

Barbarous Babies

By Rt. Rev. Magr. Peter M. H. Wynhoeven
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THE STUPID AND LAZY CHILD

It is a historical fact that Thomas A. Edison, electrical wizard and benefactor of the human race, slept only four hours a night. He worked 18 hours out of the 24, rarely taking time out for meals. Those who demand their seven and eight hours' sleep can hardly believe this. They argue that no human system can endure this grind. Still it can be proved entirely practicable by people who are in the habit of working long hours. But mark well that, as a rule, these indefatigable individuals are buoyed up by success, or by the hope for it. Edison was phenomenally successful, continuously achieving new inventions. Still Edison as a child was considered dull and backward and unresponsive to his teachers.



Are they lazy children? No, not if they are normally healthy and well-cared for. You may at once contradict this answer, for you are able to name, offhand, at least one "who is a stupid, lazy loafer who could do better if he wanted to." Is your verdict true and fair, as far as the particular individual is concerned? In most cases, when children are found in body and mind, but indolent, the finger of scorn should not be pointed at them but at the parents and teachers who proved to be stupid and lazy in their methods.

There is no living creature more active than a child in good physical condition. The minute when he starts crawling and toddling, keeps one grown person busy following him. If he is let go, he is constantly in action. When the time comes for him to start playing with others, he works himself into exhaustion at their games; meals seem a waste of time when, damp with perspiration and panting with excitement, he has to sit still and eat. Bedtime often will mean more or less of an argument with Mama as to whether she should let him play or do other things a little longer.

It is only when they start going to school that, in some children, a symptom of so-called laziness begins to be manifest. Is this natural with the child? No; it is forced on him by a wrong situation. In every schoolroom, in every class, there are at least three different sets of children: the normal, the bright, and the slow. The last type again may present varying phases; some may be good at grasping one subject but backward with another; others have good memories but no analytical minds, and vice versa. It is the slow and varying kind that is in greatest danger of becoming "lazy."

There are other children who, on account of physical appearance or a general awkwardness, give the impression of being stupid, whereas, fundamentally, they are not. The handicap, whatever it may be, often is aggravated by the attitude of normal children, who are inclined to tease their less-favored playmates and to apply nicknames to them. The objects of this cruel treatment may get discouraged and be tempted to live up to their unmerited reputation of "goodness," and, with an anti-social feeling motivating their actions, they were likely to fall into mischievous ways.

Still, practically every otherwise normal child who is slow, or handicapped in some way, can be made a perfectly desirable pupil and a success in the practical world, if the teacher and the parents do a little conferring and planning and exert some special effort to help him wherein he is weak. What such a child needs most is encouragement—kind, patient and tactful handling. Praising him, or calling him lazy and stupid, will make his case worse, for he will resent the unfairness of that sort of treatment, since he feels, in his little heart, that he is not stupid, and he secretly wants to apply himself and make good, which he is confident he can do if only he is shown how to go about it.

There is hardly any handicap of this sort which cannot be overcome by assiduous effort and sympathetic interest. The great trouble lies with parents who foolishly expect the school to correct all evils in their children, and who get fussy and critical with teachers who do not succeed in their attempts at correction, when, as a matter of fact, the parents themselves have failed to do the job or actually have spoiled the children.

Every genuinely good and intelligent teacher desires to benefit her pupils. As for the ones with whom she has trouble, she will gladly welcome the sensible co-operation of the parents. Parents should feel free to consult with the teacher at any time. In cases of this sort, "An apple for the teacher" was an old-time means to gain favor. Favor does not have to be gained—and should not be—when conditions are normal; however, when a teacher has to cope with a difficult individual situation, she is entitled to be encouraged by the appreciative and co-operative attitude of the parents.

This understanding, genuine, wholehearted spirit will save many a child from turning out stupid and lazy, for no normal child is naturally stupid and lazy. With intelligence, patience and encour-

Request in Bonds

St. Luke City Club. (Continued) part of a request, Our Lady of Lourdes Church has purchased a \$1,000 War Bond. In announcing the church's decision, the pastor, the Rev. Patrick A. Maguire, declared that "unless the United States wins this war the money will not be worth anything. So we want to place it where it will help our country to victory."

agreement, they all can be made worth-while citizens if their ambition is stimulated, if they are aided in solving their problems and strengthening their weak points. Never humiliate a child because of something he cannot help.

Signs With A Punch and A Smile

Out in the hot sun, the sun is really very hot and the sun's rays are very strong. The sun is really very hot and the sun's rays are very strong. The sun is really very hot and the sun's rays are very strong.

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BRITISH FLAG DAY
A YOUNG REAR-ARMY BOY'S
MISUNDERSTANDING OF NAVAL WAR-
FARE GAVE THE BRITISH A VICTORY OVER
THE FRENCH FLEET IN 1860. THINKING THE REMOVAL OF
THE ENEMY'S FLAG WAS NECESSARY FOR THEIR DEFEAT, HE STEALTHILY
CLIMBERED OVER AND STOLE THEIR FLAG. THE BRITISH, BELIEVING THE EN-
EMY HAD SURRENDERED, RUSHED ABOARD WITH SUKHI IMPETUOSITY, THE
FRENCH WERE OVERWHELMED.

LOVE WILL CONQUER.
A CIGARETTE CASE
GIVEN TO ELECTRICIAN'S
MATE RICHARD H.
BACMAN BY HIS SWEET
HEART PROBABLY SAVED
HIS LIFE. DURING THE
RECENT CORAL SEA
BATTLE, THE GIFT
CARRIED IN HIS
POCKET, DEFLECTED
A FLYING GUN OF METAL.

NUTTY ASSIGNMENT
JIMMY JEMMILL, THE NOORING
PHOTOGRAPHER, MIGHT HAVE BEEN KEPT IN
A PSYCHOPATHIC WARD HAD IT NOT BEEN
FOR HIS EDITOR. JIMMY ASKED DO YOU RE-
MEMBER YOUR FIRST KISS, MADAM? AND THE
WOMAN HAD HIM CARTED TO THE NUT HOUSE.
THE EDITOR AFFIRMED IT WAS JUST ANOTHER
ASSIGNMENT FOR JIMMY.

BARBER SOL SAYS:
FINDING FRIES USED
TO BE IN LONKERN
NOW IT'S SEEMING THAT
THE NAZIS BURN
A BUN U.S. BONDS
AND STAMPS.