

disease grows apace, and control over expression once lost, recovery is a task demanding infinite patience.

Nowhere is the ability to control this too quick response to external stimulus of more importance than in the management of children, whether it be of two or three in the home or of forty in the school. The child's power of control over expression is a thing immature and untrained, as the most casual observation will determine. This is true in both the purely material sense and in the spiritual. The inhibitory fibers down which the control force must pass, as well as the brain centers from which the control impulse must originate, are not mature and reflexes are normally exaggerated. So, too, in the higher sphere. The response of the affections, good and bad, is in a condition of over-readiness, so to speak, or unbalance. Witness the violent outbursts of anger and passion in the young, with possibly a similar power of affectionate demonstration in the same child. Inhibition, as a material thing, is acquired in the natural growth of the child; inhibition, as a spiritual thing—i. e., self-poise, self-control—must be acquired in the natural spiritual growth.

But to return to my first proposition, which is, that having once been acquired, the slow loss of this spiritual inhibitory power is a certain index of disease—and disease which drugs are powerless to reach. Its symptoms are easily read; one phrase covers the ground—undue response to external stimulus. Its oncoming is insidious, but its progress is downward—the vexed expression, the at-first-checked word, the irritable answer, with possibly an occasional outburst of wrath, until a condition of permanent instability and irritability is reached. The check-reins once dropped, disaster looms ahead.

ELIZABETH JARRETT.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee Miss Blanche H. Arnold, '84, was elected Corresponding Secretary of the Associate Alumnæ.

Preparations are being made for a large educational gathering on the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Horace Mann, May 4th. Further notices will appear in the daily papers.

Alumnæ House Library.

About one hundred and fifty books were moved from Sixty-third street to our new home. Now our catalogue shows more than three times that number, but our membership has increased more than threefold. Last year books were given out but once a week, and we were delighted if as many as twenty-five

children came of an afternoon. Now the library is open three times a week, and about one hundred and fifty books are circulated.

Thursday continues to be the regular "Library Day," but on Friday and Saturday evenings books are given to the members of the evening clubs who cannot come during the afternoon hours, and on Saturday evening one of the members of the club acts as librarian, thus giving to the older boys and girls a sense of proprietorship in the library, which has borne fruit in an increased respect for the books—and their covers!

It is not the smallest part of the work of the committee—this matter of covers. It requires constant work to keep the books in clean, whole covers; and when a new box of books arrives it is often weeks before they can be put upon the shelves, because we cannot get ahead quickly enough with the covering. And now comes my request to the friends of our work—and their friends: Will you not give us some help in this matter of covering the books? If you do not want to bind yourself to any regular attendance, come any Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, armed with a pair of scissors, and you will be welcomed. Or, if you feel that you would like to do more than this, send your name as a member of the committee and reserve Thursdays from 3 until 5 to help in giving out books. And those of you who have no time to spare for this kind of work, see how many good books you can collect from around your home and among your little friends.

Many have responded to our appeals, and we feel that many are only waiting to hear what we want, that they may do their share. First of all, we want histories—not the dry, dull school histories, but books that will supplement those. We have some books that are never allowed to remain an hour on our shelves. They are Coffin's "Story of Liberty" and "Building the Nation," Mrs. Pierson's and Edward Eggleston's histories of the United States, with the latter's stories of great events, etc. If you can get any such books, please send them to us at once. We cannot have too many duplicates of these or good Fairy Tales. The one or two of Louisa Alcott's books are pretty well worn by this time, and some newly added books by Mrs. Lillie have met with immediate favor. This is just a reminder of the books we find most popular, but the wee ones are just as clamorous as ever for "a nice easy book." Several calls have come lately for Washington Irving's "Knickerbocker History." Can any one supply this want? In fact, we will gladly receive any standard works. If the taste of our little public has not yet been educated quite up to them, we have great hopes for the future.

Through the kindness of a member of our Association, we received last month a contribution of delightful books from the American Book Company. It is a great treat to get "brand-new" books once in a while. Perhaps some one else has a friend in one of the large publishing houses. See what you can do.

FRANCES A. BENJAMIN,
Chairman Literary Committee.
