

HOME EDUCATION

M. LOUISE C. HASTINGS
 "The Child's First School is the Family"—Froebel

MOTHER KNOWS BEST

Issued by the National Kindergarten Association, 8 West 40th Street, New York City. These articles are appearing weekly in our columns.

She was a very young mother and very lovely to look at as she stood at the door and said, "Mother knows best! Now don't ask me again! You are not to do it!" I forget what the issue was, but I looked back quickly into the early days of my own motherhood and laughed to myself. Why, when I was her age how little I knew about anything! Yet I am sure that I, too, handed out the same "Mother knows best."

Of course, a young mother has had some experience along many lines, but as to helping children to meet life's problems she generally does not know much. She and the children should grow together, and in many situations she will know best. But there

will be still other occasions when the children's judgment will be good and should be taken into account. Mothers cannot persuade their children that Mother always knows best, unless their past experiences have proved this to be true.

Barbara Anne Stone has positive likes and dislikes. At six years of age she has favorite foods and favorite games. And, too, she is very sure as to the colors that are her favorites.

One day she and her mother went to the city to buy material for the little girl's new dress. After considering several possibilities her mother indicated her choice to the saleswoman.

"But I don't like that, Mother! I don't like blue and red together. I like this yellow and brown," Barbara Anne urged.

"Mother knows best what you should have. Now keep still!" was the response, and the red and blue material was purchased.

Mrs. Stone has always liked the combination of red and blue, but Barbara Anne, when she has to wear the dress to school, feels unhappy in it—her disposition seems to react to it unpleasantly. Her mother wonders what can ail her child every time she puts on her "pretty" dress!

This attitude of "Mother knows best" is usually far from convincing, and mothers often do not understand why. There are other mothers who use that attitude as a battle-ax to stop controversy and argument.

Mothers—and Fathers—instead of so much of this self-assurance, why not give the children opportunities to do things and see if parents really do know all there is to know? Parents are by no means infallible. Is there any reason why a boy or girl should not work out a really improved scheme sometimes? Give the young people a chance to choose and to develop judgment. Let them show their initiative; let them work out their ideas. If the results are disappointing, they will nevertheless have learned a valuable lesson.

Grandmother Brown is a woman of opinions—extremely strong ones. She is caring for two little grandchildren, seven and eight years of age. The elder adjusts to her grandmother's ways easily, but the younger has decided ideas of her own. As a result, with Susan—the younger child—there is constant friction. She shows real pleasure in displacing her grand-

mother. However, that lady does not relax her arbitrary manner. Grandmother "knows," and Grandmother's word is not to be questioned!

One day she was laying down the law to the child's father, and Susan asked, "Aren't you very impolite to speak to my daddy that way?"

"Indeed I'm not!" was the reply. "My way is best! And he should know it by this time!"

"Daddy and I don't think so," answered the child.

We all have known mothers who failed to recognize that their children had grown up and who never learned the wonderful lesson of "hands off." We mothers never know what our children are thinking. Sometimes in later years they remark about various childhood experiences, and we find to our amazement that we were not as important in our "know-all" attitude as we thought we were.

However, much of the time mothers do know best!

"Most five-year-old children are not ready for the formal program of reading, numbers, and so forth, which must be accomplished during the first grade. Due to the current almost universal practice of continuous promotion, the child who does not assimilate the work of the first grade is placed under a handicap which will continue for years, and, as we know, when we cannot succeed in one direction we look for some other avenue of success."—J. E. Moore, Director of Education, State Home for Boys, Jamesburg, N. J.

If the little children of your community are not receiving the benefits of kindergarten education under a trained kindergarten, will you not try to arouse interest in the subject? Write to the National Kindergarten Association, 8 West Fortieth Street, New York 18, N. Y., for information and advice. Leaflets may be obtained free of charge.

Atkins Succeeds Warren
 Percy M. Atkins has been appointed Supervisor IBM Operations in the Bureau of Machine Services, under W. C. Edwards, assistant auditor. He succeeds Richard F. Warren, resigned. Atkins transferred from the State Board of Health, assuming his new post November 21.

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"These are my children—Michael, Patrick, Maria, John, Prudence, and Stephanie."

"In some homes, children say their prayers at their mother's bedside. In our home, my mother said her prayers at my bedside. She was a deeply religious woman. She took me to church every Sunday. And she never tired of telling me that the happiest of all women is the one who has discovered the Kingdom within. Certainly my mother's 'lovingness' and firm sweetness showed she had discovered the Kingdom within. She had strength and peace of heart that made her glow with happiness. Even strangers quickly saw it. And she used to say:

"If you know right from wrong . . . if you learn to taste the joy—and the discipline—of knowing God, you will know love and happiness all your life."

"This is what we are trying to give our children—almost from the time they are able to walk. So when our friends say they are thinking of not sending their children to church until they are old enough to understand and make up their own minds, John and I cannot agree with them.

"How else will a growing child acquire the strong sense of moral right and wrong that will lead him to happiness? Only our churches can teach him.

"John and I honestly feel that even with our strong religious backgrounds, there are still many questions of right and wrong that perplex us. (And as every parent knows, there are many—not only those that arise in the home, but also from neighbors, schools, clubs.) And especially with moral values fluctuating as they are doing in the world today, we want our children to have the guidance and fortitude that only the Church can give them. We know it ourselves. And how incalculably it has helped us!"

take your problems to Church this week millions leave them there!