



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,  
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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P.N.E.U. NOTES.

*Chairman of Committee:* Dr. A. T. Schofield. *Vice-Chairman:* A. C. P. Coote, Esq. *Treasurer:* James Gordon, Esq., Bradford Old Bank. *Hon. Sec.:* Miss C. M. Mason, House of Education, Ambleside. *Hon. Org. Sec.:* Henry Perrin, Esq., 8, Carlton Hill, London, N.W. *Asst. Sec.:* Miss Borthwick.—The objects of the Society are, briefly, to assist parents of all classes to understand the best principles and methods of Education in all its aspects, and especially in those which concern the formation of habits and character, and to afford to Parents opportunities for Co-operation and Consultation, so that the wisdom and experience of each may be made profitable for all.—Pamphlets, giving full particulars of the work of the Union, and the *Parents' Review* (6d. monthly), the organ of the Society, may be obtained from the Hon. Org. Sec., to whom all subscriptions and communications should be sent.

BELGRAVIA BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.:* The Lady Isabel Margesson, 63, St. George's Road, S.W.

HAMPSTEAD BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Braidwood, 2, Grosvenor Gardens, Willesden Green, N.W.—A public meeting of this branch was held at the South Hampstead High School, by the kind permission of the Council. Professor Sully took the chair. Mrs. Sophie Bryant, D. Sc., read a paper upon Children's Books, dealing with the story-books that children read, and advising what books, or kind of books, to provide for children at different stages of their development. She said that first of all fairy stories and folk lore are read eagerly, and they form an important part in the child's education, especially the antique heroic romances. They read next, books of adventure and travel, amongst which "Robinson Crusoe" takes a first place. Later on children read with pleasure historical romances and stories of everyday life. In forming a library for children she pointed to the importance of having a reason for choosing each book. Professor Sully spoke of the difficulty of interesting children in the right kind of literature, and advocated reading aloud in the family circle. Miss Anna Buckland spoke strongly in favour of the old-fashioned fairy stories, showing how each story is grouped round some inner truth. A discussion followed in which Mr. Darton, Mrs. Bloxam, and others took part. About 150 members and friends were present.

STREATHAM BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Strode, Bankside, Leigham Court Road, S.W.—Nov. 29th. At Miss Wallis' lecture on "Children's Home Work," the chair was taken by A. H. Tubby, Esq., M.B., M.S., instead of by Rev. J. H. Mallinson, as reported in our last issue.

A course of "Chatson Home Nursing," to ladies, by Miss Florence Hewett, has been most successful, the attendance averaging between 30 and 40.

WOODFORD AND WANSTEAD BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Spedding Curwen, Bywell, South Woodford.—Dec. 6th. A meeting was held on the invitation of Dr. and Mrs. Hills, attended by about 50 members and friends, when a paper was read by Mrs. Spencer Curwen on "How to make Music interesting to Children," with illustrations by three small pianists. Rev. G. B. Doughty in the chair.

In connection with this branch prizes have been awarded in the Natural History Competition to A. and D. Pelly, Ethel Sharp, K., E. and R. Curwen and Archie Keith. Fourteen collections were sent in, and kindly judged by Frank Barclay, Esq.

READING BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.:* Wm. Salmon, Esq., 56, London Street. The Annual General Meeting was held November 18th, when in spite of the inclement weather a good number of members and friends were present. The Reports show a steady increase in the number of members (now 74), a balance in hand of £4 10s. 5d. (a portion of which will be devoted to purchasing books for the Library), and an increased interest in the work of the Union. The next meeting is arranged for January 12th, when Miss Barnett is expected to lecture on "Children's Food, and its influence on mind and body."

BRIGHTON BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Borrer, Pakyns Manor, Hurstpierpoint. November 15th. An influentially attended meeting was held at Abniger House, the residence of G. W. E. Loder, Esq., M.P. and Lady Louise Loder, as the formal inauguration of this branch, which has, however, been at work through the summer as the Sussex Junior Archaeological Society. The chair was taken by the Rev. Canon Waugh, supported by Dr. Schofield, Mrs. Hart-Davis, and the Lady Isabel Margesson, who gave spirited and interesting addresses on the work of the Union. A number of members joined. Six lectures have already been arranged, the first of which will be delivered in February, by Miss Helen Webb, M.B., on "Nursery Hygiene."

EASTBOURNE BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Butt, Ingleside, Selwyn Road.—Nov. 21st. This branch has been very successfully inaugurated at a meeting held in the Town Hall by the kind invitation of Mrs. Ottley, when an exceedingly interesting and instructive lecture on the work of the Union was given by Dr. Schofield, followed by an address by the Lady Isabel Margesson. The chair was taken by the Vicar of Eastbourne (Rev. H. Bickersteth Ottley), and 40 members were enrolled. Arrangements are being made to begin the session with a public lecture in January.

HASTINGS BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.:* Mrs. Venables, St. Bernard's Lodge, St. Leonard's.—Nov. 14. At very short notice a meeting was held here, when an address was delivered by Mrs. Hart Davis. Twelve members joined at once, and arrangements are being made for the prosecution of active work.

SHEFFIELD BRANCH.—*Hon. Secs.:* Mrs. Newton Coombe, Brocco Bank, and Miss Walmsley, The High School.—On January 12th, an address will be delivered by the Hon. and Rev. A. Lyttleton, on "The True Meaning of Education."



LEEDS BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.*: Mrs. John Barran, Weetwood.—The second lecture of the session was given on November 24th, when Mrs. Miall read a paper on "Stupidity." She divided her subject into two parts, "Natural and Induced Stupidity," but confined her remarks to the former only. "Stupidity," she said, was a much misused term, and often applied to children who were *really* suffering from delicate health, impeded mental development, hereditary weakness, defective sight, defective hearing, or a bad memory. In some cases, too, parents were to be blamed for the dullness of their children in their want of attention to the simple rules of health, such as sufficient rest, healthy recreation and wholesome food. Such cases as these needed only simple common-sense remedies—fresh air for the weakly child, the oculists' advice for the short-sighted one, and so forth. For the *really* stupid child—which, though she had never met with one, she doubted not did exist—she advised plenty of fresh air, congenial work, praise, wherever and whenever it could conscientiously be given, and never allowing the child to know by any means that it was *thought stupid*. "No child," she said "is responsible for its stupidity any more than it is responsible for any other physical weakness. And as there are special methods employed for the training of the deaf and the blind, so there should be special methods adopted in the education of the "stupid." About forty members were present who greatly appreciated the interesting and practical address.

KENDAL BRANCH.—*Hon. Sec.*: Colin Somervell, Esq.

*Hon. Local Secs. are requested to send to Mr. Perrin without delay reports of all matters of interest connected with their branches, written on one side of the paper only, also 20 copies of any prospectuses or other papers they may print.*

## THE PARENTS' REVIEW

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OF HOME-TRAINING AND CULTURE.

"Education is an atmosphere, a discipline of life."

### TAKING COUNSEL.

"AND do you really think that these thoughts should begin so early?"

"Indeed, I do; I only wish that when people are about to marry, that they would give one thought beyond either their love-making or the worldly advantages that their marriage may bring with it! But the possibility of becoming fathers and mothers is altogether left out of their calculations. I suppose they would consider such thoughts indelicate, and so they go blindfold into untold responsibilities, and for the most part utterly unprepared for them. And this is more the fault of their parents than of themselves, I take it."

"I suspect that when they undertake these responsibilities the young people's training, such as it is, is already completed. As they were trained, so will they train. The inference, of course is, that in training our children we at the same time indirectly train our children's children. Well, let us hear what preparation it is possible to make for this future work. We are to begin, I suppose, with precept?"

"Yes, and by example. But once at man's estate our sons must and will think and act for themselves. No man of character will tolerate dictation in his choice of a wife even from those he loves best. But when he marries, I think a man should, so far as is possible, take his bird out of a good