

CHILD-SAVING IN THE SLUMS OF SALT LAKE.

Great and Good Work That is Being Done by the Free Kindergarten Association in This City—How Poor Children Are Gathered From the Streets, Alleys and Avenues of Unsavory Repute and Started on the Road That Leads to a Better Life Than Their Parents Are Living—Facts Which Will Both Interest and Surprise.



Photo by Savage.

MRS. SIMON BAMBERGER,
Treasurer of the Free Kindergarten Association.

CHILD-SAVING in the slums of Salt Lake, is a work with which the general public is almost entirely ignorant. It is a great and good work, nevertheless; one that is writing the names of a little coterie of unselfish and tireless women upon the annals of honor in another world.

How many precious little lives they have snatched from the haunts of sin and sorrow and started out upon paths calculated to lead to useful man and womanhood only the Father of all knows. How hard they have toiled to do this they themselves know but do not tell. Year after year they have gone on with the task that would make any heart, not a woman's, fail, until the knowledge of their goodly deeds should no longer be hidden behind the screen of reserve they have modestly thrown about it.

Readers of the Deseret News will be interested in what these women have done, and what they are doing for the walls of the street, for the tiny little tots whose homes are in the slums of the city, in surroundings that are laden with an impure atmosphere, in districts where vice and squalor exist; where the gaunt and bony hand of poverty reaches out with a grasp stronger than many think for. Not with the starvation severity that it takes hold of the child of misfortune in London or New York, to be sure, but with a relentlessness and a farther reaching power than the people of this city have ever dreamed of. How many persons know anything of the lives of the children who live in the sin-strewn precincts of Franklin avenue, Plum alley or Commercial street? Not

one in a hundred. How many women of wealth, social standing and prominence subordinate their pride, choke down the natural opposition that arises to their very throats, gather their skirts about them and venture into the interior of these blocks where respectable people shiver go when they can avoid it, to ascertain the condition that exists and to ameliorate it in some degree? Only a few. Why? Because only a few care to familiarize themselves with the seamy side of life and only a few are brave enough to invade the darker districts and see for themselves. It takes courage as well as sympathy for a woman to be seen ferreting about thoroughfares that are the known haunts of the low and the vicious; where members of her own sex are selling their souls to whoever will buy. If any one doubts it let them ask some of the noble women who, regardless of what the public or any one else might think, sally forth into the very centers of the most sickening and repulsive neighborhoods in search of children whose parents live therein because they cannot afford to pay rents in respectable sections of the city.

No matter how squalid or small or foul-smelling a hovel this class of the city's poor are found in, their homes are entered and the hand of help extended to them. Imagine the task of a so-called society woman, one who has been reared with plenty on every side, and whose very nature rebels against uncleanness going down into a basement of two small, dirty rooms, scantily furnished, the abode of father, mother and eight little ones, with scarcely enough clothing to cover their nakedness, and having to plead with the heads of the miserable household



WILLIE PYPER,
"INFANT INVENTOR OF THE SCHOOL."

Little Willie is not yet three years of age and he is only just commencing to talk. Although he lives on Franklin Avenue he comes from a home that is cleanliness itself. He is unusually bright and tractable, and by reason of the ready words of his mother that he turns out he is designated by the teachers as the "Infant Inventor."

to let their younger children attend the Free Kindergarten? It is not an easy task. It is not done for notoriety, for it has already been explained that this work is quietly performed and without the knowledge of the public.

But why is it necessary to make personal visits to such places and above all to plead with parents to permit their offspring to get that which it must be readily recognized is for their own good? First of all, parents have pride enough in most instances to note the fact that their children are without proper clothing and that it is beyond their power to provide them with that



MARTHA BERRY,
AN IMITATIVE TYPE OF CHILD.

Like most of the children in the school Martha comes from Franklin Avenue. She is five years of age and painfully quiet. She gives little or no trouble beyond a determined disinclination against originality in her work. She attempts to do nothing except that which is shown her. This type of child, however, learns to do many things well and often becomes a useful member of society.



NEPHI ERICKSON,
A CONSTRUCTIVE GENIUS.

Nephi is six years old and in September next will attend the public schools. He has been a member of the kindergarten for two years. He belongs to the constructive type of boy and never talks in the school room no matter how hard his teachers may press him to do so. His work shows that he possesses the elements of the real genius.

They cannot do much it is true, but a foundation is being laid upon which the public schools can build and upon which there will be room for character construction.

Speaking of the work done in the early school year the principal said: "We took the children out into the country and spent many hours a day with them upon a farm where wheat and corn were growing, having explained to them how it was grown. We visited the corral and barnyard and showed them the stock, how the cows were milked, how the cream was taken care of and churned, how the vegeta-



Photo by Matson.

A PEEP INTO A CORNER OF THE CITY'S SLUM KINDERGARTEN.

Snapshot of Little Tots and Teachers, as seen this Week by a "News" Camera man.

which they should have. Here is a new barrier. Clothes must be procured and the kindergarten workers must do the procuring, when other means are not at hand.

The free kindergarten work is carried on in a section of the old Thirteenth ward schoolhouse, just across the street from the head of Franklin avenue. It has four teachers and something over 40 children, who range from three to six years. As has already been stated, most of them are very poor. It may be said also that most of them are bright—diamonds that are unpolished, but diamonds nevertheless. If our social system were so constructed that the work that is now being done for them could be carried on a little longer the polishing process would make brilliant men and women of them. For somehow these little folks of the half-world exhibit a quickness of perception and comprehension of things that the child of education and refinement often knows not of. If the writer were asked why this is so his answer would be that it is because they live so close to nature. True, their understanding is frequently mis-directed, but its operations are the theme for interesting study just the same.

But this is departing from the kindergarten. Public spirited ladies raise the money by subscription with which to support it. Reference to the records discloses the fact that many prominent citizens have contributed liberally to it. Inquiry of the association officers brings the reply that the donors have in most cases requested that their names be not given out. They practice literally the Scriptural injunction of not letting the left hand know what the right hand doeth, or vice versa. The officers are Mrs. Georgiana Young, president; Mrs. Dart, secretary; Mrs. Simon Bamberger, treasurer. A committee of active workers is found in the persons of Mrs. McCormick, Mrs. Benson, Mrs. L. E. Hall, Mrs. Hattie Harker and Miss Mary C. May.

Among those who have given freely for the maintenance of the school are

three of the women's clubs, who also remain modestly in the background when it comes to any mention of material assistance. That statement leads directly to the thought that club women will always be made welcome at the school by Miss Morris, the principal, and by her assistants who come from the Training School of the University. The work is always entertaining and instructive, and the school is close to the business and shopping center.

A representative of the "News" visited the place in company with a photographer this week, saw some of the work that was being done and listened to the stories of teachers and principal. Miss Morris explained the manner of instruction, and outlined the work that has been covered since the opening of the school year in September. Of course their charges are too young to undertake bookwork proper. They must begin ascending the ladder of learning several rounds below the A B C stage. Nature in her simplest form is gradually and patiently unfolded to their almost infantile visions. When they grow weary, or in fact, before they have time to get weary, interesting games and innocent diversions are provided for them.

Commenting upon the work in general, Miss Morris said: "We endeavor to bring them as close to home life, love and duty as possible. To teach them what the home is—what it should be, and the relation it holds to society. The responsibility of their parents and the respect due from them to each other. The little boy is made to understand what father has to do to support the family. The little girl is instructed in simplest miniature of the domestic duties of the mother. These are all acted out so naturally and easily that the child unconsciously absorbs them. When they go home they want to help both father and mother, though unfortunately many of our little ones are the children of widowed mothers. Then we have gone back to the school-

room and made them out of cards and paper and fitted up the tiny houses as so built by the little folks. We have tried to explain where the carpenter gets his wood, how the blacksmith gets his coal, and how he shoes the horse and how the horse is the great servant of man.

"All work so far as possible is made pleasurable to the plastic mind of the kindergarten child. When ordinary methods of explanation fail the simple story and illustration idea is resorted to and nearly always with success. In this connection it may be stated that it requires no little resource to hold the attention of 40, 50 or 60 motor children such as these little folks are. But their attention must be held. Discipline is as necessary with them as it is in Uncle Sam's army. When it is gone everything is gone. When they become restless in their work the influence of music is speedily manifest. For instance, when the lesson of the parents' work is on and nervousness commences to display itself, complete control is secured by the singing of the kindergarten song embracing some such sentiment as contained in the following verse:

Loving mother, kind and true;
Busy father—he works too.
Earning the money for our clothes,
Buys the goods that mother sews.
Mother gives her daily care,
Washing faces, combing hair,
Darning stockings, patching, too,
Many things for me, for you.

"This never fails to have a soothing, I may say, taming effect. When it is cold and stormy and gloom hangs over all we sing something like this:

Robin, Robin, red breast, hopping in the snow,
Don't you wish 't was summer when the roses grow,
Robin, Robin, red breast, cold the north winds blow.

A Visit to the School and the Lessons That Were Listened To—Something of the Difficulties Encountered in Getting the Little Ones to Attend—Efforts Reveal Conditions That Are Supposed to Exist Only in the Large Cities of the World—What a Brave Coterie of Women is Doing to Ameliorate Them.



MISS MARY C. MAY,
A Pioneer Pillar in Utah Kindergarten Work.

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What President's Private Secretary Has to Do.

The position of secretary to the President of the United States is an arduous one. In the rendering of its multitudinous services it calls for the business qualifications of a methodical and systematic clerk, in the performance of the daily routine of official work and the finesse of a practiced diplomat in meetings and satisfactorily adjusting situations which naturally come before him as an intermediary between the President and an assorted public, each individual of which believes himself entitled to a portion of the time and interest of the chief executive.

The task of handling and answering the White House mail is in itself no small one. The President receiving from 200 to 1,200 letters a day. Important or not, each of these communications receives due attention, the secretary carefully sorting and classifying them; presenting some to the personal attention of the President, referring others to the department or person to which each properly belongs, while all receive courteous acknowledgement from the President's representative.

The secretary is also required to meet and dispose of the numerous visitors who call on the President at times not

"During the singing of this song the children play they are birds, and enjoy it immensely. Trade songs, of which the following stanza is a sample, are also rendered, in pantomime, showing the processes employed in giving us coal:

Sing a song of coal in the ground so deep,
Where the mighty mountain careful watch doth keep,
Down must go the miner in the ground so damp,
Each one with his pick-axe and his tiny lamp.

"With the advent of spring we will get back more closely to nature study. We will show them the sheep, how the wool is grown and shorn and woven into cloth. We will gather buds and blossoms and listen to the birds, and dig and plant in the garden. We will take the winter clothes from our play-dolls and replace them by the summer garments that we put away early in the winter. We will have our house-cleaning and our street-cleaning, and in fact, do everything in the tiniest way that is done on a large scale in every day life. All this is set to music so as to help hold the interest, and little songs on each subject make the task easier than it would otherwise be.

"The monotony of things is frequently broken by fairy stories from the best authors. I often tell my own, suiting them to a particular child on a particular occasion according to the lesson that is necessary to impart. Animals, brownies, and fairies all figure prominently in our stories but never in a way to arouse fear. Tales that inspire courage, confidence and love—that point to some good moral only, are allowed in the kindergarten room."

Miss Morris' assistants are Mrs. Peters, of Logan; Miss Barnes, Kayaville; Miss Porter, Centerville; Miss Robinson, Farmington.



Photo by Johnson.

MISS REBECCA V. MORRIS,
Principal of the Free Kindergarten School.