

FOR THE CHILDREN.

A STRAP PUZZLE.

Your minds have, by much practice, been trained to solving problems and working out puzzles and tricks, but do you think you could possibly disentangle these loops and coils without help? To be sure, the illustrations are very clear, and you might follow them and learn how; but lest your patience give out and my little boys and girls grow cross, it will be, perhaps, wise to aid you. To make the puzzle, provide two pieces of leather about two inches square and one long, narrow strip of flexible leather, which any shoemaker can furnish. Now cut a slash across two sides of each square near the edges, which for identification we will call the top and bottom, and likewise a long slash in each end of the strip. The problem is to loop the strap on the squares, as shown at figure No. 1, and then to take it off again. You will find it easy with the strap entirely free to make the loop shown at the top of figure No. 1. Having done so, pass the free end of the strap down through the other slash and one end of the puzzle is finished. Then pass the free end of the strap up through the first slash of the second square and down through the second slash.

All plain sailing so far, but how to make the second loop? Figure No. 2 shows you. Bring the free end of the strap around the lower slash, slip it back through the upper slash, stick the upper square, loop and all, through the loop in the lower end of the strap, pull the strap back until it forms the loop shown in the lower end of figure No. 1 and there you are. In taking the squares off the loops this process is simply reversed. Easy enough, don't you think?—when you know how!

BED-TIME STORIES FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY.

DEUCALION AND PYRRHA.

Every act that is committed, whether good or evil, bears fruit, just as does the seed sown in the garden or field. Pandora's curiosity, you remember, Daphne, had most unhappy consequences. As the winged evils took refuge in peoples' hearts, those who harbored them grew more and more wicked and reckless of truth and honor. Nations waged war against each other; brother fought against brother; indeed, people seemed to have lost all conscience and all sense of right and justice, crime and sin holding sway. The temples of the gods were destroyed and in those which remained the sacred fires upon the altars were allowed to burn out. In fact, the people of earth ceased to worship altogether.

When evil had reached its climax, Jupiter—although it had all been the result of his own doings—vowed to put an end to it by destroying the inhabitants of earth. He called the mighty ones from their homes to meet him in council to devise some means to accomplish this fell purpose. Now the road to Jupiter's palace was lighted by countless stars. On clear nights you may still see this road, and should you inquire about it, you will be told

that it is called the "Milky Way." The Greeks believed that the lights from the palaces of the gods made up this luminous pathway. Various plans were discussed for exterminating the human race. Some suggested fire as a means of doing this but others opposed, fearing that the flames might mount to the skies and destroy their own abodes. A flood was deemed the most practical means. Therefore the winds were

commanded to gather the rain clouds. Jupiter even asked help of his brother Neptune, who opened the floodgates of all the seas and rivers and swept the earth with them until the water, rising higher and higher, covered the summits of the tallest mountains. Even those in boats who survived the flood, died of starvation.

There were two, however, whom Jupiter spared because of their piety and goodness—a daughter of Epimetheus and Pandora, Pyrrha, by name and a son of Prometheus, Deucalion, to whom Prometheus foretold this calamity, enjoining him to make ready for it. These two built a boat, a sort of ark, which rose with the waters until it rested on the topmost peak of Parnassus, a mountain in Greece. When Jupiter spied the plight of this faithful pair, he commanded the waters to leave the earth and the sun to resume his daily journey. Neptune blew on his conch shell and summoned the rivers and oceans to their places and once more the earth was green and smiling.

But there were no people left save Deucalion and Pyrrha who, naturally, deplored their loneliness. Full of sadness they walked down the mountain until they reached one of Jupiter's shrines. Here they knelt and prayed him to repeople the earth. A voice from somewhere answered their prayers in these words: "Depart from the temple with heads veiled and garments unbound, and cast behind you your mother's bones." The meaning of these words was so obscure that the pair were at their wits' ends to interpret them. To disturb the bones of the dead would be desecration, but what else could the command signify? At last it dawned on Deucalion's mind that Earth is the great mother—might not her bones be the rocks and stones which the flood had loosened? At all events they would thus interpret the oracle.

They veiled their heads, loosened their garments and cast stones behind them over their shoulders as they walked down the mountain side. Immediately the stones were thrown, they assumed shape; those that Pyrrha sent became women of wonderful fairness and beauty and those of Deucalion, men of great strength and muscular power. Thus a new race of strong, honest people sprang up and the earth was once more a pleasant place.

Deucalion and Pyrrha reigned over these new people as their king and queen and taught them all the arts that had been known before the flood. The country in which they reigned was called Hellas, after Hellen, their son, and the people were called the Hellenes. It is the country which we know as Greece, where lately a most dreadful and bloody war has been waged between the Greeks and their ancient enemies, the Turks.



FIGURE NO. 1.

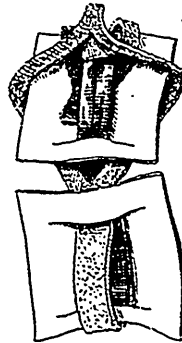


FIGURE NO. 2.

FIGURES NOS. 1 AND 2.—
STRAP PUZZLE.

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