

are more and more convinced that all our social work must relate itself to that system; it can touch our young people only at certain hours, ages and interests.

"So before the babies don at five the black apron of the *ecolier* and sit those long, long, hours on the stiff little benches, we give them the happy hours of kindergarten, and at the end of the school day, or on Thursdays, we are there in our *Cercle d'Écolier*, with an organised scheme of physical and manual training (camouflaged as games and toy making)."

Miss Clarke's arrival was the signal for the appearance of a crowd of little people. Evidently they were interested in the particular item of nature study on which they were engaged, for they had brought little jars of caterpillars, which they assured Miss Clarke were "*plein, plein.*" The walls of the schoolroom were also decorated with their handiwork, crude and immature, of course, but indicating that the children's sense of form and colour was being educated, and developing, and in some instances was full of promise. The classes on that September day were not being held in the schoolroom, but in a wood with the green pines overhead, the pine needles underfoot, and their healing aromatic scent in the air. "One can hold the children's attention so much better out of doors," explained Miss Clarke. I said that I had always understood that the one drawback to open-air schools was that the attention of the children was distracted by the outdoor sights and sounds. "Just at first," she replied, "but not ultimately; they learn better out of doors."

For the real establishment of an "*Entente Cordiale*," commend me to the kindergarten teacher. It is a matter of high politics, of course, but which is the more enduring, an "*Entente*" so arranged or the friendship being knitted so firmly between the Dames Americaines and the people of France? Do you suppose that those children who so confidently came up to Miss Clarke and put their little hands into hers, saying, "*Bonjour, Mademoiselle,*" and were met with an answering smile and a "*Bonjour Henri, bonjour Yvette,*" will to the end of their lives forget the happy days under the direction of so understanding and sympathetic a teacher? (The American plan is to place the very young children in charge of the most highly qualified and competent teachers, realising that the first five years of life are the most important of all.) Nor are the minds of the children educated and their bodies forgotten. The nurses of the American Unit keep in close touch with all the children, and every day before they leave school there is the *goûter*—the cup of chocolate, and biscuits to fortify them before the walk home, to which they respond with "*au revoir, merci mademoiselle.*" This Miss Parsons explained has been found better than giving a midday meal, for that is the meal above all others, that the mothers make every effort to provide. Thus the children are happy, cared for, content, and the friendship so formed and cemented is deep and enduring.

Incidentally, it seems to me most admirable that

nurses and teachers, each with their own well defined work, should be so closely associated. Mutual respect and appreciation of the work and methods of each are developed, as hand in hand they strive for the betterment of the race, and, further, the outlook of both is enlarged, for we are all inclined to think that our own bit of work in the world is the only one that matters, and to be brought into close touch with that of others with their wide range of difficult problems and fresh outlook, cannot fail to be a beneficent experience.

Returning to Vic I had the happiness of seeing something of the manifold duties of the "*Cards*," with Miss Parsons as guide. The stores are a very important part of the routine work. "Few groceries are now sold, for even the smallest and most remote villages have established some regular method of food supply, and over the edge of the battlefields the wholesale grocer's car rumbling in from Compeigne or Soissons, shows that commerce, too, has come back. But tools and furniture, household stuff, sheets and stores and clothing, how could our little world live without the Comité's supplies, and the Comité's transportation of these articles?"

Then there is the library, both for children and adults, housed in an attractive room, in which the latest periodicals for children are spread in the afternoon and for adults in the evening.

"Is all this experimental?" asks Miss Parsons in her report.

"Yes; experimental in the same sense in which the work of a laboratory is experimental. We know one object—the re-birth of communal life in noble form in our war-ruined villages. We do not know the best methods for that end, and it is just as we study the reactions of our people to *Jardins d'enfants*, Boy Scouts, domestic science classes, libraries, &c., or as we test the value to some little community of an Athletic Club, or a Children's Group, that Vic gets the sense at once scientific and adventurous of assisting in a truly thrilling experiment."

Go on and prosper, dear Dames Americaines, for the expert knowledge, the skill, the wisdom with which you carry on your experiments are rooted and grounded in that Love which is "the greatest thing in the world."
M. B.

It adds much to the anxiety of district nurses and midwives if the antiseptic they use is a poisonous one. They should therefore welcome the advent of "*Yadil*," supplied by CLEMENT & JOHNSON, 19, Sicilian Avenue, W., which is not only non-poisonous, but can be taken internally. The booklet, "*Science and Nursing*," obtainable post free from the Editor at the above address, gives many interesting particulars concerning it.

THE MEDICAL SUPPLY ASSOCIATION, LTD., 167, Gray's Inn Road, W.C. 1, has a fine selection of surgical instruments, hospital furniture, hot water bottles, Macdonald's Gold Medal Steam Dressing Steriliser, and other specialities.

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