

A WORD TO THE OLD FOLK



NURSERY RHYMES are not necessarily either of sense or of reason. What very young children do demand, however, are jingle and repetition. Among the lower races of mankind a similar desire characterises adults, and even among ourselves something of the kind prevails throughout life.

We find, therefore, in all civilised countries, numerous forms of what have become standards of nursery lilt, as well as of child folklore; and it is not probable, or even desirable, that the world will ever become too old, or too wise, to enjoy such simple compositions. Naturally, variants of this kind are marked by local color, and it is from a desire to supply something of the sort for Canadian children that the following attempts have been made.

While "Ride a cock-horse," "Old Mother Hubbard," and the like, have by right of occupation, made good their claim to stay, there would seem to be a reason why some rhymes with a flavor of Canada should find a place in our homes, if only for patriotic purposes, in a small way.

Mr. Jefferys' very excellent illustrations are, in themselves, of more than a little educational value in this direction.

UNCLE JIM.