IT WAS with a reluctant feeling that I finally consented to offer a modest contribution for this issue of the Iowa Homemaker, that splendid growing publica­tion, for an appreciation of the more beau­tiful things in life. They also have a fear of some boy or girl desiring to see them when sometimes the morals are being undermined by bad associates.

Teachers come in for their big share of responsibility, especially where most children regard the teacher as a fair model for them to imitate. And yet when we calculate that the teacher has the child but one-fifth of his waking hours, the other influences have such a large proportion of his recreation hours, that the teacher finds it difficult to see the effect of her moral efforts.

The more the parent is a teacher, the better the child's education—the more the teacher is like a parent the better the results at school. Parents' opportunities for affecting character are much greater than those of a teacher because theirs is a continuous influence and a more intimate one. Parent-teachers associations are doing a vast amount of good. With the splendid cooperation of the two many of the troublesome problems are now solved with ease, and a strong mutual feeling of interest and sympathy now exists between them.

Some of the effects of the irresponsi­bility of parents may be gleaned from statistics which tell us that 22 per cent of children are born with a chance to be vigorous men or women, only 17 per cent grow up without some handicap—so that 65 per cent are cheated by some­one's lack of responsibility.

Too long automobile rides, and the taking of children to inappropriate places because they have no one to leave them with is a sign of great selfishness on the parents' part. Keeping the children up till father comes home at night so that he may have a romp with them before bedtime, makes hours for sleep variable—fine for the father, but children then are too excited to go to sleep readily, and sooner or later develop one of those ex­tremely nervous dispositions. They rati­fy the children's desires when they know it is not for the best, because the child's crying makes them nervous, or they allow them to run about when they have fever, as it is such a task to keep them in bed.

Another father wants it quiet in the evening, so that he can work. He is doing a vast amount of good for his family. The mother said to her little son that she did not altogether like one of the habits of a little companion of his, whom she had heard speak quite saucily to his mother, and was afraid her child might fall into the same habit if he continued to play with him. She was surprised when the child replied, "Oh, I do not know. I never say anything when I go to you, mother." "But if you could hear how saucy his mother is to him sometimes you'd not blame him so much." He quickly recognized the contradiction and realized that his mother was aiming to be a model parent to him, and assuming all the responsibilities she could for his welfare.

So may I close by quoting: "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."