

DO PARENTS KNOW THEIR CHILDREN?

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nated and enamored with the multiplied experiences that the automobile has made possible. However, it does not seem that we have found a way to maintain family integrity under the rapidly changing social environment. Parents are not indifferent to the welfare of their children today, or ignorant of their needs. In fact, they were never more concerned about the happiness and success of their children than they are at the present time; but parents are finding it difficult under present conditions, to direct the energies of their children and to safeguard their morals. More and more therefore their family ties have been loosened, for parents have thrown the responsibility of nature and educational guidance upon schools and colleges. The rapidly increasing number of youths who have entered our schools and colleges has made the task very difficult for our institutions of learning.

It is not apparent what the solution of this problem will be. My long contact with young people in college does not arouse a feeling of pessimism. The great majority of youths who are entering college are ambitious and anxious to succeed. But I am convinced that, to maintain the level of personal responsibility and conservative ethical standards, there must be a better coordination of effort on the part of the home, the school and the church. The working out of this problem in the immediate future is demanded by every cause of public welfare.

However, not all presidents of colleges agree with Dean Gauss. Here is what President Sills says:

So far as my own experience at Bowdoin goes, both as President and Deas, I feel that parents of the present day are exactly as much interested in their boys as they used to be. I have as many letters as I ever had from parents expressing the greatest concern about the boys in college. As for the statement of Dean Gauss that parents do not know their children as well as was the case in the past, our experience is to the contrary. I agree with him and with you that nothing is more important.

A rift of reticences (now because of business, formerly a Puritan hang over) between father and son in post Puritan New England is discerned by President Faunce of Brown. The contrast between this letter and the first we cited is marked, and may suggest that individual characteristics account for much.

Unquestionably most parents would be amazed if they really could see into the minds of their own children. But in America—at least in New England—the older and the younger generations have always lived separate lives. My own father, a noble Christian minister, never never played a game with me and never had a confidential talk with me in his life. He loved me devotedly and I revered him sincerely, but entire reticence on all personal matters was the Puritan tradition.

Today it is not reticence but ab-

sorption in business and social life that leads a father to ignore the expanding horizons and the vexing problems of his own boy. The son usually would go to his roommate, his doctor, his teacher, his minister—to anybody sooner than to his own father, since to a man of middle age the greatest joy on earth comes from looking constantly through the eyes of youth and feeling the beating of a youthful pulse. Happy is the father not too busy to know his own boy!

President Harmon (Transylvania College, Ky.) agrees essentially with Doctor Faunce as to facts. However he sees signs of betterment.

The youth for the past twenty years has been living in a zone quite apart from that in which the parents have lived. There has been a carrying-over on the part of the parents from the old order into the new and as a result parents have not lived in the world in which their children have been living the past twenty years. The parents have had the methods and attitudes of mind that belong to the horse and carriage period, while the children have lived in the auto and radio period. It is my observation that there is beginning to be a new generation of parents who are alive to this transition. This latter type is now beginning to know in a better way the world in which we are living, therefore, have finer sympathies and a better cooperation with their children. We have not yet arrived on this problem, but there are sufficient pattern types of the modern parents that it affords reason for hope.

Quite the same opinion is held by President Clapp (University of Montana.) Parents are indifferent and ignorant, especially the older generation. More trouble arises from parents than from young people, as the former have in many cases set up a double standard—for themselves, for the young.

Some investigation of his own was done by President Doney (Williamette University, Oregon,) and here is the way he feels:

Do we know our children? We don't know ourselves: We give ourselves a thousand surprises in the course of a lifetime. But parents are still more ignorant of their children. That is largely because of thoughtlessness, procrastination, or a seeming lack of ability to approach children in a way to win their confidence. Recently I addressed seventy-five Y. M. C. A. men and learned by definite inquiry that only two of that number had ever received any sex instruction from either of their parents. Parents have often asked me to talk to their children about matters which clearly should have been discussed between them, but which a wall of reserve appeared to prevent.

I think parents do not commence early enough to instruct and confer with their children. Too often parents lie by word or act and later they know that their children know they are liars; hence there is no confidence possible.

Children passionately wish the love and counsel of their parents,

but they must have that attention from babyhood, and constantly and with utter truthfulness. Such relationship through life would be of unmeasured beauty to parent and child and to the latter would be a priceless guidance of safety.

Among all the letters received from these educators only one expressed almost unqualified censure of parents. President Hass (Muhlenberg College, Pa.) seems nearly to despair as he sees the older generation unresponsive even to a strong nudge.

Our experience indicates that while there are still parents who take a direct interest with their children there is considerably more indifference than formerly. In part the children themselves are to blame because they resent parental guidance. On the whole parents take their duties very lightly and in many cases there is little home influence. At the end of a month we notify parents whose sons are not keeping up with their required work. We scarcely receive one reply out of a hundred assuring us that we have the assistance of the parents. We must handle most of our boys irrespective of parental influence. We have a few very encouraging cases of parental control; in the majority of the cases parents will interfere only when their sons are either suspended or expelled or dropped on account of poor work. We have had a case lately of a young man who forged the names of professors on some of his cards removing conditions. We have had no assistance at all in this case from the father. Only relatives have inquired and the pastor of the boy. We feel that we must do our work as best we can without relying on the influence of the parents.

President John W. Huffman (Ohio Wesleyan University,) while realizing the wealth of serious and earnest youth in the colleges, inclines to say a good word for parental guidance. He emphasizes the value of experience (the parents') and would have it employed fully but wisely to guide the children.

One can not generalize on your question with any degree of accuracy. Undoubtedly the parents of the well-to-do know their children better to-day than forty years ago. Fathers are more intimate with their sons and wether with their daughters. This intimacy is due to many influences converging on the home, each of which emphasizes the necessity of parents knowing their children.

The serious lack in young people today is not due to ignorance on the part of the parent of what is in a boy's mind but lack of firmness in the home, an absence of a religious atmosphere, and, above all, the foolish idea that son must live his own life in his own way. The age and experience of the parent counts for naught; the young man must make his own beliefs out of his own immaturity; the parents must let him make his own mistakes, for the delusion is widespread, that only in this way will he become a man.

Certainly it would be fatal to revive the despotic parent; but just as certainly do our young people need the firm and wise guidance of an idealistic parent. The great sad fact is: our parents are not devoting sufficient time and real hear-struggle in the training of their children.

What is most needed to-day is a widespread emphasis on the fact that children impose a responsibility for home training that can not be farmed out to governesses, schools, and experts. Every campus is witness that the home training for many is superficial, lacking in clearness, in intelligence, and in religion, and with a moral reserve adequate for the emergencies of life. Consequently, every college has too large a percentage of students who lack in the nice discriminations of conscience, so essential in life.

These statements are not to be understood as including the greater part of every student body, sound in their thinking, earnest in their pur-

pose, and having a real capacity for hard work—qualities they have developed in homes where the father and the mother have consecrated themselves, by precept and by example, to the development of those virtues in their children that will stand the strain of every situation in life and prove a source of inspiration for time and for eternity—an intelligent, resourceful, and vigorous character.

"Times change, and we change with them," but through all changes abides the influence of the home, for good or evil. Of the transformation proceeding about us the learned educators we have been privileged to quote have taken due account. In doing so they necessarily had the history of the family in mind. While thus implicitly or explicitly viewing the present and forecasting the future, and while not glossing defects or deficiencies in attitude or conduct, on the whole their attitude is hopeful. The fault on the part of parents that seems to them to stand out in boldest outline is no indifference (though that often exists) but ignorance, and that is remediable. Some parents do not "know" their children, not because they do not desire that knowledge, but because of a lack of suppleness in their mental joints, or because of the high pressure of business or social life. They are learning, however, to make adjustments, especially parents of the younger generation.

On the other hand, tho this fact does not come out so strongly in the letters, the marked emphasis of the last decades upon child-training, under the influence of the new psychology, has resulted in the re-education of many parents. The present generation is, we believe, becoming increasingly "child-conscious." This gives firm foundation for hope.

A WORMY PIG PAYS NO PROFIT

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 25.—The common round worm which infests many swine herds of North Carolina is costing the growers of this State more money than the combined losses from cholera, thumps, pneumonia and other common swine diseases.

"The reason why this is true, is that most of us think any place is good enough to raise pigs in," says

W. V. Hays, assistant swine specialist at State College. "Most growers overlook the need for sanitary measures in the hog lot, yet an infestation of worms may be prevented by a little care. When the sow is ready to farrow, put her in a place where hogs have not been kept. Give the under part of her body a good scrubbing using soapy water and a fiber brush. Some mild disinfectant in the water would not hurt. This will remove the worm eggs attached to the mother's body. Now place her in the new quarters and the result will be a pleasant surprise to the one who has not tried this plan."

The next best thing to do, says Mr. Hays, is to worm the young pigs. There are specially prepared worm capsules that may be used. For best results in using these, the stomach and intestines of the pigs should be empty of feed. Give all the water the pigs want. In some cases it is wise to give a laxative dose of epsom salts in a thin slop before putting the animals on the fast. This fasting period should last 24 hours after which the medicine is administered. One capsule for a weaning pig and two for the larger shoats will do. After eight or ten hours, give another dose of salts in a thin slop to wash out the worms.

Mr. Hays says this form of treatment is being followed by progressive hog growers in a number of North Carolina counties and these men would not attempt to fatten pigs now before treating them, especially if there is any evidence of worms.

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