

modelling receive with us the due measure of attention accorded to them under our public school system. Music and the drama are also provided for. Picture study has been a feature of even the infant school programme for many a long day. But is this enough? Do our teachers manifest the awakened conscience in art matters to the same extent that obtains in our best American schools? One hardly fancies so, and to remedy this it will be necessary for us to begin at the foundation, and the surest way to do this is to have a definite, concerted plan of action in this matter. First and foremost let us see that only the noblest examples of Christian art adorn our school walls. How often do we not look with good-humored tolerance at things that are fit only as fuel for our fires. Some will say that this is impossible, but to such objectors there is only the one answer, "Will only the best" which is nearly a re-statement of the reply of St. Thomas Aquinas on being asked how to become a saint—"By willing it,—and it is only by willing it that the plague of bad, antichristian art will be banished from our midst. Let us get certain artistic convictions and adhere to them. This is for the teachers' mental attitude and incidentally for the church committees and the faithful in general upon whom devolves the duty of supplying church furniture. As for our homes that is another matter. So long as there are homes there will be the home museums wherein are enshrined the multitudinous little objects of piety or friendship that are consecrated by tender memories. About these we ask not so much for intrinsic beauty. Side by side with the sixpenny della Robbia bambino will be the sixpenny holy picture whose colors lurid and flamboyant though they be, attract our attention far less than the childish scrawl "with love to mother from Jim," and perhaps poor Jim has been helped to Heaven via Gallipoli more by prints like these than had he been brought up in daily contact with the art of the Louvre.

Now there remains for our final consideration the attitude of the scholar. How are we to set his feet in that long white road? By the syllabus mainly. Here let not one overworked teacher be affrighted with visions of new impositions on that already too heavily freighted syllabus. It is as in nature study not so much an affair of matter as of attitude. Already we have had picture talks, excursions, and visits, but often taken in such haphazard fashion as to mar their effectiveness. A few minutes daily will suffice to raise the children's minds to the contemplation of some masterpiece. Often they will find art the handmaid of definite religious teaching. Composition and history will both benefit by the presentation of this new aid. Every week let us have a definite art message to give to every child in the school and during the seven years of his pilgrimage there he will find his flocks increasing like Laban's until at the end there will be a noble collection of ideas about art. For use in this connection there are now available in very cheap form large collections of monographs on art. Good wall pictures are to be had also, but the price is often prohibitive for such pictures as are large enough for general class teaching. The Perry pictures are cheap and the series covers the whole field of painting, sculpture, architecture, and biography. They are to be had in limited numbers in Auckland at present, but the demand is so great for these things in the American schools that we need fear no diminishing output as in the case of English and French firms. Even at the rate at which the Catholic Magazine is now giving picture subjects the children will at least have had the opportunity of studying forty or fifty representative works of art in the year.

As will be seen, provision is also made for the instruction of the pupils in the artistic creations of their own environment. The writer has had convincing evidence of the fact that no more stimulating excursion may be taken by the children than the visits to the Museum and Art Gallery which have been a strong feature within late years of a few of our city schools. The vases and fountains of our city parks are neither many nor remarkable, but they are there as guides

and keys whereby we may unlock a host of ideas about the centuries of old or those yet unborn.

The study of architecture may well be commenced by a few visits to well-known buildings of good style, such as our Supreme Court. In this way the thought of the art in our midst will soak into the child mind and help him sub-consciously to form ideals whose effects may be so far reaching as to influence the thoughts of our people centuries hence, and a New Zealand, naturally the most beautiful country on earth, may, through our guidance of its youth, bear witness in its artistic productions to the fact that the minds of her children are not less worthy.

Discussion.

The schools should be well supplied with good pictures and statues. They are powerful aids to the teaching of religion. The Church is the great teacher of art. "The paper might be printed in pamphlet form," was suggested by an able critic. The beautiful pictures in the Catholic School Journal came in for much favorable comment as being invaluable aids in the correlation of English composition, literature, history, and religion.

(To be continued.)

ACTORS AS VINCENTIANS

The establishment of a St. Vincent de Paul Conference among the members of the Catholic Actors' Guild of America was passed upon and approved by the executive board of the guild at its recent meeting. Mr. William E. Cotter, 505 Fifth avenue, N.Y., was states the *N.Y. Catholic News*. Mr. William E. Cotter, 505 Fifth Avenue, N.Y., was appointed chairman of the conference, and the following members made up the committee—The Hon. Victor J. Dowling, the Hon. Morgan J. O'Brien, Mr. J. J. Cohan, Dr. Francis J. Quinlan, Mr. Wilton Lackaye, the Rev. John Talbot Smith, Mrs. J. Henry Haggerty, Mrs. Morgan J. O'Brien, Mrs. J. J. Cohan, Miss Bernice Golden, Mrs. Henry W. Taft. Mr. Cotter stated that the St. Vincent de Paul Society is well known in the world, where it has worked for relief among the suffering since 1850, and in this city its membership is large. Its establishment among the members of the guild, he said, will mean that Catholic actors in distress, spiritual or physical, will be provided promptly with the necessary aid. The objects of the society are to sustain its members by mutual example in the practise of a Christian life, to visit the poor in their dwellings, relieving their temporal wants and affording them religious consolation, and fostering other forms of charitable works springing from these.

The claim that the Waikato Winter Show is the biggest dairy exhibition in the world has been put forward by the indefatigable secretary of the association, Mr. Paul. In arriving at this decision the association was actuated by the fact that the entries of dairy produce at the show exceeds by a very great majority the record entries at dairy exhibitions held in the leading dairy countries of the universe.

Don't be anxious, little mother!

All your needless fears dispel;

Tho' your darling seems to smother

In the morning she'll be well.

If you'll keep her warm and cheerful,

And all home-made dopes abjure—

Don't be timid, tired, and tearful;

Give her Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

LADIES!

If your Grocer is out of the delicious **MILITARY PICKLE**. He's asleep. Just order it from the next Storekeeper. Buy a bottle to-day.

Rabbitskins .. Kirk & Co. Ltd.
GORTON STREET—(P.O. Box 53)—GORE

Cash Buyers of Sheepskins, Horsehair, Wool Hides, Tallow, &c. Highest Market Prices. No Commission. Prompt Returns.
JOHN CASEY, Manager.