

OUR HOME PAGE

Your Home and You

By HELEN KENDALL

HOME PORTRAITURE.

The most charming portrait in the world is that of a happy, unconscious child, taken in its home setting—a precious family document out of the very heart of home life. No one is so fitted and equipped to take such pictures as the baby's own father or mother, provided the proper precautions are taken.

Amateur snapshots, especially those taken indoors, are rarely satisfactory. Out of doors, with the whole sky filled with light, there is generally greater success; though even then many persons make the mistake of having bright sunshine in the figure, which makes spotty white areas and very black shadows. It is better, when taking snapshots to be open, to be out of the direct sunlight, but in place where the light is plentiful and diffused.

At this time of year, however, the problem is that of getting good interior snaps. This is very difficult because the light is concentrated near the windows, and yet the child, if placed in the window, is apt to have one side too light and the other side in deep shade, because the farther

side of the room provides no light. A flash light is rarely satisfactory, because it startles the child, in the first place, and makes a glaring, unnatural light in the second place.

The best results are obtained by covering the windows with full, thin white curtains which diffuse the sunlight. Cheesecloth is good for this purpose. Now on the other side of the room, fasten up a large white sheet which will reflect the light from the window and provide that all-around light that is available outdoors. This sheet can be fastened to a movable stand—a couple of clothes poles, for example, and placed wherever reflected light is needed.

The most beguiling pictures are those where the child is unconsciously absorbed in some play. If you want a natural, happy look directly into the camera, speak brightly to the baby in a quick way, and snap just as he turns to you. One of the most attractive home pictures I ever saw was of a baby's first steps. The father knelt on the floor, and just as the baby started toward him, snapped the picture. The excited rapturous look on the baby's face was charming.

from becoming habits if I had been guided wisely in my childhood."

Many parents seem to overlook or under estimate the importance of the first appearance of undesirable tendencies in their children which can be overcome, if properly treated while children are still young.

Ill-temper, selfishness, teasing and fault finding can be kept from becoming unlovely characteristics if a wise guide gives help at the right time.

At the root of wrong doing one can always find selfishness. It besets the only child in a home where adults seem to exist to please and spoil him, as well as the little wail on the street where to "have" he has to "snatch." For either of these children, the kindergarten is a blessing. Here in happy surroundings he learns to share in work and play—to give as well as take.

Here a child learns to hang up his wraps; to care for his rubbers; to sit erect, overcoming a desire to slide in his chair; to obey the directions of the teacher, given sometimes by voice, sometimes by the piano; to yield his individual desire and do the thing that is right for him to do at that moment.

The child who at home makes no effort to help himself in putting on his wraps, who sticks out his feet for someone to put on his rubbers, is encouraged to try and do these things for himself, not only by the teacher, but most of all by the sight of the more independent children delightfully accomplishing the task of slipping on rubbers, putting on coats and struggling successfully with slippery buttons.

But perhaps the games help most to develop unselfishness. Early in life one needs to learn to share—to be a good loser—to relinquish smilingly to someone else, and for five days a week kindergarten offers a splendid opportunity.

In a large group of children, where each has equal rights, the selfish child comes to see the need of respecting those rights, which he does by waiting his turn and sharing with others.

And so the pictures, songs, stories, games and handwork open up to him the world about him and lead him from selfishness, out of himself; to unselfishness.

ing arrives, if such a plant is put there, it will not be long before there will be a marked improvement in the garden in spring, and this method can be followed with good results for the whole season.

Let all who love flowers, then, plan for improvement on the garden next spring: a little improvement each year would soon result in a great change and make the home grounds much more attractive.

He stooped down so Peggy could climb up on his back. She held tightly to his long neck and away they scooted through the air like a great white ship.

They found Mama Flamingo sitting on her nest. It was all that Peggy could do to keep her face straight when she saw how she had to fix her long legs to be comfortable. They were stretched right out behind her like two yellow sticks.

"Mama, this is Peggy," said Daddy Flamingo. "She wants to peek into our nest if it's convenient."

Mama Flamingo looked embarrassed, but after much awkward scrambling, she finally got up on her long legs. Peggy had to keep her eyes on the nest of eggs for fear she might laugh and hurt Mama Flamingo's feelings.

"I'd just love to see the babies when they hatch," Peggy said. "I do think you're such interesting birds."

"Then by all means come back when they are out of their shells. I'd love to have you," said Mama Flamingo, crawling back on her nest once more. "I don't mind folks visiting me if they don't laugh at me."

Peggy promised to return, and pat in deep shade, because the farther Flamingo she ran home to tell her Aunt Bell what she had seen.

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TRAINING FOR UNSELFISHNESS
By May E. Wilson
Not long ago I heard a very lovely woman say, "If my parents had realized how unkind their love for me was when I was a child, they would have saved me many tears. I was allowed my own way in everything and grew up a disagreeable, and selfish girl. Later when I had to leave home and go among people I found I had to reform myself to be even tolerated. It was a long, heart-breaking task, which I had to struggle through alone, overcoming habits which might easily have been kept

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Flower Garden In The Spring
To all lovers of flowers the garden in spring is a most enjoyable place; here one meets old friends among the flowering plants, which, perhaps, one has watched the development of for years. In many gardens, however, there is a dearth of spring flowers, but as there are so many hardy desirable plants, this could easily be remedied if there was a desire to do so.

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