THE INFLUENCE OF WORK AND RECREATION ON THE CHARACTER OF THE CHILD.

It has been stated that a Catholic says, "Give me a child until he is seven years old and then you can take him." Treat him as you will, but he will not depart from this early training. The character of a man is formed or molded when he is a child. A child's environment and training determine, to a great extent, the future success or failure of the man.

Every child should be taught to work and to take proper recreation. If he learns to work when he is a child, he will not abhor it when he becomes older. Work is essential in life to success and happiness. Crime news and divorce court scandals originate largely in the idle classes. Work is the chief source of happiness. It is the greatest antidote for sorrow, grief and disappointment; it is the producer of all honest self-respect and the gift without which mankind would go mad. It is the fount of all prosperity, the salt that gives life its savor and the friend and guide of every worthy person.

Thomas A. Edison, the world's famous inventor and "Miracle Man" of the twentieth century, was possibly the most inveterate worker the world ever knew. On one occasion when he was told of the genius he possessed, he replied that it was not genius, but his accomplishments were the result of hard work. Dr. Frank Crane once stated that genius is nothing but the capacity for infinite and ceaseless hard work. Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt on one occasion made the following statement: "I extend pity to no man because he has to work. I envy the
man who has work worth doing and does it well."

The boy or girl who hates work, loves failure. The road to success is paved with hard work. Very few, if any men, succeed in the world without diligent, painstaking efforts and after a man earns a reputation, it takes hard work to maintain it. Lindberg has learned this. The lad whose character centers around work will win. The lad who shirks, will lose.

Just as it is important for a child to learn to work, it is also important for him to learn that recreation is essential. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is an old saying that is very true, and it is also true that "All play and no work makes Jack a dumb boy". If a child is taught to enjoy proper recreation during his leisure time, rather than allowed to be idle, he will stay out of mischief and not develop degrading habits that he might if he is a loafer or idler. If a person is not taught to use his leisure time properly when a child the probability is that when he becomes a man his leisure time will be spent loafing, hanging around or on the street, or a pool room/doing nothing. Then too, recreation is most essential to the health of a child and it is highly important that every child be given proper recreation in order to build a strong, healthy and vigorous body and develop proper will power to control that body.

A habit is easy to form but hard to discontinue and if a child is taught work and recreation, such good habits will probably continue with him through life, and should not only be beneficial and essential to him, but should be inspiring to him. The proper time to influence a person's character is
During the tender years when the mind is impressionable and
the impressions and influences made on the child's mind are
more lasting than one ever dreams of. If a child is taught
work and recreation a big stride has been made to the forma-
tion of a good character in the child, and, of course, nothing
is more important in any man or woman than good character. It
behooves all parents to see that their children are taught
useful work and wholesome play in order that they may develop
into men and women of the highest character who will grow into
citizens whom not only their parents, but the Nation, can be
proud.

In closing I wish to quote that old Spanish proverb,
with which most of you are familiar, and the truth of which
rings loud at this time:

"Sow a thought and reap a word,
Sow a word and reap an act,
Sow an act and reap a habit,
Sow a habit and reap a character,
Sow a character and reap a destiny."