

New members

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if they got bored, as some did. Others showed surprising concentration and worked keenly and hard.

One table served as a work-bench with pieces of wood, hammers, nails, and a small saw. The teacher said that she did not specially supervise that table, but that the children were taught how to use the tools and there had been no accidents. At another table children were painting. They were thoroughly enjoying themselves, but would have got more satisfaction had they been given larger pieces of paper and thicker brighter paint. Elsewhere little girls were puppet-making, though it was a pity to see that the last constructive work was done by the teacher and the puppet given ready-made to the child.

At another table two children were cutting out flowers in colored paper and sticking them on sheets of cardboard. When they had finished they cleared up extremely efficiently of their own accord, without any directions being given by the teacher. One child swept the waste paper up while another fetched a sponge, damped it, and wiped over the table where she had been pasting. The teacher said that the children were always expected to clear up after they had been working, and took it as a matter of course.

It is the custom in Swiss kindergartens to hold parents' meetings from time to time. In this kindergarten one had not yet been held, but it was the teacher's intention to call a meeting soon to discuss very simply what the children do in the kindergarten and why, and to give the parents an opportunity for asking questions. But it appeared that they were not particularly interested. The teacher said that they did occasionally come to her to discuss their children, but that there were very few children who were difficult and that it was not, therefore, very necessary.

The really fundamental characteristic, however, of all good kindergartens or nursery schools is the provision by the teacher of an environment in which the children can work and play busily and happily, and this characteristic, generally speaking, is not lacking in Zurich's newest kindergarten.

NEW MEMBERS

We have been pleased to enrol the following new members.—

Mr. Heinz Helbling, Cheese Factory, Riverlea.

Mr. A. Metzler, 86 Victoria Street West, Auckland.

Mr. J. Baumgartner, P.O. Box 455, Auckland.

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