

HALIFAX LITTLE ONES.

HOW THEY ARE TAUGHT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

A Day Among the Children of the Kindergarten Department—Exercises that were Interesting and Instructive—How they Learn About Colors.

I made one of a party who recently spent a morning at the Alexandra school, at the invitation and under the escort of Mr. R. J. Wilson, secretary to the board of school trustees. We were all so thoroughly interested and entertained that I am sure an account of what we saw and heard cannot fail to interest "Progress" readers.

The building might be taken as a model both in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, so complete are its appointments and so varied its points of excellence. Like all more recent structures of the Halifax board it is only two stories high; and the young children are given the ground floor. There are four exits, two direct to the street, front and back, and two to the playgrounds—a most valuable precaution in case of fire.

Another good feature is the use of slight inclines when practicable to do away with short flights of steps. The ground rises so rapidly from the street as to make these necessary on the first floor.

The day of our visit being dull and lowering was one to test thoroughly any system of ventilation, and in rooms occupied by from 50 to 100 children, not the least taint in the air was noticeable. This is almost the first school I have visited—and they are not a few—where the air has been even fairly pure at the close of a session.

To Smead and Co., of Toronto, belongs the credit of this almost perfect system of heating and ventilation combined, which is as simple as effective. The cold air enters from the street, through windows filled with grating, a small stove in room in the basement directly behind the furnace, and connected with it by tubes and valves which regulate the supply.

This pure created air then enters rooms and corridors through ordinary registers. As soon as impure air is formed, it of course falls to the floor, where a second set of registers connect with a huge shaft or chimney, whose draught carries off the impure air. In its journey from the receiving registers to the shaft, this air, which, of course, is warm, passes beneath the floors, which are spaced for the purpose; and the cold draughts about the floors are a thing unknown at the Alexandra school. Just before reaching the shaft the air is made to pass above the vaults of the closets, and bears down with its offensive odors.

The building is finished throughout in white wood, and the ceilings are of the same material. These add much to the beauty of the rooms, and give a softer light than glaring white ceilings could do.

The final feature I shall notice is a "Teacher's Room," one of the pleasantest in the building as to view and cheeriness—and fitted with laboratory and cupboards. One end serves as a cloak-room; and the other, with its chairs and table in crimson cover, as a quiet nook for the lunch hour or other free time.

The main object of our visit was to see the Kindergarten department, and there we spent most of our time. It was opened nearly a year ago, and is fulfilling the fondest hopes of its promoters. It is under the efficient management of Mrs. Harriman, late of Brooklyn, N. Y., a thorough enthusiast in her work, as must be any successful teacher.

Mrs. Harriman has associated with her four young ladies as student teachers. These hold grade H licenses; and after finishing the course and receiving diplomas they will be given the first vacancies in primary departments, where the spirit and plan of the kindergarten will be carried on as much as may be in connection with the ordinary work.

This department occupies two large cheerful rooms, and decorated very tastefully with the work of the children. Two very large concentric circles are painted on each floor. Between these the children march, and here are set their tiny chairs, (painted in the primary colors) which they use in some of their varied exercises.

They sang a number of gesture songs, and gave a lesson in the tonic sol fa system. Imagine some 50 to 75 children from 5 to 7 years of age seated in a circle. Mrs. Harriman making one of them, holds a basket of colored worsted balls each of which represents a bird, in imagination. The children are shown a red one and told to listen closely to his note which one of the student teachers strikes on the piano (a necessary piece of furniture in a kindergarten class.) This is "do," which they soon get correctly; and ra me fa sol are taken in like manner. In a few minutes they give these notes in order or skipping, and with and without the piano. Red is the robin of course, and notice how appropriate it is for bold round "do." Then came yellow, the canary; orange, the oriole, and so on; with blue for the clear true "me."

They also use a bird of colored steps, up and down which birds are supposed to be hopping.

two legged animal could, the circle being the "fence," over which they looked longingly as they ran. Then again the circle was a "pond," and several other children showed in truly froggish fashion how the frogs go in and out.

Time fails me to tell of the many interesting exercises, but this one I must describe.

Again the circle is formed, and three groups are placed about outside it, and one in. Those inside represent tall trees, each choosing one, and a number of little tots clustered about them are their leaves. One girl chose an orange tree, but for obvious reasons that was objected to and an oak was substituted. Two of the outside groups represented flowers; and one, of boys of course, the wind. Now all sing, while the wind begins to blow—a sort of subdued musical whistle; the tall trees toss their branches, otherwise arms; the leaves are scattered in all directions, and eddying round cover the flowers from the cold of winter. After a season the wind blows again, this time veering round here and there, and one by one the leaves are displaced and up spring the flowers once more. Such a pretty game, and the children all alive to the spirit and teaching of it!

One more and I have finished. Close to the inside edge of the circle is a group representing a nest full of chickadees, which are sent out one by one to fly around for crumbs. I wish I could describe the beautiful motions of many of those chickadees as with extended arms undulating from shoulder to wrist they made the circuit and knelt before one of the many aprons from which imaginary crumbs were being scattered. The most accomplished devotee of Delasarte need not have been ashamed of such company. Throughout this part of the work, the children's tastes were constantly consulted. "What song would you like Tina?" "Which game do you wish to play Willie?" and this courtesy on the teacher's part bore its expected fruit in the children's conduct to her and to each other.

If those fathers and mothers who hesitate to trust their little ones to the supposed dangers, and perhaps carelessness and harshness of the public schools, most of which exist only in their imagination, could see Mrs. Harriman among her children, and note how happy, merry, busy they are, with a lesson in everything they take up, every faculty stimulated and all the surplus energy and curiosity of childhood turned to the best account, and directed into useful channels, I am sure they would be glad to avail themselves of so great a privilege.

Of course, color forms an important part of Kindergarten work. Formerly the materials used were chiefly in contrasting colors; but now Mrs. Harriman informs me, both Prang and Co. and another firm are manufacturing their paper goods in tones and tints, to be followed later by shades of the same. These will give a chance for even greater beauty of work than before.

Truly a Kindergarten follows a high calling, artist, musician, and mother in one. Mrs. Harriman spoke in grateful tones of the generosity of the Board in supplying her with apparatus—the latest addition being a neat and tasteful cabinet for holding materials and work. Later, in visiting other departments, I noticed several of these cabinets, that in the principal's room containing an excellent collection of minerals.

MR. TEMPLE'S CREDITORS.

The Sensitiveness of a Halifax Man, Who Afterwards Went West.

Quite a number of the business men of Halifax are regretting now what they did not know of Mr. W. L. Temple's intention of leaving for the "land of the free."

Mr. Temple did a wholesale tea business here, lived in good style and was everybody thought, in good circumstances, consequently it was easy for him to get credit both at home and abroad. His liabilities amount to about sixty thousand dollars and the assets are practically nothing. Unless the creditors are able to get a hold of some of the western land that Mr. Temple has been investing in through Messrs. Jay Diggins & Co., of Chicago.

Among the many that are sorry for his departure is Mr. W. C. Smith, the tailor. It seems that Mr. Temple was indebted to him about sixty dollars and a short time ago Mr. Smith's manager (Mr. Smith being away) hearing rumors of Mr. Temple's difficulties took legal proceedings to collect the amount due. It was however satisfactorily settled by Mr. Temple's brother giving his note for the amount. On Mr. Smith's return Mr. Temple called on him and was very indignant at the treatment he had received at his manager's hands, so much so that Mr. Smith apologized at once and returned the note which saved his wounded feelings. Mr. Temple was so pleased at Mr. Smith's amende that to show he bore him no ill will he gave him an order for another suit of clothes, which were to be delivered on the following Friday night, and on Saturday Mr. Temple was to give a check for the whole amount of his bill.

Mr. Smith delivered the clothes as agreed, but early on Saturday morning Mr. Temple and family were on their way to the states via Yarmouth. On reaching Yarmouth Mr. Temple discovered that he was short of money for his tickets, and consequently drew his check for fifty dollars, pocketed the change, and went on his way no doubt rejoicing. It is needless to say that the check was not honored.

Speaking of checks, recalls the fact that Mr. Temple gave another check for \$13 to a merchant a few days before he left which was not paid.

The merchant took the check to a certain lawyer and related the circumstances, and asked how much he would give for it. "Thirty-five dollars," was the reply, and the merchant gladly assented. Now, this lawyer took a novel way of making eight dollars. He waited till after bank hours, and then went to a friend of his in the insurance business and got him to cash it, because the bank was closed.

Of course people will say the lawyer is responsible, but he is not, and that's the trouble. The lawyer afterwards offered to collect the check for ten per cent., but whether by the same means or not is not known.

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Alexander Newman was sentenced to serve twenty-one years in the Penitentiary at Kingston, Ont. His physical system gave away under the confinement and reduced him to weakness and emaciation. Consumption easily found him a subject for its remorseless attack. He wasted away steadily in spite of the well meant energies, skill and kindness of the hospital staff. His case was pronounced hopeless, with no expectation that he could survive another winter, consequently the authorities, which never act in such cases till hope of life is utterly abandoned, released him on Oct. 24th last, after a confinement of four years. Alexander Newman was carried from the prison hospital on a stretcher, placed in an ambulance and conveyed to the home of his relatives. His home-coming was anything but joyful, as his new-found liberty seemed doomed to be cut short by the world's great cleaner—death. But happily fears grew groundless—life was again to glow with vigor, and hope for the hopeless one was revived. Three days after Newman's release, a friend who understood the remarkable power of Miller's Emulsion to sustain and strengthen life, advised his sister to procure a bottle of the remedy. Animate with the belief that while there is life there is hope, she purchased a bottle of Miller's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil. From the first dose taken the patient looked forward with hope when it was found that his system could retain and assimilate this palatable preparation. His digestive organs had been so weak he was unable to retain sufficient food to nourish his body, from that cause he had so wasted away as to weigh only 102 pounds. The life-giving qualities of Miller's Emulsion soon exercised influence over Newman by arresting decay and checking his dreadful cough—the consumption. Steadily improvement has continued. Strength came with added flesh. Alexander Newman is a new man indeed. We present a copy from his photograph taken Jan. 2nd instant. Mr. Newman weighed on that date 145 pounds, a gain of ten ounces a day for sixty-six days from the time he began to use Miller's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil. We trust this very singular recovery will not have the effect of restraining the hand of mercy in the release of sick prisoners. Far better if this result, that the case of Alexander Newman were not known publicly, but it is too valuable in the interest of public health to be overlooked. To verify the above facts the certificate of the patient is appended.

Kingston, January 2nd, 1892.—I hereby certify to the above being correct in every particular. Miller's Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil saved my life.

Alex Newman

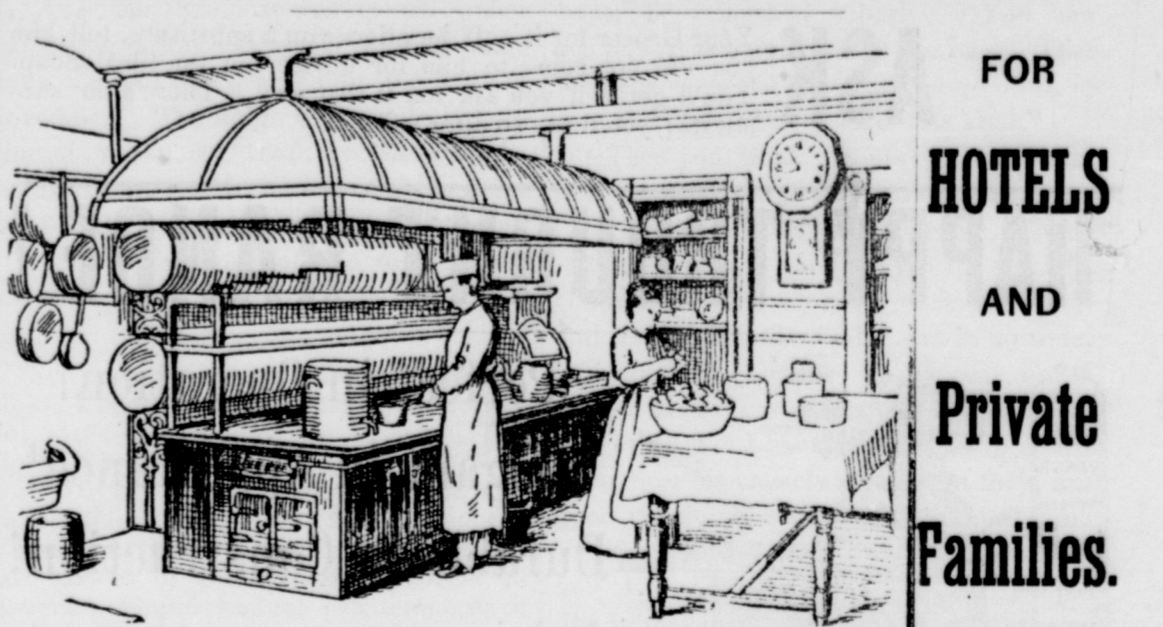
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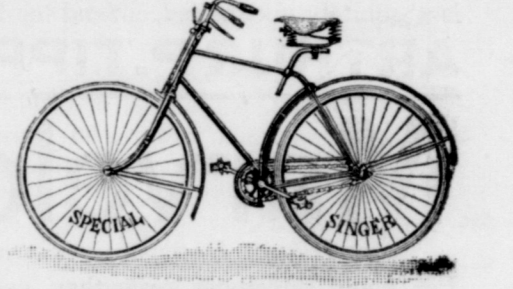
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