

so their brains are only well stored lumber rooms.

It is very hard work to get "why?" and "how?" into a Chinese school. The boys do not know why a thing is so, or how it is so, and they don't care; and, what is worse, the native teacher doesn't want them to care. Why should he? His life is hard enough at best, and the "how?" and "why?" laddies are a great deal more trouble to live with and take care of, as every American mamma will testify. It has occurred to the writer that, to secure the ideal boy, it would only be necessary to take a little interrogation point (of course you know I mean an American boy), and a little Chinese boy, just as big and just as old, and roll them up in a ball—when presto! out would come the loveliest little fellow that ever wore a cap, asking just questions enough and never one too many.

At the other end of the village where we live are the little girl scholars—bless their dear, little, pinched up, aching toes, and their long, shining braids and bright eyes. You could love them without half trying. A little maiden, not a thousand miles from here, had them all at her birthday party a while ago. They played "Drop the handkerchief" just as you do, only they use their belts, and call it "Drop the girdle." They also played "Blind-man's buff" after your fashion, finding it rather hard to catch their little American sister with her free dancing feet. Then we all sat down on the floor and played a game of jack-stones. Think of their knowing that too! Isn't it droll? Their game is a little different from yours. They call it "Bah-Bah." Fancy the clever little witches putting "Sally over the log," "Sally over the fence," "beans in the pot," "horses in the stable," "riding the elephant," "setting the table," and coming out triumphantly on the "double fives," having beaten us soundly!—*Mission stories of Many Lands.*

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