

Woman and the Home

My Neighbor's Confession (After she had been Fortunate)

Yes, this is what my neighbor said that night,
In the still shadow of her stately house,
(Fortune came to her when her head was white)
What time dark leaves were weird in withering boughs,
And each late rose sighed with its latest breath,
"This sweet world is too sweet to end in death."

But this is what my neighbor said to me:
"I grieved my youth away for that or this.
I had upon my hand the ring you see,
With pretty babies in my arms to kiss,
And one man said I had the sweetest eyes,
He was quite sure, this side of Paradise."

"But then our crowded cottage was so small,
And spacious grounds would blossom full in sight;
Then one would fret me with an India shawl,
And one flash by me in a diamond's light;
And one would show me yards of precious lace,
And one look coldly from her painted face."

"I did not know that I had everything
Till—I remembered it. Ah me! ah me!
I who had ears to hear the wild-bird sing
And eyes to see the violets. It must be
A bitter fate that jewels the gray hair,
Which once was golden and had flowers to wear."

"In the old house, in my old room, for years,
The haunted cradle of my little ones gone
Would hardly let me look at it for tears.
... Oh, my lost nurslings! I stay on and on,
Only to miss you from the empty light
Of my lone fire—with my own grave in sight."

"In the old house, too, in its own old place,
Handsome and young, and looking toward the gate
Through which it flushed to meet me, is a face
For which, ah me! I never more shall wait—
For which, ah me! I wait forever, I
Who, for the hope of it, can surely die."

"Young men write gracious letters here to me,
That ought to fill this mother-heart of mine.
The youth in this one crowds all Italy!
This glimmers with the far Pacific's shine.
The first poor little hand that warmed my breast
Wrote this—the date is old; you know the rest."

"Oh, if I only could have back my boys,
With their lost gloves and books for me to find,
Their scattered playthings and their pleasant noise!
I sit here in the splendor, growing blind,
With hollow hands that backward reach and ache
For the sweet trouble which the children make."

Wise and experienced mothers know when their children are troubled with worms and lose no time in applying Miller's Worm Powders, the most effective vermifuge that can be used. It is absolute in clearing the system of worms and restoring those healthy conditions without which there can be no comfort for the child, or hope of robust growth. It is the most trustworthy of worm exterminators.

Children's Parties

Many a country mother would like to have parties for her children occasionally, but she hardly knows how to go about it. She thinks if she were only in town where the little folks could come and go easily parties would be very enjoyable, but in the country it is impossible to do anything. She knows little children are delighted with the idea of a party, and that asking in a dozen or more children to play games and eat a few simple articles of food will pass for a party with the average child, yet she shrinks from the undertaking.

Now a party in the country for little children is one of the easiest things imaginable, and it can easily be made a double social affair. Either the mothers may be asked with the children, or the big sisters, and thus two "parties" are in progress at once. The ladies can amuse

good together as they are all sweet, while custard, cocoa and oranges are too soft and mussy. A little forethought will enable the mother to work out a good combination and one that will not be expensive or hard to manage.

And, last but not least, have your party hours short. Do not expect to entertain the children from one o'clock to six, no matter how beautiful the day nor how much they may be out of doors. Two hours is a long enough period to have a group of little folks together, and the party will be more successful if it is short. A happy, enjoyable little time with good things to eat and a desire to stay longer makes the ideal children's party and surely this is within the reach of any country mother.

Preparing our Boys for Fatherhood

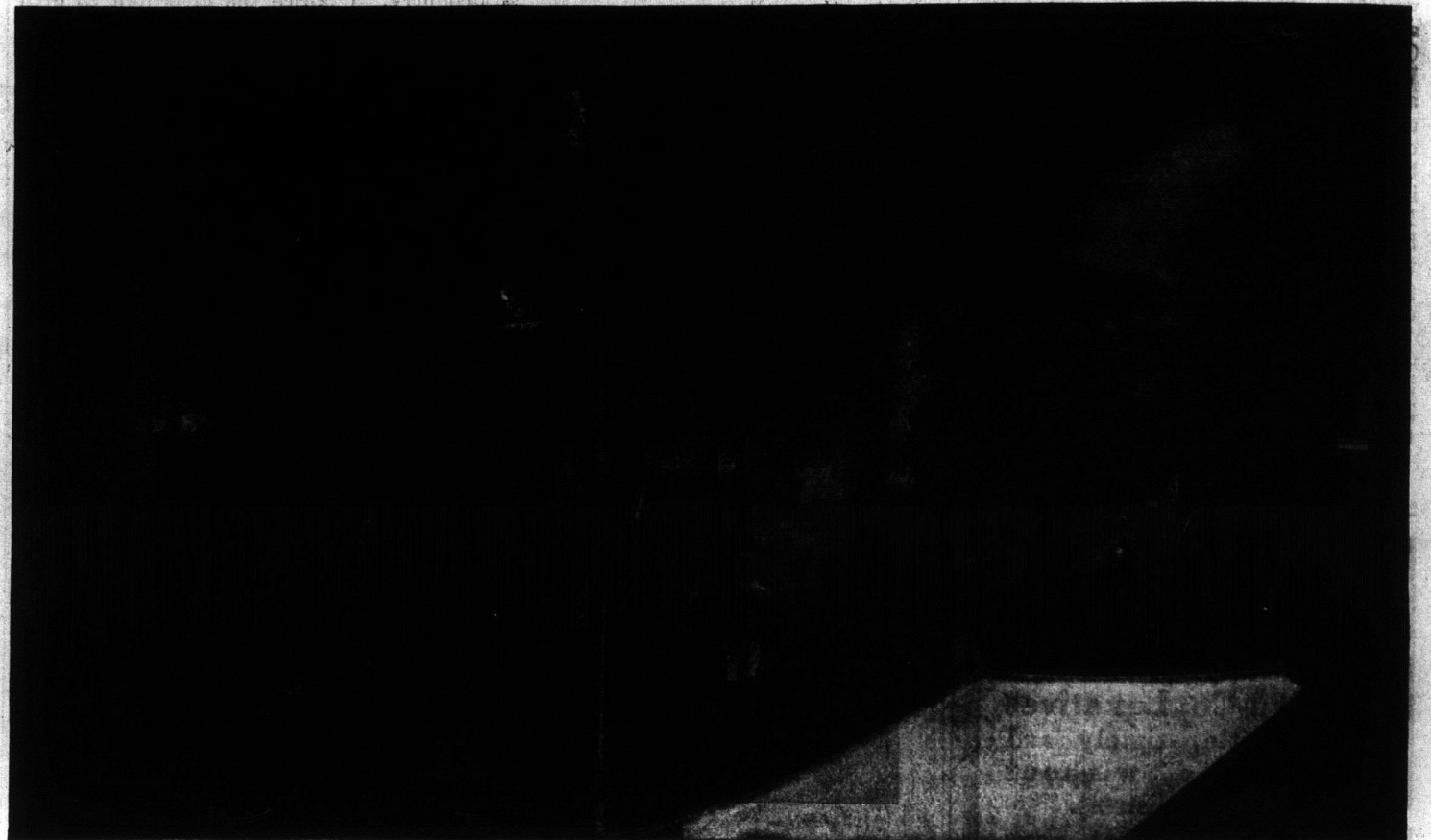
By Ida M. Haliburton, Calgary.

When we consider the question, I think we will admit that most of our knowledge of children is derived from study of them and their actions. They cannot explain their thoughts and their reasons well enough to enable us to solve our problems concerning them. They

always gives an exultant thump when strangers remark of him "He's a boy, isn't he?" I like to see him make all the noise he can with his toys. I like occasionally to see him break things. Most of all, I want him to be boyish; but I want him to cuddle dolls and love them as fervently in his boy way as my little girls do in theirs. In my estimation, it will not detract one iota from his manliness.

We all admit that the germ of mothering is innate in every little girl's heart. We foster it and coax it into bloom. Very wisely, I think. The little girl may never be a mother but she's better for the development. Some one or some thing will benefit by that growth and she herself is wider and richer for it. I believe also that your little son's breast holds a similar germ; just as capable of growth, unless it is chilled and discouraged.

Very small boys, it seems to me, are. I know a seven-year-old who has a teddy bear which he has taken to bed with him every night for four years. He loves that teddy just as fervently as his sister loves her dolls. Once while she was sewing for her dolls, he made his teddy a pair of overalls, which showed that he had the same desire to "do" for the



Members of the Alpine Club around a camp fire.

themselves with fancy work or other sewing and the young girls are delighted to help with the games, so the hostess really has very little responsibility. She can even ask several friends to help with serving and the afternoon will be as pleasant to her as anyone.

The games should include all the dear, noisy, romping ones in summer and the more quiet ones in winter. Just now picture puzzle, checkers, dominoes, donkey contests, bean bags, parlor croquet, I spy, and all the other things children delight in may furnish the amusement. Pictures cut from advertising pages and given to children to fit together furnish much amusement, and block building, dolls, and mechanical toys may all be used effectively. If it is a boys' party marbles will be liked, while the little girls like dolls or doll sewing.

The refreshments should be simple and wholesome as a healthy little lunch at four o'clock will not spoil the child's supper, and a heavy meal would. Sandwiches made of good bread and jam, bread and boiled ham, bread and preserves, or bread and butter only are all good. Chopped nuts for a sandwich filling or nuts and cottage cheese are liked by some children but not by all. Plain cookies, plain cake with frosting, and candies, the frosting decorations making it look festive, raisins, figs, oranges, apples, popcorn, home-made candies or individual custards may all be used, depending upon the season. Two or three articles should comprise the menu, and they should be the kind to combine well. For example, jam sandwiches, cocoa and candies are not

express themselves most clearly by actions and by these actions we must read the thought that lies behind.

You will pardon me then if I speak chiefly of what I have learned by personal observation of them in my eight years' experience in teaching school, and in fifteen years as a mother. Because of these associations I love and respect children and I would like to see each one helped instead of hindered by the impressions he receives. No one can study children without loving them; no one should love them without studying them.

A few days ago I was making a call in a home in which there were twins. These twins, Jack and Phyllis, had just celebrated their fourth birthday. Before I left they were called in to show me their presents. Jack had a fine drum and Phyllis an expression baby doll with a face so natural it made something stir within me. I loved and cuddled the doll (who wouldn't), and admired and sounded Jack's drum. When the children were left to themselves I noticed Jack coax Phyllis' doll from her and hold it lovingly under his chin while he patted the little feet. But his mother noticed him also and said: "Why Jack! For shame! give Phyllis her dolly. Boys mustn't play with dolls." Jack's "Why mamma?" receiving a lame answer, found an echo in my mind; but his mother turned to me with the explanation: "I want Jack to be manly for I can't endure a girlish boy."

Now neither can I endure a "sissy." I have a little son seven months old and I want him to be all boy. My heart

object of his affection as the mother instinct had prompted in his sister. He was a very manly little fellow too.

I also know a thirteen-year-old boy who, his mother tells me, is very much attached to his baby sister. He was delivering our paper one night and I remarked to him: "Well, George, you have a nice little baby at your house, haven't you?" George colored, looked shy but pleased and, twisting his bare toe around in the sand, said, as unconcerned as he could: "Aw, she's all right!" Now, why should George feel ashamed to show his pleasure over an inquiry that would have delighted his sister? Just because he is a boy and has been taught that dolls and babies are beneath a manly boy's notice.

Then, again, did you ever observe the difference between the attitudes of the parents when they have their baby in public. Not one mother in a hundred but looks proud, or one father in ten but looks self-conscious.

Now I think that most of this condition of affairs is due to the fact that boys are taught to despise dolls. Early impressions are more vivid and lasting than those received later. The responsibilities of fatherhood are almost as immense as those of motherhood. Let us teach our boys to love dolls. Believe me, it will not make him less manly. I'll risk him staying home from a good baseball match to make doll clothes. I will also guarantee that his wife, when he gets one, will bless the day she was chosen by a man who has had a little preparation for fatherhood.