

Child Study.

An old writer says, "The wise teacher doth study his scholars, as his scholars do their books." Wise teachers have certainly been doing this work for many years, but when we read in a recent article that the work at Clark University is *centering* in "Child Study," we begin to realize that "Child Study" has received a new impetus, and has been entering upon a new and wider field.

Dr. Hall says: "Our program is to gradually center all study of psychology, philosophy, ethics, and perhaps other cognate branches about 'Child Study.'"

The practical pedagogical value of these studies is indicated in the articles by Mr. John A. Hancock on "Motor Ability," and Mr. G. E. Johnson on "Education by Plays and Games," in the last number of the *Pedagogical Seminarist*.

Dr. Hall says: "We have in these results, taken with those of Prof. Bryan, the first scientific data for the gradation of all manual, technical, or gymnastic work, or drawing."

A little over two years ago, the Associate Alumnæ appointed a committee on "Child Study." This committee has already presented two annual reports, and its work is thus known to the members of the association.

The committee is still holding monthly meetings in the Alumnæ Library, on the first Thursday of each month, at 4 P. M. During the fall and winter, our committee have been gathering data to assist Dr. Hall in an investigation of "Anger." Dr. Hall has issued during the winter several syllabi to aid observers in doing more accurate and scientific work.

Besides the outline on "Anger," we have on file his papers requesting data on "Dolls," "Folk Lore," "First Utterances," etc., which we will publish in this paper from time to time, and we most cordially invite our readers to send or bring written accounts, however incomplete, to the chairman of our committee. It is a clear case, as we said in our first annual report, of "mony a mickle making a muckle."

In taking note of these various phenomena of child-life, we shall first help ourselves as mothers and teachers; secondly, the result will certainly prove beneficial to the child; and thirdly, we shall be helping in the scientific investigation of mind action.

The students in the College are constantly adding to our collections of children's sayings and doings. They have contributed about a thousand incidents during the present term. We now need the aid of our experienced mothers and teachers, who have better opportunities to observe children for longer periods. In this con-

nection we wish to acknowledge the help received from two of our members who are principals of primary schools, namely, Miss Roberts and Miss Johnson. We have also a graduate of '76 who has helped us by correspondence, giving us incidents of her children's training, and, as it is the universal verdict among her friends that hers are "the most comfortable children" they ever knew, we feel sure she will continue her helpful letters.

At a recent meeting of the Doctors of Pedagogy of the University of the City of New York, Dr. Emily I. Conant, Vice-Chairman of our Committee, read a paper on Child Study, in which she said: "It was in the nation that loves the almighty dollar, and in a city most given to wickedness, according to our English critics, that a National Association for Child Study was formed."

"There have been profound treatises on 'worms,' on 'bees,' on the heavens over our heads and the ground under our feet. I know a lady, learned in science, (our own Mrs. Britton), who has spent years in studying mosses; but the child, a precious blossom which must grow to beauty and use, or to a noisome weed, has been little studied.

"There has been no microscopic observation of his development; too often not even a proper care of his mere animal wants."

"There is no beast, plant, or natural phenomenon that we have with us as constantly as the little children. They are at home in our houses, abroad in our streets, in our schools, and in our churches. We may study them on the rare June days or in bleak December. We need not send to distant lands for our specimens, for they are with us.

"Midnight oil need not be burned, for the day will be long enough for our patience and their activity."

We hope in the future to give further extracts from this admirable paper, which was enthusiastically received by those who heard it at the University.

JENNY B. MERRILL,
Chairman, Committee on Child Study.