

NOBODY BUT MOTHER.

How many buttons are missing to-day?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many playthings are strewn in her way?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many thimbles and spools has she missed?
How many burns on each little fat fist?
How many bumps to be cuddled and kissed?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many muddy shoes all in a row
Nobody knows but mother.

How many stockings to darn, do you know?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many little torn aprons to mend?
How many hours of toil must she spend?
What is the time when her day's work shall end?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many cares does a mother's heart know?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many joys from her mother love flow?
Nobody knows but mother.

How many prayers by each little white bed?
How many tears for her babes has she shed?
How many kisses for each curly head?
Nobody knows but mother.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

WORDS AND WORKS OF JESUS AS RECORDED IN THE GOSPELS.

LESSON VII.—FEBRUARY 13.

A DAY OF MIRACLES IN CAPERNAUM.
Mark 1. 21-34. Memory verses, 33, 34.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He healed many that were sick.—Mark 1. 34.

THE LESSON STORY.

After Jesus had spent the whole week preaching to the people on the shores of Lake Galilee, and helping them in body and soul, on the Sabbath day he went to the city of Capernaum. As was his habit he went to the synagogue or church, and there he again preached to the people. They were astonished at his teachings, and felt that his words were as if God had given him power. There was present a poor man with an unclean spirit, who cried out: "Let us alone." "Thou art come to destroy us; Thou art the Holy One of God." Sure enough Jesus was, and he had come to destroy the wicked-

ness in man. So he bade the evil spirit to leave the man.

Later in the day Jesus went to Simon Peter's house, where he found Simon's wife's mother ill of a fever. But when Jesus took her by the hand all the fever left her, and in her joy and thankfulness she turned and ministered to him. At eventide many poor sick and helpless ones were brought to Jesus, and he did them all good. How beautiful are these stories of our dear Lord's love and sympathy for the people. He never spared himself, and was often worn out attending to the care of others.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Where did Jesus go on Sunday? To the synagogue.
2. How did he astonish the people? With the power of his words.
3. What called out to him? An evil spirit.
4. What did it say? "Thou art the Hely One of God."
5. How did Jesus answer it? By proving that he was, and commanding it to come out.
6. Whom did he next heal? Simon's wife's mother, who had a fever.
7. In the evening who came to him? All who were diseased or were sinful, and Jesus helped them all.

LESSON VIII.—FEBRUARY 25.

JESUS' POWER TO FORGIVE.

Mark 2. 1-12. Memorize verse 5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.—Mark 2. 10.

THE LESSON STORY.

Jesus power to heal the sick had got noised about, so many brought their sick friends to be cured. Jesus' preaching also brought many to hear him. One time the house was so crowded four men with a sick friend could not get anywhere near Jesus. They had such faith in him as the Divine Healer, they knew if they could but get their friend to Jesus he would heal him. As they could not get the sick man in through the door they took him to the flat roof, and made a hole so as to let him down just above Jesus, who, perceiving their faith said to the palsied man, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." This remark offended the scribes, and they said nobody could forgive sins but God. They forgot that Jesus was the Son of God, and had that power. To prove it was so he told the poor palsied man who had been helpless for years to "rise up and walk." This he did with joy, and great was the amazement of all who saw him. Then were the people sure that Jesus really had power from God.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

1. Who was let down through the roof before Jesus? A man sick of the palsy.
2. Why had his friends done this? Because they had faith that Jesus would cure him.
3. Did Jesus reward their faith? Yes.
4. What did he say? "Son, thy sins are forgiven thee."
5. What did the scribes say? That only God could forgive sins.
6. What did Jesus then say? "Arise and walk."
7. What did this prove? That he had power of God.

NOT A CHRISTIAN POTATO.

A little boy in Kansas, only seven years old, was trying hard to be a Christian. One day he was watching the servant as she pared the potatoes for dinner. Soon she pared an extra large one which was very white and nice on the outside, but when cut into pieces it was hollow and black inside. Instantly Willie exclaimed, "Why, Maggie, that potato isn't a Christian."

"What do you mean?" asked Maggie. "Don't you see it isn't good clear through?" was Willie's reply.

He knew that a Christian must be sound right clear through.

THE RAINDROP'S STORY.

One rainy day, as a sprightly little field-mouse, looking anxiously at the door of his house greedily chewing a grain of corn, a raindrop fell on a leaf beside him.

"Where did you come from?" asked the field mouse, looking anxiously at the raindrop and wondering whether he would get an answer or not.

"From the sky," answered the raindrop very readily; "but my real home is the sea. One day as I was playing with my brothers and sisters in that beautiful home of ours the hot sun shone upon us. It drew many of us up into the sky. I was among them. We could see the green fields and beautiful flowers far beneath. We came close together and formed a white, fleecy cloud. Pretty soon a chilly wind began to blow. We crowded together to get warm. We became so heavy we could not stay up in the clear air. We came tumbling down, and I have alighted here to—"

But just then a sparrow, who was very thirsty, gobbled the raindrop up so quickly that he did not have time to finish his story.

Every little raindrop has its work to do, just as every little child has. If this one had not gone to quench the thirst of one of God's sparrows, it might have given new life to a blade of grass or a pretty flower of the field. God cares for all his little creatures and gives each one work to do for him.