

FOR THE CHILDREN

Blackie's Trick.

By J. D. Cowles.

GLADYS sat holding Gray-Paws, one of her kitties, in her lap.

But presently her thoughts were recalled by a soft rubbing against her arm. She looked round, and there was Blackie, Gray-Paws' brother, evidently trying his best to attract attention. He rubbed against her, and put his nose under her arm. But somehow Gladys seemed to think that her lap was full enough just then, although she was often known to hold five kittens at once, as Blackie was well aware. At last Blackie seemed to conclude that there was no room for him at present, and he was perhaps jealous of Gray-Paws. It really seems as if he must have thought the matter over carefully and made deliberate plans, for this is what he did.

Blackie suddenly sprang down beside the dish used for food and began to eat, or pretend to, with the greatest relish, occasionally looking at Gray-Paws, as if afraid he would come and take part of the feast. This, of course, was too much for Gray-Paws to resist, and in a moment he had jumped from Gladys's lap and run to the side of the dish.

Quick as a thought Blackie turned away, ran up the steps and jumped into Gladys's lap, where he curled down in a ball and began to purr. There was not one thing in the dish! "You naughty, funny little cat!" exclaimed Gladys, and she could not help cuddling the little rogue nor laughing at his trick, while Gray-Paws walked slowly away.

—New Idea Magazine.

The Sitting-Room Lamp.

By Alice Turner Curtis.

AUNT ETHEL took off the shade from the lamp on the sitting-room table, struck a match carefully on the little iron Chinaman's back, and in a moment there was a pleasant light in the room.

"Aunt Ethel, what makes the lamp burn?" asked Constance.

"Kerosene," replied Aunt Ethel, who was busy with her knitting.

"Would the lamp burn if there was water in it?" asked the little girl.

Aunt Ethel shook her head, smiling. "Of course not, Constance," she said.

"The oil feeds the cotton wick in the lamp, and the wick feeds the flame."

"What does ker-o-sene mean?" questioned Mary, forgetting the shadows in the corners and coming close to the table, where she could watch the flame.

"Dear me," replied Aunt Ethel, "I shall have to find that out. I don't know myself," and she laid down the knitting and brought a big book from the book-shelves and began turning the leaves.

"Here it is," she said. "Well, it is a made-up name, partly Greek. It means fuel—that is, something that will burn—and it means light."

Both the little girls repeated the word over as if not quite satisfied.

"It is really an oil," went on Aunt Ethel, "that is found in the ground, and it is of more value to all the people of the earth than all the minerals, such as silver, gold and copper. But its real name is petroleum."

"Kerosene is made of petroleum," said Mary.

"Does everybody have it?" asked Mary.

"Who found out that it could be burned in lamps?" asked Constance, before Aunt Ethel could answer Mary's question.

"Well, Constance, I will answer your question first, because it says right on this very page that no one knows who first used petroleum, as a thousand years before the Bible was written the Japanese were using it, and called it 'burning water,' because it came from the ground. And they dug wells where the oil was found to secure a supply. And in Egypt there were wells of oil, and the people used it for light, very much as we do now."

"I guess everybody knows about it," said Mary, for her aunt had answered both questions.

"There are oil-wells in this very state, New York," went on Aunt Ethel, "and in Ohio, where Aunt Mary lives, and in Texas, and in California. And away off in Russia, on the western shore of the Caspian Sea are many wells of oil that supply many people."

"Wait, I'll get the big atlas, and you can show us on the maps just where the oil-wells are," said Mary, eagerly; and in a few minutes the big book with its coloured maps was spread out on the table, and Mary and Constance found the places in China, in Japan, in Burma and in Russia where petroleum is found. Then Aunt Ethel told them over again the list of states, and these they found very easily.

"My! I never thought before about what made the sitting-room lamp burn!" exclaimed Mary, as they put away the big atlas.—*Youth's Companion*.

Angels.

By Helena Sharpsteen.

THEY tell me how the angels sing
Up above the skies,
And that they're very, very good,
Beautiful, and wise.

I know just how those angels look
Up above the skies;—
They look like my mama at night
Singing lullabies.

—New Idea Magazine.

Warning Royalty.

IN many ways England is quite as real a democracy as the United States. A story about the young prince, Edward, told in the *Atlanta Constitution*, illustrates well this point. He was sent to school at Osborne. He had just arrived, and was wandering about the grounds, when he was accosted by another small boy, who had already been a term at Osborne.

"Hello!" said the other boy, who was the son of a captain in the navy. "You're a new boy. What's your name?"

"Edward," the little prince replied. "Edward what, stupid?" said the other boy. "You must have another name."

"Edward of Wales," said the prince.

"Oh, so you're that chap," was his comment, as he walked away. "I hope you won't put on too much side."

Puzzles for the Winter Fireside

Solutions to Last Week's Puzzles.

THE HANDCUFF PUZZLE

The gentleman must pass the slack portion of his own cord under that portion of the other cord encircling one or other of the lady's wrists;

pass the loop thus made over her hand, and draw it back again, when the pair will be freed from their entanglement.

PUZZLES WITH COUNTERS.

Nos. 1 and 2.—The diagrams next

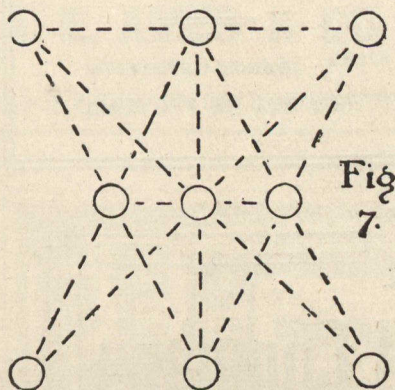


Fig. 7.

following (Figs. 7 and 8) show the

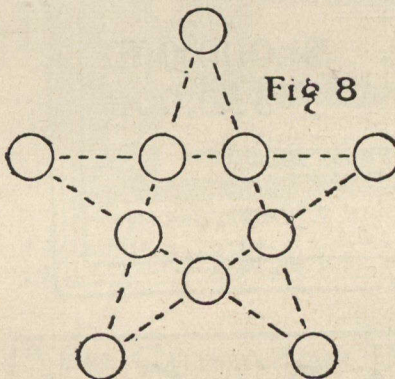
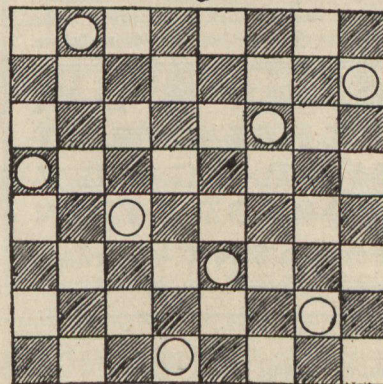


Fig. 8.

proper arrangement of the counters in these two cases.

No. 3.—It is obvious that if you were permitted to go straight on from point to point, leaving a counter upon each as you reach it, there would be no difficulty. The secret lies in reversing this process, and each time covering the angle from which the hand last travelled.

Fig. 9.



No. 4.—We will suppose the counters, according to the square which for the time being each occupies, to be numbered as under:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

Place 4 on 1, 6 on 9, 8 on 3, 2 on 5, and 10 on 7, and the deed is done.

No. 5.—Transfer the counters, in pairs, as follows:

From spaces 2 and 3 to 9 and 10.
From spaces 5 and 6 to 2 and 3.
From spaces 8 and 9 to 5 and 6.
From spaces 1 and 2 to 8 and 9.

The counters are worked back again by reversing the process.

No. 6.—This puzzle admits of two or three solutions. One of them is shown in Fig. 9.

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