AIDS IN THE TEACHING OF MORALS

For several years past the National Institution for Moral Instruction, with headquarters in Washington City, has been rendering teachers and the nation a fine service by acting as a clearing house for the best standards and methods in the building of character in our public schools. Generous citizens of large means have made the work independent and efficient. The best talent and the richest experience of the educated leaders of our country have been laid under tribute, and the results are a treasury of valuable materials available for every teacher in the land.

For example, within the last year the Institution has secured from more than half of the states in the Union outlines of plans for character education through the schools. These outlines represent the best thought of the teachers of the respective states. A large prize will be awarded for the plan that is adjudged the best, and all will be put at the disposal of those who are interested enough to study them.

From time to time brief codes have been prepared and printed in convenient form for the use of teachers and parents. Two of these codes are now available. One is entitled "Children's Code of Morals," the other "High School Morality Code." The former is the work of William J. Hutchins; the latter has been compiled by Caroline M. Brevard. Each one comprises four pages, and in both the matter is well sustained in the excellent form of presentation.

The chairman of the National Institution for Moral Instruction is Dr. Milton Fairchild, whose address is 3770 McKinley St., Chevy Chase, Washington, D. C. He will receive with interest communications from any teacher or parent who is trying to find the best way to develop good character in our young citizens. Suggestions that may be useful to educators, plans that have been tried with success, or problems that he may aid in solving will be given earnest and expert attention by Dr. Fairchild and his associates.

The two codes referred to above have been prepared especially for the use of teachers and parents in homes and in schools, as already indicated. They are readable, attractive, and appeal at once to the interest and good sense of normal human beings. The Hutchins code for children presents wholesome facts regarding such things as health, self-control, self-reliance, reliability, clean play, duty, good workmanship, team work, kindness, and loyalty. The Brevard code for high school pupils presents the same and related things in style and form to appeal to elder boys and girls. Supplies of these codes may be obtained at nominal cost from the National Capital Press, 1210 D Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. Orders and inquiries should be sent direct to the publishers. The National Institution for Moral Instruction keeps out of business obligations.

The following paragraph, from the Brevard high school morality code, will give an idea of the character of the whole:

"Acknowledge and correct your errors and faults; but do not let thought of them weaken and discourage you. Do not grieve over lost opportunities, but make new ones. Do not grieve over bad habits, but break them. Do not pity yourself. Waste no time in idle dreaming, but with all the strength that is in you labor to bring about the best that you can dream."

John W. Wayland

Credits of a non-intellectual character are accepted for graduation by many high schools. This practice is common enough to induce one writer to say that "anyone with sense enough to bathe and dress himself can with slight encouragement get into the average State university." There is just enough truth in this statement to warrant high schools in raising their standards of graduation and universities their standards of entrance.—President Lotus D. Coffman, University of Minnesota.