



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

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but Miss Frances Blogg, Secretary of the Union, 28, Victoria Street, S.W., will gladly supply additional invitation cards for the *Conversazione* (free), and tickets for the Conference and Lecture (price 2/6) for distribution among friends. I would suggest that use be made of these to interest outsiders in the work of the Union. The committee trust that country branches will be well represented, and that the opportunity of hearing our founder and other readers of papers will be eagerly seized. They are very glad to arrange that hospitality be offered to representatives and secretaries of branches, and will also furnish particulars of hotels and lodgings where desired. Anyone wishing to speak on any of the subjects under discussion is requested to communicate with Miss F. Blogg.

Yours faithfully, H. FRANKLIN,  
*Hon. Organizing Sec.*

9, Pembridge Gardens.

MADAM,—I notice in your March number a report of the address given by Mrs E. L. Franklin at a conference of the Children's Country Holidays Fund workers.

May I suggest to those of your readers who are interested in attempting to teach children to study nature how much we should welcome their help? We send children to over 800 villages, and I have no doubt that most of the residents in the home counties, and very many further afield, are very near to villages where our children are sent. If any such are willing to arrange to take the children for Natural History rambles occasionally, or in any other way to help them to collect or notice leaves and flowers, I shall be very glad if they will communicate with me, and I will send fuller particulars and the name of the nearest village to which we send children.

Yours obediently,

E. A. C. MCCURDY, *Secretary C.C.H.F.*

10, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

DEAR EDITOR,—“Our Gentlemanly Failures,” in the *Fortnightly* for March, is “a protest against the pleasant cant involved in the phrase, *mens sana in corpore sano*.” The writer considers that the ideal we have had of a public school education since the time of Dr. Arnold has had its day, that all-round average merit is worth nothing. “Lament it as we may,” he says, “we must acknowledge the fact that the future is for the one-sided men, those who have made the most of their special gift, or if they are endowed with several have ruthlessly concentrated themselves upon one. Now, it is just this particularization, this possibly lop-sided development, which is checked if the learning years are spent, and the after-life is moulded, on the old-fashioned training—the almost equal division between mental and bodily education. Its demands on the time and energy of those who undergo it are so exacting that no chance is left for a man to differentiate himself from his likes.” With this, however, we may compare the following quotation in the *Spectator* of April 3rd, from the Portuguese of Oliveira Martins, who, in his new work, “The England of To-day,” says that our boys “are brought up in games from the first. The end they have in view is not to produce intellectual instruments, it is to form healthy and active individuals, sound and herculean, brave and good Englishmen, useful, serviceable, truthful, honest gentlemen and Christians.”

I find in my note-book a letter to the *Times*, with the comments of the *Westminster Gazette*, from a mother complaining of the fact that her boy's eyes have been seriously injured by the very small print of some of the books used at school, which calls attention to a real grievance. The matter has been notorious for a considerable time past—existing, as it does, both in Board schools and in some of the leading secondary schools. Increased attention is now given, and rightly so, to physical exercise and to the teaching of hygiene; but what a farce it is that the children at the same time should be compelled to read print which is altogether unfit for their eyes—or for any eyes. The same may be said of much of the needlework in the London Board schools—the so-called “darning” especially being so fine that a magnifying-glass is almost necessary to examine it. The tantalising thing, of course, is that for all practical purposes work of this character is wasted—that is to say, the pupils and pupil teachers who are called upon at the expense of a great strain to execute it in the school never find afterwards that they have to do it in the home. But however that may be, there is no doubt whatever of the damage to the eyesight of the scholars that small print and fine needlework are causing, and it is rather surprising that the present state of things should be allowed to go on.

The *Westminster* for April has an article by Miss M. L. H. Unwin on the value of clay-modelling in education as teaching observation, dexterity of hand, delicacy of touch, faculty of perception of form and appreciation of the highest branches of art.

PATER JUNIOR.

### P.N.E.U. NOTES.

*Edited by Miss FRANCES BLOGG, Sec., 28, Victoria Street, S.W.*

*To whom all Hon. Local Secs. are requested to send reports of all matters of interest connected with their branches, also 30 copies of any prospectuses or other papers they may print.*

#### NEW BRANCHES.

The Executive Committee has been approached with a view to starting Branches in the following places:—

HARROW.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Sieveking, 4, Lyon Road. Opening Meeting, May 20th.

BRADFORD.

MANCHESTER.

CHICHESTER.

EALING.

COLCHESTER.—Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*, Mrs. Powell, Gt. Bentley Vicarage.

NOTTINGHAM.

BLACKHEATH.

CROYDON.

STREATHAM.

BECKENHAM.

CARLISLE.

FOREST HILL.

ENFIELD.

DOVER.

BRUSSELS.

Readers of the *Parents' Review* living in these districts, or having friends there, are asked to communicate with Miss Blogg.

BELGRAVIA.—The next meeting will be held on May 4th, at 5 p.m., at 74, Eaton Square, S.W. (by kind permission of Mrs. Rutson), when the Rev. Professor Shuttleworth will lecture on "The Work of Women in English Fiction." Particulars of classes for children in Singing (Tonic Sol-fa), French (Gouin), and Dancing, to be had from the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Cockburn, 39, Elvaston Place, S.W.

HYDE PARK AND BAYSWATER.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Franklin, 9, Pembroke Gardens (at home Thursday mornings). On May 7th, a lecture will be given by Mrs. Grindrod, at 5 p.m., at 19, Campden Hill Road (by kind permission of Mrs. Dickinson), entitled "At School on Hampstead Heath." *Cricket* for girls and children commences on May 3rd. Brush-drawing, Handwork, and French Classes have been arranged, for which names and subscriptions should be sent at once. The Natural History Excursions commence on May 5th, full particulars from Mrs. Franklin. It is hoped that all members will purchase tickets for the P.N.E.U. Conference.

HAMPSTEAD.—On March 10th a meeting was held at 13, Carlingford Road (by kind permission of Miss Pridham and Miss Wells). A large audience followed Professor Boulger's remarks on "London Trees" with interest. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. Kirkman. The last meeting took place on April 7th at Penrose, by the kindness of Dr. and Mrs. Lucey. Mrs. Webster, L.R.A.M., gave a lecture on Friedrich Wieck's method of teaching the piano, illustrating the subject by the blackboard and the piano. The chairman was Cecil Sharp, Esq., Principal of the Hampstead Conservatoire. The plan of an excursion to Silchester, to be made in June by members and their friends, is now under consideration. Details will shortly be announced. Any members who would like to join are asked to send their names to the Hon. Sec. by the middle of May.

ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—On Wednesday, March 24th, a meeting was held at 159, King Henry's Road (by kind permission of the Misses Locket), when the address was given by Miss Edith A. Barnett, upon "The part Pleasure should play in any scheme of Education." The address was a most valuable one—full of suggestions for the attainment of the happy mean between the curmudgeon, who looks upon all pleasure as sinful, and the sybarite, who regards pleasure as the one thing needful, and denies nothing so that that end be gained. Miss Barnett's remarks gave much food for thought, and were listened to with marked appreciation by the members present. A short discussion ensued, the principal speaker being — Schulhof, Esq. Henry Perrin, Esq., took the chair.—The next meeting will be held on April 29th, at the house of White Wallis, Esq., 76, Carlton Hill, N.W., when Miss Walter, of the Central Foundation School for Girls, Spital Square, E., will give the address.—At the May meeting, Miss Beeton (once a resident in Hampstead), will give a paper upon "Points of interest in American Educational Methods," from experience acquired in New York.

CLAPHAM.—The latest lecture was given at 20, Cedars Road (by kind invitation of Mrs. Bideleux), on the "Teaching of Languages," by Mdlle. Duriaux, with a practical demonstration on children. In the

unavoidable absence of the rector, Mrs. Duke kindly took the chair, and led the animated discussion which followed this delightful lecture. All the members expressed themselves most warmly on the admirable method expounded by Mdlle. Duriaux, and we earnestly wish that every teacher and every parent in Clapham had been present. The Reading Circle was held at Windmill House (by kind invitation of Mrs. Duke), when the "Age of Bustle," by Sir Alfred Milner, was read and discussed.

READING.—A meeting of the Natural History Club was held on Tuesday, April 6th, in Abbey Hall (kindly lent by Messrs. Sutton & Sons), when a most interesting address was given by Rev. J. E. Tarbat, M.A., entitled "A Country Walk." After the address, specimens illustrating what had been said were handed round. There was a large attendance of members and friends. This was followed on Saturday, April 10th, by an excursion on foot to Arborfield Old Church, a distance of between three and four miles. The weather was perfect, and the ramble was much enjoyed by all. Sixty-five were present, the majority of whom gave their attention to the collection of plants and spring flowers.

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS.—A paper on "Children's Books" was read on the 3rd of April, at St. Peter's Vicarage (by kind permission of Mrs. Hughes), by the Rev. Frank R. Burrows, M.A., of Ancaster House School. The chair was taken by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Lewes. The same paper will be read again one evening in May, as the 3rd of April was an unfortunately wet day.

SOUTHPORT.—On the evening of Wednesday, March 17th, the last meeting of the session was held at Wintersdorf, under the presidency of the Rev. H. E. Mocatta. After a short speech, during which he reviewed the work of the session, Mr. Mocatta called upon Miss Simon to read a paper on "The History and Aim of the Parents' National Educational Union." After this paper a short one was read by Miss Shaw, entitled the "Wintersdorf Wayside and Woodland Society," in the hope that a similar little club might be formed and carried on by the Southport branch of the Parents' National Educational Union. At the conclusion of Miss Shaw's paper, Mrs. Steinthal gave a detailed account of the work of the Parents' National Educational Union in its various branches, the Natural History Club, the Mothers' Educational Course, the Parents' Review School, and the House of Education, &c., concluding by urging all members and office-bearers of the Southport branch then present, to attend the Conference to be held in London, in the month of May.

SHEFFIELD.—The third meeting of this session was held on January 28th, at the Girls' High School, when there was a large attendance of members and friends. The Rev. J. R. Eyre, Archdeacon of Sheffield, presided, and an address on "The Limitations of Parental Responsibility," was given by Mr. Arthur Phillp, of Birmingham. This meeting was held in the evening to suit the convenience of gentlemen, and a fair number availed themselves of the opportunity to be present.—The fourth and last meeting was held on April 9th, when Miss Vida Sturge lectured on "The Physical Education of Girls."

WIMBLEDON.—On Friday, March 19th, Ronald McNeill, Esq., gave an interesting lecture on the "Choice of Literature for the Young," at

Ravenscar (by kind permission of Mrs. George Druce). The meeting was well attended, and a lively discussion followed the lecturer's remarks. At the opening of the meeting, the chairman, the Rev. F. S. Colman, put a vote of thanks, which was carried unanimously to Miss Saunders, for her able assistance in the inauguration of the Branch.

BIRKENHEAD.—On March 17th, Mrs. Steinthal gave a most delightful lesson in Brush-drawing to over 40 members of the P.N.E.U., in St. Aidan's College (by kind permission of the Rev. Elmer Harding). The lesson was much appreciated by those present. This completes the lectures for the first session. A Field Club is now being organised for children during the summer months.

RICHMOND AND KEW.—A drawing-room meeting was held on the 16th March at Ancaster House, Richmond Hill (by kind permission of Mrs. Shuttleworth), when an interesting paper, entitled "Mental overstrain in Education," was read by Dr. Shuttleworth. Mr. Palliser presided, and there was a very good attendance. The lecturer pointed out that one of the greatest evils of overpressure is to be found in the injudicious practice that prevails of treating scholars as so many units, and not as individuals possessing different mental capacities and susceptibilities. The dull children in elementary schools are no longer the worst sufferers from the pernicious system. Rather it is the bright ones, who under the new code are apt to feel its effects, and to develop nervous symptoms under the stimulus of examinations and inspections. In boys' schools the mischief of overstrain was mitigated by the systematic inclusion of outdoor games, but in girls' schools, where there was seldom adequate provision for outdoor exercise, the fruits of overpressure were often visible. Girls were not only required to learn all that their brothers of a corresponding age were taught, but they had to study extra accomplishments, considered feminine, and systematic outdoor exercise was neglected. Dr. Shuttleworth concluded by advocating not only all outdoor exercise, but also insisted on the importance of practical lessons in the principles of hygiene, both for teachers and pupils. An interesting discussion followed, and a vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Shuttleworth for his paper, which was much appreciated.

GLASGOW.—On March 25th, an address was given by Dr. T. H. Bryce, at 15, Kew Terrace (by kind permission of Mrs. Stodart), on "The Anatomy and Physiology of the Skin in Relation to the Clothing of Young Children." The lecturer gave a short account of the structure of the skin, showing sections, by the aid of a lantern. He then went on to say its uses as a nerve, excretory and heat-regulating mechanism, and in conclusion gave a list of substances most suitable for wear, flannel or buckskin heading the list, and spun-silk closing it. The audience was small but appreciative.

FARNWORTH AND BOLTON.—A meeting of this Branch was held on March 15th, when Mrs. Steinthal, of Ilkley, kindly gave a most interesting address on the Parent's Union. Unfortunately the number of members present was small, but those who were there very much enjoyed and appreciated the meeting.

# THE PARENTS' REVIEW

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OF HOME-TRAINING AND CULTURE.

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

AT SCHOOL ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH.\*

BY MRS. GRINDROD.

FIFTY years ago, when that famous pioneer of science, Dr. William Buckland, was Professor of Geology in the University of Oxford, it was his pleasant custom on occasion to announce to his class at the close of a lecture, "To-morrow, gentlemen, we shall meet at the top of Shotover, at ten o'clock." And to the top of Shotover Hill the class would ride or walk from Oxford the next morning, and there the professor would talk to them in his vivacious, impressive fashion about the formation of the hill on which they stood, its limestones, clays, ironstones, gravels or fossils, on the evidences of denudation or the methods of stratification. And if things got a bit dull he would take especial delight in giving the most fastidious of the equestrian freshmen a practical lesson in geology by leading their horses through the stick-fast mud on the slopes so that they might remember the nature of the Kimmeridge clay. And, doubtless, they did remember it, with the help of Common Room jokes thereon.

Dr. Buckland, like every great man of science (and if one may presume to judge from programmes alone, like the truly scientific promoters of the work of this Union) was thoroughly convinced of the supreme importance of the school out of school, of out-door education. Buckland used often to say that such geological terms as stratification, denudation, faults, —to mention only a few of the commonest—could never be understood through lecture-room teaching alone. Shotover

\* Paper read before a meeting of the Hyde Park and Bayswater Branch of the Parents' National Educational Union, May 7th, 1897.