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INDEX TO VOL. XII.

1901.

A.

	PAGE
A Boy's Religion. By Rev. J. Miller - - -	241
A Chat about Capri. By Lieut.-Col. Hensted - - -	37
A Daily Rest—Simple Things. By S. F. S. - - -	958
Address to the Educational Science Section of the British Association Meeting. By Right Hon. Sir J. E. Gorst, F.R.S.	825
A Few Words about the P.N.E.U.	
By Madame Reppman, of Moscow - - -	701
A German Christmas Eve. By Michael Fairless - - -	913
A Holiday in Cumberland. By M. L. Armit - - -	873
Alfred, Hyde Abbey and King. By the Editor - - -	718
An Apology for the Mediocre Person. By G. M. Gwynne - - -	779
A Plea for Brothers. By Mrs. Powell - - -	801
Art Club, Senior 67, 150, 230, 310, 390, 475, 558, 661, 735, 817, 896, 968	
A Stroll in search of Flowers near a village in Wiltshire.	
By C. A. Rooper - - - - -	463

B.

Beautiful, On the Study of the. By E. H. Farnell - - -	177
Bible Lessons, Early. By L. Gore - - -	509
Bodies," "Ourselves, our Souls and. By the Editor	
47, 133, 209, 284, 357, 444, 789	
Books - - - - -	69, 152, 232, 311, 391, 476, 970
Botanical Gardens and their Value in Education.	
By Rev. W. Tuckwell - - - - -	169
Boys, How to Prepare our, for the Temptations of Public School Life. By Ven. Archdeacon Thornton - - -	354
Boys and Mothers. By the Lord Bishop of Stepney - - -	81
Breathing, The Art of. By E. R. Matzke - - -	107

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AND AT IPSWICH.

C.

	PAGE
Capri, A Chat about. By Lieut.-Col. Hensted	37
Character and the Will. By A. T. Schofield, M.D.	I
Childish Ailments. By Dr. E. Colebrook	853
Children on Sundays. By R. Bird	836, 930
Children, The Care of. By Mrs. Davis	711
Children, The Feeding of Growing. By J. Roberson Day	332
Children's Occupations in the Nursery. By K. L. Hart-Davis	937
Christmas Eve, A German. By Michael Fairless	913
Competition, The Spirit of. Should it be encouraged?	251
Conference, P.N.E.U.	481-558, 561-661
Conversazione	586

D.

Development in Children, Mental. By L. R. Hockley	127
Discipline, Nursery. By Mrs. Ridges	534
Discussion on Concrete Problems	636
Distinctions among Howlers. By M. W. Middleton	387

E.

Early Bible Lessons. By L. Gore	509
Early Lessons in English Grammar. By B. Wingate	527
Early Religious Teaching. By Mrs. Hart-Davis	654
Early Religious Training of Children, The. By Professor H. C. Beeching	646
Educational Museums and Field Lore. By E. W. Swanton	601
Education, Hero-Worship as a Factor in. By L. Montagu	561
"Education is a Life." By the Editor	482
Education, Lord Collingwood's Theory and Practice of. By T. G. Rooper	321
Education of an only Child, The. By Mrs. Clement Parsons	609
Education of a Royal Princess," "The	162, 298, 467, 728
Education, The Father's Place in. By J. H. Badley	621
Euclid's Sixth Book. By P. G. O'Connell	43

F.

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. By Mrs. M. Y. Maxwell	7, 93
First Reading Lessons. By E. Armitage	494
Fröbel and the Kindergarten System. By the Rev. William Burnet, M.A.	953

G.

	PAGE
Gardens and their Value in Education, Botanical. By Rev. W. Tuckwell	169
Garden Gossip. By Miss Armitage	56, 146, 222, 296, 382, 459, 715, 814, 884, 965
Gentlewomen in Elementary Schools. By Mrs. E. M. Field	891
Geography, The Teaching of. By J. H. Raundrup, M.Sc.	684, 770
German Christmas Eve, A. By Michael Fairless	913
Grammar, Early Lessons in English. By B. Wingate	527
Griffin, The Story of the Dreadful. By M. Fairless	305

H.

Hero-Worship as a Factor in Education. By L. Montagu	561
Historic London: its Teaching for the Child. By D. L. Maguire, L.L.A.	203, 278
History, The Teaching of. By D. M. H. Nesbitt	917
History, The Teaching of Contemporary. By R. A. Pennethorne	272
How to Prepare our Boys for the Temptations of Public School Life. By Ven. Archdeacon Thornton	354
Hurry, On the Ill-effects of. By Mabel Escombe	946
Hyde Abbey and King Alfred. By the Editor	718
Hysteric Disease from the Lay Point of View, On. By C. F. Yonge	847

I.

Ill-effects of Hurry, On the. By Mabel Escombe	946
Impressions of the Conference	659
In Memory of February 2nd. By Rev. C. V. Gorton	161

K

Kindergarten System, Fröbel and the. By the Rev. William Burnet, M.A.	953
--	-----

L.

Letter Bag, The "P.R." 74, 155, 234, 314, 396, 558, 662, 741, 822, 898, 977	
Library, Our. By V. H. Allemandy	226, 371, 723, 808, 887, 961
Life," "Education is a. By the Editor	482
Limitations of the School, The. By G. F. Bridge	101, 186
London: its Teaching for the Child, Historic. By D. L. Maguire, L.L.A.	203, 278
Lord Collingwood's Theory and Practice of Education By T. G. Rooper	321

M.

	PAGE
Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Felix. By Mrs. Maxwell Y. Maxwell	7, 93
Mental Development in Children. By L. R. Hockley -	127
Mother and Child, Poems of. By the Editor -	905
Motherhood, The Scope of. By Lady Hamilton -	694
Mothers and Boys. By the Lord Bishop of Stepney -	81
Motives of Moral Action. By C. Montefiore -	591
Museums and Field Lore, Educational. By E. W. Swanton	601

N.

Natural History Clubs, P.N.E.U. By F. Blogg -	378
Nature Teaching. By E. M. E. Wilkinson -	515
Notes, P.N.E.U. 76, 157, 236, 316, 379, 479, 539, 663, 823, 900,	977
Nursery, Children's Occupations in the. By K. L. Hart-Davis	937
Nursery Discipline. By Mrs. Ridges -	534

O.

Occupations in the Nursery, Children's. By K. L. Hart-Davis	937
On Hysterical Disease from the Lay Point of View. By C. Fortescue Yonge -	847
On the Ill-effects of Hurry. By Mabel Escombe -	946
On the Study of the Beautiful. By E. H. Farnell -	177
Our Library. By V. H. Allemandy - 226, 371, 723, 808, 887, 961	
"Ourselves, our Souls and Bodies." By the Editor - 47, 133, 209, 284, 357, 444, 789	789
Our Work - 68, 150, 230, 310, 391, 475, 558, 661, 735, 817, 968	
Over-Pressure. By T. Fred Gardner, M.R.C.P. -	760

P.

Picture Talks. By K. R. Hammond -	501
Picture, The story of an old -	20
"Plutarch's Lives" as affording some Education as a Citizen. By M. Ambler -	520
Poems of Mother and Child. By the Editor -	905
P.N.E.U., A few words about the. By Madame Reppman, of Moscow -	701
P.N.E.U. Conference -	481-558, 561-661
P.N.E.U. Natural History Clubs. By F. Blogg -	378
P.N.E.U. Notes - 76, 157, 236, 316, 397, 479, 539, 663, 823, 900,	977
Poetry to Children, The Teaching of. By Mrs. J. G. Simpson	879
"P.R." Letter Bag, The 74, 155, 234, 314, 396, 558, 662, 741, 822, 898,	977

R.

	PAGE
Reading Lessons, First. By E. Armitage -	494
Religion, A Boy's. By Rev. H. Miller -	241
Religious Education. By Rev. J. Rice Byrne, H.M.I. (<i>retired</i>)	437
Religious Teaching, Early. By Mrs. Hart-Davis -	654
Religious Training of Children, The Early. By Professor H. C. Beeching -	646
Religious Truth, The Home Teaching of. By Rev. H. E. Victor	15
Rest, The Psychology of. By George Wilson, M.D. -	574
Ring and the Book, The. By E. A. Skurray -	745, 858
Royal Princess," "The Education of a - 162, 298, 467, 728	

S.

School, The Limitations of the. By G. F. Bridge -	101, 186
School, According to Ruskin, The. By J. L. Paton -	545
Scientific Training, The value of. By Professor Logan Lobley	118
Seasons, The. Edited by Miss Armit -	56
Senior Art Club 67, 150, 230, 310, 390, 475, 558, 661, 735, 817, 896,	968
Simple Things—A Daily Rest. By S. F. S. -	3
Socrates. Parts III. and IV. By H. Y. Maxwell, LL.B.	342, 401
Souls and Bodies," "Ourselves, our. By the Editor 47, 133, 209, 284, 357, 444, 789	789
Study of the Beautiful, On the. By E. H. Farnell -	177
Sundays, Children on. By R. Bird. -	83 930

T.

T. E. Brown: Poet and Schoolmaster. By A. M. Harris -	416
The Art of Breathing. By E. R. Matzke -	107
The Care of Children. By Mrs. Davis -	711
The Early Religious Training of Children. By Professor H. C. Beeching -	646
The Education of an only Child. By Mrs. Clement Parsons	609
"The Education of a Royal Princess" - 162, 298, 467, 728	
The Father's Place in Education. By J. H. Badley -	621
The Feeding of Growing Children. By J. Roberson Day, M.D. (Lond.) -	332
The Garden of Art -	65
The Home Teaching of Religious Truth. By Rev. H. E. Victor	15
The Influence of the Home on the School. By B. L. Kennett	426
The Ring and the Book. By E. A. Skurray -	745, 8
The Limitations of the School. By G. F. Bridge -	101, 186

	PAGE
Theory and Practice of Education, Lord Collingwood's. By T. G. Rooper	321
The Poet Wordsworth. By Rev. W. Tuckwell	566
The "P.R." Letter Bag 74, 155, 234, 314, 396, 558, 662, 741, 822, 898,	977
The Psychology of Rest. By G. Wilson, M.D.	574
The Scope of Motherhood. By Lady Hamilton	694
The School According to Ruskin. By J. L. Paton	545
The Seasons. Edited by Miss Armitt	56
The Spirit of Competition. Should it be Encouraged?	251
The Study of the Beautiful, On. By E. H. Farnell	177
The Story of an old Picture	20
The Story of the Dreadful Griffin. By M. Fairless	305
The Teaching of Contemporary History. By R. A. Pennethorne	272
The Teaching of Geography. By J. H. Raundrup, M.Sc.	684, 770
The Teaching of History. By D. M. H. Nesbitt	917
The Teaching of Poetry to Children. By Mrs. J. G. Simpson	879
The Value of Scientific Training. By Professor Logan Lobley	118
Thring as an Educationalist. By P. H. Bagenal, H.M.I.	25
V.	
Victoria. By Michael Fairless	146
W.	
Will, Character and the. By A. T. Schofield, M.D.	1
Words which have seen Better Days. By G. L. Apperson	196, 264
Wordsworth, The Poet. By Rev. W. Tuckwell	566
Work, Our - 68, 150, 230, 310, 391, 475, 558, 661, 735, 817, 968	

INDEX OF BOOKS REVIEWED IN "THE PARENTS' REVIEW."

	PAGE
A.	
<i>A Real Queen's Fairy Book.</i> By Carmen Sylva	974
<i>Adventures in Wallypug Land.</i> By G. E. Farrow	973
<i>Alfred Tennyson.</i> By Andrew Lang	975
<i>Alfred the Great.</i> Edited by A. Bowker	736
<i>A Prose Poet of Childhood</i> (J. P. Richter). Selections by K. B. Sharman	821
<i>A Sketch of the Development of Philosophic Thought from Thales to Kant.</i> By L. Noiré	477
<i>Atlas, The London School.</i> Edited by H. O. Arnold Forster	233
<i>At the Foot of the Rainbow.</i> By H. M. Cornwall-Legh	73
B.	
<i>Baker Minor and the Dragon.</i> By G. E. Farrow	973
<i>Birds, Studies of Lakeland.</i> By M. L. Armitt	817
<i>Bunyan, The Pilgrim's Progress, etc.</i> Edited by E. Venables	818
<i>Burne-Jones.</i> By Malcolm Bell	975
C.	
<i>Carpet Plays: Cranford at Home.</i> Edited by L. Oldershaw	821
<i>Character, Stray Thoughts on.</i> By L. M. Soulsby	71
<i>Character, The Springs of.</i> By A. T. Schofield, M.D.	153
<i>Child: His Nature and Nurture, The.</i> By W. B. Drummond	820
<i>Children, The Home Training of.</i> By H. Franklin	394
<i>Children's Sayings.</i> By W. Canton	392
<i>Clean Peter and the Children of Grubbylea.</i> Translated by Ada Wallis	972
<i>Concerning Children.</i> By C. Perkins Gilman	312
<i>Conferences on Books and Men</i>	234
<i>Continuous Story Readers.</i> Published by Arnold	820
D.	
<i>Domestic Ditties.</i> By Alfred Scott-Gatty	972
<i>Domesticities.</i> By E. V. Lucas	233
E.	
<i>Easy Stories.</i> By E. Turner	819
<i>Education and Life.</i> By J. H. Baker	395
<i>Education, Historical Survey of Pre-Christian.</i> By S. S. Laune, LL.D.	152
<i>Englische Skizzen von einer deutschen Lehrerin</i>	479

X INDEX OF BOOKS REVIEWED IN "THE PARENTS' REVIEW."

	PAGE
<i>English Classics Series.</i> Published by Blackwood & Sons	393
<i>Exercises for Spinal Curvature, Home.</i> By R. Timberg, G.D. ..	818
<i>Eyes and No-Eyes Series.</i> By Arabella B. Buckley (Mrs. Fisher) ..	975
F.	
<i>Fairies.</i> By M. T. Pole	72
<i>Familiar Butterflies and Moths.</i> By W. F. Kirby	898
<i>Far Off.</i> By the Author of <i>The Peep of Day</i>	819
<i>Flower Legends for Children.</i> By Hilda Murray	972
<i>Frances Mary Buss Schools: Jubilee, 1900</i>	73
<i>French Life in Town and Country.</i> By H. Lynch	391
G.	
<i>Gardens, and how to make the most of them, Small.</i> By V. Biddle ..	818
<i>Glimpses into Plant Life.</i> By Mrs. Brightwen	897
H.	
<i>Hans Memlinc.</i> By W. H. J. Weale	393
<i>Her Wilful Way.</i> By E. Searchfield	74
<i>Historical Survey of Pre-Christian Education.</i> By S. S. Laurie, LL.D. ..	152
<i>Holidays and Happy Days.</i> By Hamish Hendry	971
<i>Home Exercises for Spinal Curvature.</i> By R. Timberg, G.D. ..	818
I.	
<i>Inductive Geometry for Transition Classes.</i> By H. A. Nesbitt ..	74
<i>Inmates of my House and Garden.</i> By Mrs. Brightwen	897
<i>In the Deep Woods: Possum Stories.</i> By A. B. Paine	74
<i>In the Palace of the Kings.</i> By Marion Crawford	72
<i>In Tuscany.</i> By M. Carmichael	232
J.	
<i>Jesus, the Carpenter of Nazareth.</i> By Robert Bird	739
<i>Joseph the Dreamer.</i> By Robert Bird	741
K.	
<i>King Arthur and His Noble Knights, The Book of.</i> By M. Macleod ..	70
L.	
<i>Lip-Reading.</i> By J. A. Pollock	821
<i>Lord's Prayer, The Social Teaching of.</i> By Dean Stubbs	70
<i>Lysbeth: A Tale of the Dutch.</i> By Rider Haggard	737
M.	
<i>Memlinc, Hans.</i> By W. H. J. Weale	393
<i>My Lady of Orange.</i> By H. C. Bailey	737

INDEX OF BOOKS REVIEWED IN "THE PARENTS' REVIEW." xi

	PAGE
N.	
<i>Naomi's Exodus.</i> By L. H. Montagu	311
<i>Nature Myths and Stories.</i> By F. G. Cooke	72
P.	
<i>Paul of Tarsus.</i> By Robert Bird	740
<i>Piero della Francesca.</i> By W. G. Walters	476
<i>Pintorrichio.</i> By E. M. Philips	392
<i>Poetry Books, The Laureate.</i> Published by Arnold	821
<i>Principles of Religious Education</i>	478
Q.	
<i>Quarterly, The Children's</i>	155, 821
R.	
<i>Religious Education, Principles of</i>	478
S.	
<i>Secret of the Presence, The.</i> By H. C. G. Moule	69
<i>Sketch of the Development of Philosophic Thought from Thales to Kant.</i> By L. Noiré	477
<i>Small Gardens and how to make the most of them.</i> By V. Biddle ..	818
<i>Spanish Highways and Byways.</i> By K. Lee Bates	311
<i>Stray Thoughts on Character.</i> By L. M. Soulsby	71
<i>Studies of Lakeland Birds.</i> By M. L. Armit	817
T.	
<i>Tales told in the Zoo.</i> By F. C. Gould	73
<i>The Beloved Son: The Story of Jesus Christ told to Children.</i> By F. Rye	154
<i>The Book of Saints and Friendly Beasts.</i> By E. F. Brown	233
<i>The Book of the Home.</i> Edited by H. C. Davidson	820
<i>The Book of King Arthur and his Noble Knights.</i> By M. Macleod ..	70
<i>The Boys' Own Paper</i>	974
<i>The Boys' Odyssey.</i> By Walter Copland Perry	971
<i>The Child: His Nature and Nurture.</i> By W. B. Drummond	820
<i>The Children's Quarterly.</i>	155, 821
<i>The Crisis.</i> By Winston Churchill	739
<i>The Golliwog's Auto-go Cart.</i> By Florence K. Upton	972
<i>The Girls' Own Paper</i>	973
<i>The Home Training of Children.</i> By H. Franklin	394
<i>The Hidden Servants.</i> By Francesca Alexander	478
<i>The Laureate Poetry Books.</i> Published by Arnold	821
<i>The Life and Death of Richard Yea and Nay.</i> By M. Hewlett ..	72
<i>The Little Panjandrum's Dodo.</i> By G. E. Farrow	970

xii INDEX OF BOOKS REVIEWED IN "THE PARENTS' REVIEW."

	PAGE
<i>The London School Atlas.</i> Edited by H. O. Arnold Forster ..	233
<i>The Mandarin's Kite.</i> By G. E. Farrow	971
<i>The Mill on the Floss, and Felix Holt.</i> Warwick Edition ..	822
<i>The Miracles of Jesus.</i> By Cosmo Lang Gordon ..	395
<i>The Missing Prince.</i> By G. E. Farrow	973
<i>The New Panjandrum.</i> By G. E. Farrow	973
<i>The Old Knowledge.</i> By Stephen Gwynn	970
<i>The Olde Irishe Rimes of Barny O'Linn.</i> Illustrated by S. Rosumund Praeger	971
<i>The Painters of Florence from the Thirteenth to the Sixteenth Century.</i> By Julia Cartwright	394
<i>The Romance of the Earth.</i> By E. W. Bickerton	392
<i>The Secret of the Presence, and other Sermons.</i> By H. C. G. Moule ..	69
<i>The Social Teaching of the Lord's Prayer.</i> By Dean Stubbs ..	70
<i>The Springs of Character.</i> By A. T. Schofield, M.D.	153
<i>The Story of my Four Friends.</i> By J. Andrews	393
<i>The Story of Little Black Mingo</i>	973
<i>Tuscany, In.</i> By M. Carmichael	232
<i>The Village School Reader.</i> Arranged by C. Saville Roundell ..	819
<i>The Violet Fairy Book.</i> By Andrew Lang	897
<i>The Wallypug of Why.</i> By G. E. Farrow	972
<i>The Wallypug in London.</i> By G. E. Farrow	972
<i>The Wild Animal Play for Children.</i> By E. Seton-Thompson ..	73
V.	
<i>Velasquez.</i> By G. C. Williamson LL.D.	974
W.	
<i>With Christ at Sea.</i> By F. Bullen	313
<i>Wilderness Ways.</i> By W. J. Long	73
<i>Wrong from the First.</i> By Mr. Hart	73

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CHARACTER AND THE WILL.

BY A. T. SCHOFIELD, M.D.

IN these few papers on character we shall consider first of all the freedom of the will, which includes the whole question of moral responsibility; and then its effect on character. Its relation to morality will come next, and then its expression in action.

All our readers must be aware of the endless discussions that have raged about the question whether the will be free or not, resembling in their persistent character the eternal disputes in theology as to whether man is responsible or God sovereign. The answer in each case is that "both are true." Here is an instance of the value of affirmations over denials. Assert the will is free and man responsible; but don't deny it may be controlled and God sovereign. Or we may change the assertion with equal truth, but must never deny what appears to be the incompatible opposite, for we are small and our mental capacity limited, but truth and God are great and infinite.

The will is free. There can be no morality without freedom of will, because there can be no responsibility. Nothing less is required and nothing more is needed than our own personal freedom and responsibility in order to build up personal character.

Free will and Divine foreknowledge cannot clash, though to