

# Instructions.

Immaculate Mother of the Child Jesus, pray for us.



St. Brigid's Orphanage,

46 ECCLES STREET

*(Under the Care of the Sisters of Faith).*

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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE NURSES.

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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE NURSES  
OF  
ST. BRIGID'S ORPHANAGE

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THE Nurses of St. Brigid's Orphanage will remember, that in bringing up the children committed to their care, they are doing the work of God. These children were taken either out of the hands of heretics, or from the imminent danger of falling into them, and the Irish Church gives them, as so many pledges, to the nurses, for good and safe keeping. Let the nurses, therefore, be mindful, that they

are not working merely for hire, but that they are associates in a great work of charity, that they are engaged in saving the souls of these poor little Orphan Children, whom our Saviour loved so much, and for whom He died.

The chief duties of the nurses may be comprised in these six instruction, correction, good example, vigilance, schooling, and work.

#### INSTRUCTION

The nurse will act towards St. Brigid's children as if they were her own, and be a true mother to them. She will instruct them. The moment they learn to speak, she will teach them to pronounce the most holy names of Jesus and Mary, and to bless themselves. She will also take especial pains to teach them the first mysteries of

religion—namely, first, that there is only one God, eternal, almighty, infinitely good, etc. Secondly, that He has made heaven for the good and hell for the wicked, in the next life. Thirdly, that there are three distinct Persons in one God—namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal and alike in all divine perfections. Fourthly, that the Second Person, God the Son, became man, and died upon the cross for our redemption. Besides these, she will teach her child, as soon as possible, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Creed, together with the Ten Commandments of God, the Six Precepts of the Church, the General Confession, the Angel of the Lord, and the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Charity. She will also do her best to make them understand the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, Confirmation, and the Blessed Eucharist. And even after they

shall have gone to school and been confirmed, she will examine them from time to time in the catechism. She will make each child recite duly, every morning and evening, one Our Father and one Hail Mary for the benefactors of St. Brigid's Orphanage.

She will instil into their young minds a great horror of heresy, because it is one of the blackest sins in this world, and we must not expose ourselves to the danger of it by going to the schools or prayers of heretics, or even keeping their company. She will repeat, over and over again, to her child, that there is no salvation out of the Holy Catholic and Roman Church. The nurse will likewise inspire St. Brigid's children with a great hatred and dread of sin, telling them, often, that sin made hell, and changed angels into devils, and that it

alone brought death and destruction on the whole world. "All the days of thy life," she will say to her child, "have God in thy mind, and take heed that thou never consent to sin, nor transgress the commandments of the Lord thy God." She will exhort them to love God, to love their religion, to reverence the Priest because he is the anointed of God, and through him we hear the Church speaking, and she will charge them to seek advice at his hands, and to be guided by him in all their undertakings. She will remind them, frequently, to offer to God all their work and all their sufferings, to say little prayers now and then during the day, to call upon Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in their temptations, and to remember that death will come very soon and bring them to heaven if they remain in the grace of God, but to hell if they give themselves up to sin.

## CORRECTION.

St. Brigid's nurse will consider the duty of correction one of her principal duties , because, a child that grows up in its faults without correction, lives and dies in vice. Let the nurse, therefore, keep in mind the Almighty's words "Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and save his soul from hell." But some say, I don't like to beat another's child. This would be criminal in St. Brigid's nurse, because there is no one else to correct it. Care must, however, be taken to give correction in the proper manner, and let her observe well the following directions. First, that the nurse or her husband are the only persons entitled to correct. Hence, no child of her own is to assume any authority, or attempt to strike, or otherwise punish, St. Brigid's



child. Secondly, that it is not good to be slapping a child at every hand's-turn, nor to be commanding it at every moment. But, when the child has done any serious fault, she is to give it warning a second, or perhaps a third time, and should it disregard the warnings, she must then take it aside where no one can interfere, and correct it firmly and according to the measure of its fault. One correction of this kind is often remembered for years. Thirdly, she must never pet the child after having chastised it, and where it becomes obstinate in stubbornness or disobedience, she must never yield nor let the child have its way. Fourthly, she must never correct the child in, or through, passion. Fifthly, some people think that a child is not to be corrected till it has reached its sixth or seventh year. This is an error. The child must be cured of its stubbornness and its dis-

obedience before five years of age. In truth, ill humour, peevishness, pouts, obstinacy, and passion, are easily eradicated in a young child, but in a grown boy or girl they are incurable, except by an extraordinary grace of God. Sixthly, the child must never be called upon to criminate itself. When a child appears to have done something wrong, some people take a rod, and threatening the child, demand, Have you done such a thing? Who can wonder that the child screens itself behind a lie, and in time becomes a liar? Let the nurse remember, too, that most of our children, when they grow up, will have to earn their bread by labour and service, and hence, their prospects in life will depend very much upon their manner and their temper, and so she will try by all means to make them obedient, patient, gentle, and good-humoured.

## GOOD EXAMPLE.

To bring up children properly, instruction and correction, though absolutely necessary, will not be enough, the parents and grown members of the family must also give good example. A good nurse will rear a good child, that is certain. Soft wax takes the impression of the seal, and a person sees his own image in a looking-glass, so a child is the impression and the image of those that rear it. On this account, all bad example must be banished from the house where St. Brigid's children are brought up. Cursing and swearing, lies, obscene words, unbecoming behaviour, thefts, drunkenness—these, or the like, must never be seen or heard in the family

Moreover, when the child comes to a

little understanding, and begins to see the wickedness and sins of the world, and to make its little remarks upon them, the nurse will seize these opportunities, and by a severe look and a gesture of abhorrence, give the child a great dread of them. Also, when there is talk of any great sin, she will remark how God is displeased with it, and how He has made hell to punish it. She will then say what a terrible place hell is, a lake of fire and brimstone, a place of darkness and crying and lamentations, filled with fiery serpents and ugly devils and damned souls, and how they that go there will never come out, but burn for ever. These, and the like remarks, will be made rather in the hearing of the child than to it, for a child takes more notice of a conversation that it overhears than of a lecture given to itself. In one word, keep from the child's sight and knowledge everything that might tempt

it to sin, and place before it those things that will incite it to virtue. Let it hear good things praised, and bad condemned, and thus the child will grow up in the fear of God and all goodness. But, some say, "What matter that I get into a passion and curse now and then, or that bad things are seen or heard in the house. I'll take care that the child shan't do the like." Concerning such persons our Saviour asks, "Do men gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles?" No; children will believe their eyes rather than their ears. They will follow the nurse's example before her commands, and so, if bad example is given, they will both go down into hell.

#### VIGILANCE.

All the efforts of the nurse to train her children will be still unavailing, unless she

watch over them continually. A farmer, who has a farm, attends to the seasons, and minds the precise time to put his seed in the ground. He watches the weeds as they grow, and plucks them up. He takes care that when new earth is wanted he puts it about the growing plant. Above all, he looks to the fences, and keeps them in repair, lest any beasts should come in and destroy his crop. Thus, when God Almighty blesses the world with a good season, the vigilant farmer has a plentiful crop.

St. Brigid's nurse must watch still more closely over her charge. She must see that they say their prayers every night and morning, and go to Mass and catechism every Sunday and holiday, that they go to confession (as soon as they are capable of committing sin), at seven or eight years of

age, and make their first Communion at about ten or eleven years of age. This is the time for sowing the seed of virtue. She will make them bless themselves frequently, especially before and after meals, going to bed and rising, in all temptations and dangers. She will remember that one good advice given at the proper time is worth twenty given out of season. But, what is the proper time? When the child is willing to receive the advice, when it asks the meaning of a religious practice or ceremony, when it gazes upon a religious picture, when it cries for being left alone or in the dark, when you have it by the hand going to or coming from Mass, and in hundreds of like occasions; these are the proper times for giving advice.

It may be remarked also that children are very fond of asking questions, and

this will constantly afford the nurse the means of giving good advice. A child, for instance, sees a cross, and asks what it is, and the nurse tells it how the Son of God died upon a cross for the sins of the world. Again, he sees a rainbow, and asks where it came from, and she tells how God drowned the world in a deluge for their sins, and then put this rainbow in the heavens as a pledge that He would not again drown the world with water. Should the child take an interest in this, she will go on to tell the second destruction of the world by fire and the last judgment. In this manner the nurse will take advantage of every opportunity to imprint good thoughts and principles upon the minds of her children.

She will, also, take great care to watch the evil inclinations which, in many chil-



dren, grow up like weeds in a rich soil. They show signs, very early, of self-will, stubbornness, selfishness, and passion, then perhaps of stealing, quarrelling, aversion to the duties of religion, and inclinations contrary to modesty. Here is the nurse's great difficulty. How will she deal with these evil roots of sin? In the first place, it is certain that she ought to pray earnestly to God for light and strength to apply the proper remedies. Secondly, the child is often corrected, for good and all, by a strong manifestation of displeasure, and a quick, sharp chastisement administered the moment the child is just detected in the evil. Thirdly, when the nurse has once notified her displeasure of any evil propensity, she must follow it up, and never rest till she has plucked out the roots of the evil. Fourthly, when a child makes any little effort to overcome a bad

habit, it is to be praised for it and encouraged to persevere.

But, the chief care of the nurse will be to keep her child from bad company. The most perfect way to do this is to train the child's mind, to give it a great fear and dread of children who curse, swear, steal, lie, speak bad words, or do anything contrary to modesty. If the nurse cannot train her child to fly from such companions, she must watch very closely, and use all the severity necessary to drive it from them, because that child is surely lost which is allowed to keep bad company.

#### SCHOOLING.

With regard to schooling, the nurses will send their children, when they shall have come to the age of five or six years,

to school. They must be kept to school until they shall have learned to read well, to write fairly, and as much figures as will enable them to transact hereafter all the business of housekeeping, of fair, and market, correctly. They must prepare their lessons each evening for the next day, and the nurse or some one for her will examine them from time to time, to see how they are getting on, and to stimulate them to further exertion.

#### WORK.

Some nurses think that we would not wish them to employ our orphans about their house, on their land, or in going on errands. This is a mistake. There could scarcely be a greater evil than to make idlers of our poor children. The nurses, therefore, will train the females in

all the work of the house, the dairy, washing, making up clothes, sewing, knitting, spinning, preparing seed for the farm, etc. She will not, however, allow them to herd or work in the fields, unless herself, or some woman on whom she can depend, is with them. She will take especial pains to make them keep their clothes and their persons clean, and be fond of having everything about them nice and clean.

With regard to the boys, she will take care that her husband and her sons teach them all kinds of farm-work, and the manner of caring cattle, and any other branches of industry or trade that they may be engaged in. No person shall, however, attempt to put labour upon any child above its strength, or to treat it cruelly. But the chief thing is to make them smart and lively in doing their work,

and give them a taste for it, and above all things, to train them to raise their hearts to God from time to time, and offer all their actions to Him.

In conclusion, let us beg of the nurses to be always mindful that the souls of these poor orphans are in their hands, and that they will be for ever in heaven or in hell, according as they do their duty or neglect it, towards these children of St. Brigid.

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**St. Brigid's, 46 Eccles Street, Dublin.**

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