertised in the papers of the National Froebel Union. In the country, Cheltenham, Manchester, Sheffield, Bedford, and Plymouth are the principal provincial centres of Training and of Examination.

The course of such training lasts either one or three years. The Elementary Certificate is generally obtained in the first year; the subjects for the higher are taken in two years. The expenses vary in each college, but non-resident students can complete the full curriculum for about £55 to £60 at one of the best colleges, and in some of them be received as student teachers. A syllabus of the National Froebel Union, examination question papers, and all details, may be obtained from the Froebel Society, 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, where there is also a Registry for Kindergarten Teachers.