

THE SOWER

A Weekly Department of Religious and Secular Thought Contributed by REV. JAMES A. TURNER, Pastor, M. E. Church, Patton, Pa.

TRAIN UP A CHILD.

Dr. John S. Bonnell, eminent Psychiatrist, writing on the subject of Child Training, says some pertinent things that every parent should consider attentively and prayerfully.

"The spiritual experience," says he, "that can quiet and comfort the mind of a child will be a productive source of strength in later adult years. Even those who through the greater part of their adult years are unaware of their

childhood training in religion yet have something that will come back to them in the hour of crisis, just as one who has learned to swim in childhood and who has not practiced the art for 20 or thirty years, on being thrown into the water by an accident and by using the strokes he learned in childhood, manages to keep afloat until help reaches him.

I talked in a hospital one evening with a man who is an active and interested member of my church. He was recovering from a serious and painful illness, during which he had hovered between life and death. Relating some of his experiences, he said to me:

"I did not think it was possible for a human being to endure as much suffering as I have experienced in the past three weeks. Do you know what it was that helped me keep a grip on myself when the pain was so intense that I was ready to let go of everything?"

"Please tell me," I said. "I should be most interested to know." He said, "It was the Bible verses I learned as a little boy at my mother's knee. One by one they all came back to me during those black hours when I needed them most of all. It was the realization of God's presence that I learned to know as a child that brought me through this dreadful experience."

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it." How often those words have been fulfilled in the experience of adults. The sense of fair play, truthfulness, honesty, integrity, honor, reverence, respect for the rights of others, which are inculcated in childhood have emerged in adult life and character.

Parental lack of interest in the religious development of their children is a key to both secular and religious problems. Mothers and fathers who would not think of neglecting the secular education of their children are in varying degrees indifferent to their religious training. They will often send their children to Sunday school without taking the trouble to inquire what they are learning there or whether or not their children know how to express in their daily lives the religious teaching which they receive.

Occasionally parents come to me and say, "It is impossible to interest my boy or my girl in Sunday School. They do not feel that they are getting anything out of it and I do not think that I ought to compel them to attend."

It is true, of course, that there are many Sunday Schools in the nation with inadequately trained teachers and inefficient organization, but the basic trouble generally does not lie at this point. Boys and girls are very quick to sense the attitudes of the home, and if the parents have little interest either in the religious experience of their children or in their own spiritual life

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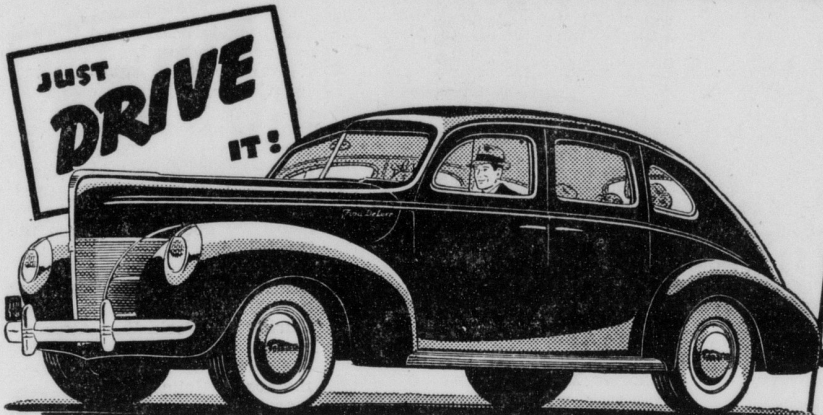
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the children in turn soon become aware of this fact, and talk and act accordingly.

One does not find parents going to the principals in day schools and saying, "I find it hard to interest my child in school. He does not want to go and I do not think I ought to compel him to attend."

As soon as parents in sufficient numbers insist upon their children having adequate spiritual training they will get it. As parents demanded secular education for their children did schools and universities develop.

The reason why parents sometimes adopt an attitude to day schools different from their attitude to Sunday schools is because they feel that an education in the day school is absolutely essential to the future welfare of the child but that a religious education is a matter of indifference.

No parent has the right to deprive his children of the stabilizing and strengthening influences which religion can exert in the life of even a very little child. In the years during which the foundations of character are being laid it is of tremendous importance that children should be brought into contact with the uplifting and inspiring influence of the personality of Jesus Christ. These are the years when their minds are easily richly stored with the moral precepts of the Bible and its lofty spiritual messages.

Even though the meaning of these

passages may not be wholly apparent to the children they do include them in their young lives and the time will come when they are productive sources of spiritual strength and help these young people, when they have grown into manhood and womanhood, to take their place in society as useful and worthy citizens and as men and women of God."

PATTON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

James A. Turner, Pastor.

Church school, 10 a. m., preaching at 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. every fourth Sunday. Epworth League at 6:30 P. M. Mid week bible class beginning Wednesday evening, November 1st.

The Standard Training School has been a tremendous success. The enrollment has increased steadily, having reached already an all time in attendance. Those who have been attending have found the studies and discussions to have been stimulating in mind and spirit as well as entertaining and instructive. Those who have missed the classes have lost something which they could not afford to miss.

The "Loyalty to the Church" Campaign has gotten off to a splendid start. If everybody will give this movement the support that they as Christians should give it will become a means of great blessing to the community. Work and pray for it. Give of your time and influence, and some day, when the good results begin to show up, you will be glad that you were in it. You have always wanted to make your life to count for something worth while—well, the chance is here.

No better world could be conceived than this one in which you live in which to discover what kind of a man or woman you are. The way you react to various circumstances and exigencies reveals to yourself and the world whether you are a square dealer or a cheapskate, whether you are a real man or a Casper Milquetoast, whether you are a conqueror or a quitter, whether you are a narrow minded denominationalist or a real Christian.

STATE TO TEST "STAMP RELIEF"

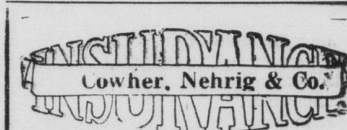
Harrisburg.—Governor James announced last week the state will experiment in Allentown and Bethlehem with a "stamp plan" giving relief surplus commodities, through stores. Commodities designated as "surplus" by the Federal Department of Agriculture would be available free of charge at any store, by presentation of a blue stamp.

The Department of Public Assistance said details are yet to be worked out but relief offices in communities which tried the method gave blue stamp system in Allentown and Beth-

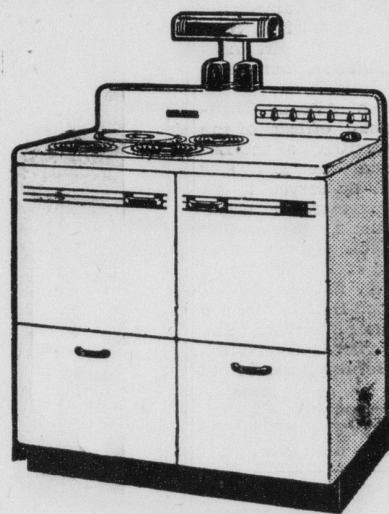
lehem. It as suggested by State Agriculture department representatives.

James made the announcement after a conference with Howard L. Russell, secretary of public assistance. Russell said the public authorities are prepared to go ahead with the food

lehem. It as suggested by State Agriculture department representatives.



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