

## In The Play Room.

"Mild or wild we love you, loud or still, child or boy."—SWINBURNE.

(The editor of this department will be pleased to receive letters from young contributors. Contributions such as puzzles, short stories, poems, etc., will be welcomed. Address, Play Room Editor, in care of this paper.)

## What is Life?

A little crib beside the bed  
A little face above the spread,  
A little frock behind the door,  
A little shoe upon the floor.  
A little lad with dark brown hair,  
A little blue-eyed face and fair,  
A little lane that leads to school,  
A little pencil, slate and rule.  
A little blythesome, winsome maid,  
A little hand within it laid,  
A little cottage, acres four,  
A little old-time household store.  
A little family gathered round,  
A little turf-heaped, tear-dewed mound;  
A little added to his soil,  
A little rest from harvest toil.  
A little silver in his hair,  
A little stool and easy chair,  
A little night of earth-lit gloom,  
A little cortege to the tomb.

## Answers to Puzzles.

(From Last Issue).

- No. 1. CHARADE.—Cup-board, cupboard. No. 2. A flower.  
No. 3. SINGLE ACROSTIC.—Wilberforce.  
No. 4. BEHEADED WORDS.—1. House, ouse, use. 2. Plate, late, ate. 3. Stable, table, able.

## Puzzles.

ENIGMA.

If you only go deep enough, you will find me in the ocean, and I am to be met with, besides, in every brook, stream, and waterfall in the world. I am one of the necessities of your existence, although, of course, I am varied according to your different forms of civilization. I furnish you with no few of the luxuries of life, as in the shape of oysters, strawberries, corals, coals, and mushrooms, which all come from me. I am to be met with in every garden, whether in town or country, and am impartially addicted to vegetables or flowers. The geologist explores me in every direction and reads me like a book. Sometimes I incline to feathers, although I neither fly nor am given to vain attire; at other times dried heather or fern branches serve my purpose. I am often spare, though not necessarily thin, and may be paradoxically said to have often a flock although I am only single. I must admit in one phase of being I am eminently disagreeable, for whoever has met with me when devoted to nettles, bears an unpleasant memory of me ever after. I am not at all inclined to soar ambitiously, but you will only occasionally find me down. I am sometimes addicted to mechanics, and then you will find me full of springs. Children do not willingly court my society; they struggle vigorously against being brought to me; young people don't value me as they should; but the aged and the sick hail me as their best earthly comfort and friend!

## Charade.

My FIRST had walked a weary mile,  
Last of a score since breakfast-time,  
And sat to rest themselves awhile,  
Listening to the matin chime.  
They searched within their scanty scrip  
For a stale crust; then stooped to dip  
Their gourds in the stream that seemed to be  
In such a hurry to meet the sea.  
They'd nothing but this humble fare,  
Yet in the world had played brave parts;  
Now, neither discontent nor care  
Weighed like my SECOND on their hearts.  
Older than these, perhaps as wise,  
My WHOLE has lived long years to stand  
And steer the course of states; the eyes  
Of nations on his wary hand.

## Enigma.

My FIRST you sing,  
My SECOND you ring,  
And my WHOLE you put on to distinguish a thing.

DEAR PLAYROOM EDITOR.—You say you are always glad to get a letter from me, so am I to send you one only mamma thinks they are a trouble to you; now they are not, are they?

I am going to tell you all about a drive and a run away we had the other morning.

Mamma and baby and I were driving along very quietly when something frightened old Dobbin, and he started off on a gallop, tearing down one street, across another, and making things lively in all directions. Tom, the driver, held on to the lines, and tried all he could do to keep him in the straight road, but it was no use.

Mamma was very much afraid and baby and I were crying, when suddenly we ran up against a horse car, and the wheel came off the carriage throwing mamma and baby to the ground against the hard stones.

People ran from everywhere, (I was still in the carriage and was screaming all I could, I thought mamma was killed) some to catch the horse, others to look after mamma.

In a few minutes they had the horse by the head, and three or four people petted him, while a kind gentleman lifted me out of the carriage and carried me across the street to a drug store where they had taken mamma and baby.

Poor baby wasn't hurt much, but mamma was. She looked as if dead, her dear, white face and closed eyes made me cry again when I saw her. The doctor sent for papa, and we had to wait there until he came.

Some kind ladies held me and baby, and gave us candies to eat, to try and make us forget about mamma, but it was no use, we cried all the time until papa came, and when he saw mamma the tears came into his eyes too. By this time the doctors had brought mamma out of the faint, and papa called another carriage to go home.

They lifted mamma, and baby and me in very gently and we drove home very slowly. I knew mamma must be hurt very much by the way they lifted her. When we got home they put her to bed and she has not been able to get up since.

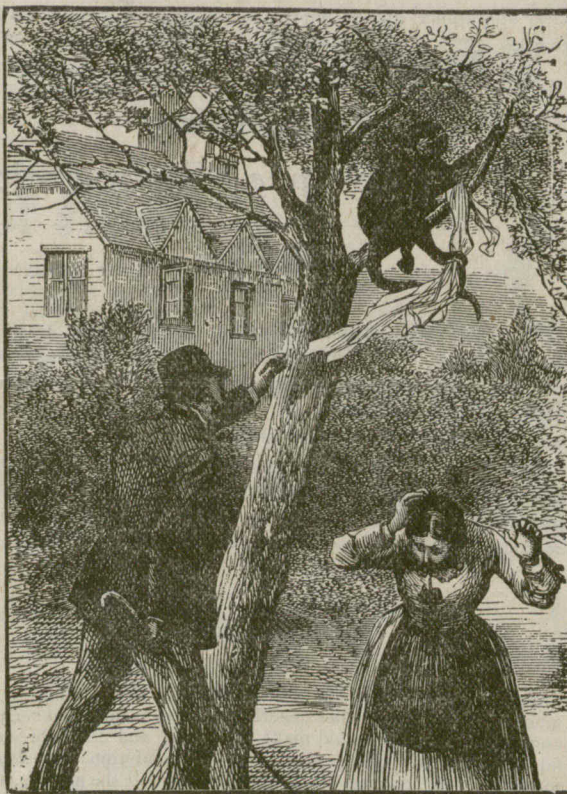
Nurse lets me see mamma a little while every day, and the doctor says we must not make a noise or worry, so we try to be good. Baby is well, but I have not got over being frightened. I will write you another letter soon, so good bye,

From your little reader,

MURIEL.

## Tom Blain's Monkey.

Tom Blain had a monkey, and he called him Jeff. Jeff was the pet of the schoolboys, the mischief of the house, and the torment of the village. He never let a chance pass of doing mischief which might be in his way, or, in fact, out of either, for often he was missed, and he, sometime after, would be found at the other end of the little village in which he had caused so much amusement.



TOM BLAIN'S MONKEY.

Frequently he would escape from his cage and run off at full speed to the old school-house; while the boys were at play he would creep into the master's room, and turn everything upside down; use up all the chalk for the blackboard, turn coats and caps inside out, put tacks on the chair, and everything he could do to create a commotion and disturbance you may be sure would be done. No one ever seemed to see him go to the school-room, no one ever saw him come out, and no one had ever seen him while he was up to his pranks, so how he got there was all a mystery.

One bright sunny morning, the master announced to the boys that the door would be locked at recess, so that Jeff could not get in. When the time came the key was turned in the lock and put into the master's pocket; of course, they thought they were safe then, and all went to the play-ground to enjoy a few games. Jeff was not to be thwarted; he crept along the hall to the door of the master's room, and tried to lift the latch, but, alas! he found that he could not raise it, this annoyed him a little, and he turned hurriedly away, walked out through a side door, and round the wall to the window which was a little open; ah! he thought, I can get through there, so in he jumped and commenced his pranks, adding a little more to the mischief this time, in the way of turning the inkwell upside down on the master's desk, and throwing coats and caps all about the room.

When he had completed his work he jumped back through the open window and away home. He had not gone far before he found an old horse and cart standing at the door of a farm house; into the cart Jeff sprang, and, seizing hold of the reins, urged the horse on. Through the streets he drove, and did not stop until he came to his own door, and then just in time to save himself a severe cut from the whip of the man who owned the horse, and had run after him, he jumped out of the cart and scampered away among the trees in the orchard.

Many complaints were laid against poor old Jeff, but it was no use; Tom could do nothing with him. In the house he would torment the cook until she vowed to leave, if Jeff were not kept out

of the kitchen; he played all sorts of pranks with the housemaid, such as ringing the call bell whenever he would chance to pass it, hiding her dusters, and in fact she never knew what hoax was going to be played next. Then, for visitors he was always on the lookout; one day I remember seeing him come to the drawing-room with a lady's cloak, bonnet and gloves on. The lady had taken tea with Tom's mamma, and to the horror of every one present Jeff comes down arrayed in her wraps.

One morning Tom missed his pet monkey, and could not think where he had gone or what had happened him, so, dressing hurriedly he went out to see why Jeff had not come up to his bedroom to bid him good morning as usual; to his dismay he found poor old Jeff lying on the old straw bed in the corner of his cage fast asleep Tom thought; he discovered however, that his poor pet was sick and very ill too; on the floor beside him lay a piece of dry cake which told the tale.

It appears that one of the men had placed poison in the barn to destroy the rats, and this Jeff had got hold of, so the mischief was done; poor fellow, he only lived a few hours afterwards. Many a boy shed tears when they heard of the sad end of Tom's pet monkey. He will be missed from among them, and it will be many a long day ere they find another pet to take his place.

## Mothers' Corner.

May perpetual youth keep dry their eyes from tears."—TENNYSON

## Home Comforts.

Now the chilly nights are coming, and a little extra covering on the beds is very snug and warm, so many pretty and cheap comforts can be made at home for half the cost of those you can buy, besides being lighter and cleaner looking. Cheese cloth makes the prettiest looking one, or if you want pink or blue choose sateen the shade you require, or make one side pink and one side blue or blue and white, pink and white or yellow looks pretty where the trimmings of the bedroom match this color. Your comfortable should measure two yards by two yards and a half. Almost every house can supply a quilting frame, if not you can manage very well without, and as it is only the work of a few hours, the great table in the kitchen will do, or you can do it on top of a large bed. Lay your cover smoothly and cover with cotton batting in lengths, evenly laid side by side, then another layer over them crosswise, lay on the other cover and baste around the edge, then tack at intervals of one foot in a row, the next row make the tacking come opposite the middle of the space between the others; still measure the twelve inches between. When you take the final tack stitch draw a little tuft of yarn or Berlin wool down with it, and these little tufts will make your comfortable look very pretty. When all tacking is in double in the outer edges and crochet all around a button-hole stitch of the same color as your tufts. When finished you will have a very pretty, cheap and fashionable cover for your bed, which may be loosely rolled up lengthwise across the foot of your bed in the day-time.

## Messrs. W. A. Murray &amp; Co's Millinery Opening.

The show rooms of the above firm were crowded to excess on Tuesday, March 22nd, when they held their usual spring opening, exhibiting the new styles just brought over from Paris and London by their buyers. The ladies who were able to be present must have been delighted with the fine exhibition of goods laid out for their inspection. Our artist made a point of being there and this week we publish two pages of sketches made by him of some of the more taking hats, mantles, &c., though these must only be taken as specimens, of the many varieties shown. On page 215 is a very pretty girl's hat made in ecru chip, with Tam o' Shanter crown, lined with pink chiffon, and trimmed with a quantity of pink and ecru tips encircling the crown, and a bunch stylishly arranged a la Prince of Wales, at the back.

The cloak is one of the very popular military ones made this season, and is shown in all shades of tweeds and plaids, tastefully lined with shot silk to match the prevailing tint of the garment. A very pretty costume is also drawn, a two piece princess, the skirt being of cloth while the bottom of the skirt and the upper part of the bodice is made of pale green surah silk, separated from the cloth by a band of feather trimming. Among the latest styles in mantles is the one shown on page 215. Lace is to be very much worn this year, and this has lace hanging over the shoulders and round the bottom, making a very stylish summer garment. It is made up in grey cloth with black lace and jet trimmings, or in biscuit cloth with cream lace. The tight fitting jacket is in Bedford cord, a material much in use this year, with blue revers and cuffs and steel embroidery. It is also made in other colors, but the prevailing colors seem to be biscuits, browns and greys. Of the hats shown, the child's is witch shaped in royal blue and has serpentine trimmings of royal and turquoise blue ribbon, and is lined with chiffon. The bonnet is leaf-shaped in turquoise blue passementerie trimmed with shaded ribbon, fawn shading to turquoise and has a bunch of cowslips grouped at the back, and an empire bow of blue velvet standing up in front. The ladies' hat is called the Bernhard and is ecru fancy Dunstable lined with Irish lace of the same tint, trimmed with yachting bows of handsome cream moire, and two shaded green quills. The hat worn over the lace mantle is a fancy French straw plaque in Havana brown trimmed with velvet to match, and nacre ribbon, and has a stylish group of nacre feathers at the back. Handsome Rhinestone ornaments are much used on hats this year, one or two being found on almost every shape. One very striking department at Messrs. Murray's, is the curtain and furnishing department. There were some very pretty wall draperies and hangings shown, one delightful effect in tapestry painting must have struck every visitor, pretty screens of every description were to be seen, and we should specially call our readers' attention to some Japanese screens shown, which are being sold at wonderfully low prices. We hope that shortly we shall be able to reproduce some sketches of the clever ideas for drapery and wall decorations shown by this firm.