

annually manufactured here. The most interesting of all is the making of the automation or "gelenkpuppe," as the Thuringians call it. It is the pearl of all dolls, and is even appreciated by the boys, as it can be made to imitate all the movements of the circus clown.

How often has not some poor mother attempted to unravel the mysteries of the labyrinthian inside of some automatic dolly reduced to a catalepsy by the inquisitive handling of her hopeful who was bent on a summary analysis? It is, indeed, an intricate system of hooks and elastics that connects arms and legs, hands and feet. The uninitiated person finds it impossible to effect successful repairs, but a recent invention by a villager of Walterhausen will cause the introduction of a simpler device, so that unskilled parents will be able to restore the vital forces of their children's pets. Some of the larger automatic dolls are composed of twenty or more parts, mostly made of wood from the Thuringenwald.

The Thuringians cut the wooden members in accordance with certain patterns, while they have machines wherewith to round the little wooden balls which serve as joint-caps. All the various parts must pass through the hands of the painter families before they are delivered to the factory. There are whole families who do nothing else but paint heads. The latter are also made of wood, porcelain, papier-mache and wax.

The tinting of the heads is the most delicate work of all. There is a small village not far from Sonneberg called Lauscha, where it is said that three-fourths of all the doll's eyes in the world are made.

After the heads have been tinted it requires families of dexterous mechanics to bore eye-sockets and to adjust the ovals. Doll's eyes can be made to wink or close through the attachment of small suspended weights to the corners of the lids. This reveals the mystery which has gladdened hundreds of thousands of little ones since the contrivance was first introduced here.

Only in the case of the most expensive dolls is real human hair applied. The bulk of the hair used for dolls is extracted from goats and kindred animals, and after being washed in some chemical mixture assumes its soft and glossy appearance.

The hair-dressers are important persons, and they must thoroughly understand their business, for doll coiffures change as often as the mode de Paris. The common dolls all wear hair wigs pasted on the mucilage, but the more aristocratic wax dolls insist on having every hair sewed separately in their craniums.

There are not only wood carvers, head-makers, leg and arm makers, dolls' eye-makers, portrait artists, hair-dressers, doll-sewers and doll-stuffers, but there is also employed a small army of fashionable dressmakers and milliners who make the cheapest calico Mother Hubbards, as well as the most stylish garments for dolls.

BESSIE'S NEW GAME.

When an afternoon full of games has left the nursery in great disorder, Bessie and Gertrude have one very last game to play, called "Helpfulness."

Bessie invented it.

On separate slips of paper are written the names of the principal things in the room—floor, chairs, rugs, book-case, bureau, closet, sofa, corners, tables, window-sills and desk—the slips of paper shuffled about, backs up.

Each person "playing" draws one in turn till all are taken, putting in order that part of the room or piece of furniture named, and when the game is done, behold the room neat and fresh again.

THE GOAT'S KICK.

Several little girls were returning home from the park one afternoon when they were overtaken by a goat that wanted the whole street. They, of course, ran for dear life, the foremost one shouting to her companions, "Run! run! girls; he will kick with his head."