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talking he tried to speak faster than he could form the words, and a habit of stammering was rapidly forming. We did not wait until we had a fully-formed habit to battle with, but attacked it immediately, not allowing a single sentence to be uttered until the one preceding it was slowly spoken and distinctly enunciated. It took time and patience, but the process involved less of suffering to the child than it would have done at any later time, and he speaks now much more clearly and distinctly than his mates. A habit of squinting, and another of sitting stooped in his carriage, were cured by constant care. There was another, the cause of which we never could determine, which proved most obstinate. This was, at first, thought comparatively harmless, and was simply the turning forward and downward of the upper part of the ear. It soon became evident that, if persisted in, it would ruin the shape of the ears and thus the whole appearance of the head, and we set to work to correct it. The task seemed almost hopeless at first, for watchfulness, commands, and even punishment produced but little effect. We persisted, however, and in time were rewarded by a complete victory.

Apt Followers.

Do parents half realize how apt their children are in imitating their sayings and doings, or how great, how very great, may be the influences of their own daily acts upon their children for their future good or evil? I say evil, for, innocent and artless as little ones

an elegantly dressed caller. Then she added apologetically, "Children pick up such strange language."

Angelina looked up innocently and answered, "Why mother, you see we are playing, and he is my little boy, and I am scolding him just as you did me this morning; that's all."

Alas! is it all? Will that child, if she lives to become a wife and mother, treat her children differently? Will she not, too, in self-forgetfulness repeat the most common phrase in some mother's vocabulary? — "I don't see where my children learn such things."

Can we, indeed, wonder that the children of such parents do not turn out more gentle and pure-minded, that they are more apt to reproduce the evil than the good they learned in the home of their childhood? And in the same way the apparently innocent yet too frequent card-playing, the social glass, etc., may they not lead them still further? Ay, to gambling, excess in wine-drinking, and a less high-toned sense of morality. Then let us earnestly plead for more gentle care and watchfulness over the little ones, who from their earliest childhood are pliable and will receive such impressions as will tell upon their future and bring forth fruits for good or evil.

Dressing In One's Best.

"Well," said a boy of fifteen, surveying himself with unusual complacency when he was arrayed in a handsome new suit. "I do like to be



Taking a rest.

appear, that wonderful store-house, the mind may, almost unconsciously to all about them, be storing up something mamma or papa has said or done, and which therefore must be right. And they will at the time, or long afterward, make use of their knowledge in a more striking way than the aforesaid parents dream of.

Some, by way of caution, and with a wink toward some uncommonly bright child, will use the trite saying: "Little pitchers have big ears." Or, perhaps, a parent quotes it with a hearty laugh after hearing a smart child repeat what he had much better not have heard. Again, ways and actions of a mother are often repeated with almost dramatic effect by a child with its playmates or dollies.

To give a forcible example of this—which might readily call up a smile were it not disheartening to think of its lasting effect upon the child, and how similar things are constantly occurring all over this wide world of ours—some children were at play in front of a well-appearing mansion when a bright-eyed little girl, somewhat under six years of age, screamed out to a youngster who was seated on a curbstone making hasty-pudding of the soft mud in the gutter:

"Bob, you good-for-nothing little scamp, come right in the house this minute, or I'll beat you till the skin comes off!"

"Why, Angelina, Angelina, my child! What do you mean? Where do you learn such talk?" exclaimed her mother in wondering surprise, as she stood on the step graciously bowing off

dressed in my best." Vanity is by no means monopolised by the feminine contingent. Men and boys have their full share of it. Women, in token of their supposed indoor condition and duties, in these days wear the rich satins and elegant silks and laces. Men are satisfied with cloth of black, brown or grey, and set it off with white linen. Yet a man enjoys good clothes and likes to be clad as sumptuously as his purse will allow.

Every prudent woman knows that to put on her best clothes for common wear is to have nothing left wherewithal to appear on occasions. Therefore, she cherishes the good gown in the closet, the nice hat in the bandbox, and the best shoes and gloves put carefully aside. A careful and thrifty matron tries to have some garments in reserve. The second-best gown is a great comfort. One may enjoy it, and not worry lest anything happen to it.

Wherever practicable, a woman should make an afternoon toilette, so that her dress, either with a knot of ribbon at her throat or in her hair, or her fresh gown and apron if she be busy about her house, may have an air of leisure, different from the work-a-day look of her morning dress.

The children enjoy seeing their mother well dressed, and insensibly the household is toned up.

Guests And Guest-room.

A neat and tidy hostess is often much annoyed by the carelessness of a guest who keeps her room in dire confusion.

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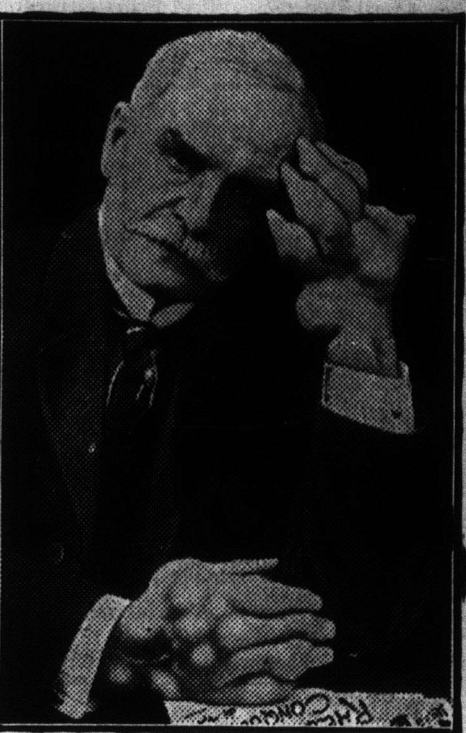
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