

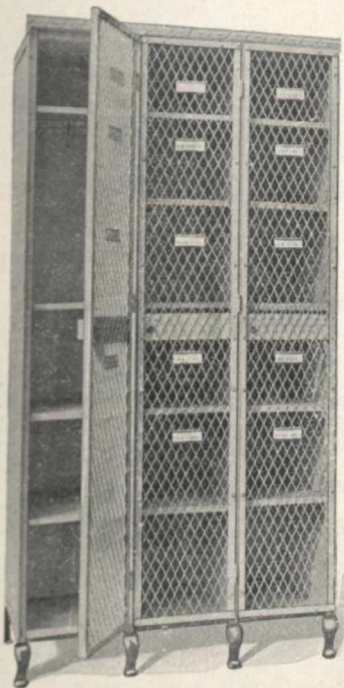
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FOR THE CHILDREN

Secrets.

By MAY TURNER.

WHEN I pass Linda's house and put a pebble on the gate, It means, "I have to hurry on. Don't look for me, nor wait." And when I fix my ribbon bow in just a certain way, It means, "Come over to my house this afternoon, and play." Then if I leave undone the topmost button of my shoe, It means, "The rain will spoil our fun. Whatever shall we do?" It really wouldn't matter much if everybody knew; And yet, it's very pleasant, having secrets as we do!

—Youth's Companion.

How Wadi Made His Numbers.

By EDITH PERRY BODWELL.

ONE day in a primary school the children were making figures on the board. There was a little boy there who came from Egypt. He was only five years old, so all the others watched him to see what he would do. They wanted to see the funny numbers he would make. But Wadi went to the board and made

nice numbers, these had to say, like the Romans with their letters, "Next-door neighbour." For they had borrowed them from the people who lived in India. The Chinese people, who lived next door on the other side of India, had taken a few, too; but they did not take them all, only enough to multiply with, so that every big number as they wrote it was a little example in multiplication. If they wanted to say thirty, they would write the queer Chinese sign for ten and then put a tiny number three high up on the left side for the multiplier.

"So the men from Europe learned the number signs and practised writing them, too. Then they told the people of other countries about them on their long way home. But the people who painted and wrote the first books—for there was no printing then—said:

"We like our own letter numbers the best. We are used to them. They are like nice old friends. We like our numbers all made up of lots of letters. You can use you queer number signs if you like for buying and selling. But we shall keep on using letter numbers for our books."



Smiles Among the Cedars

our figures without any trouble—ten of them—without any help from the teacher!

She was so surprised and so pleased! And all the children wondered. For they could not make theirs half so well. It was true that he laid the figure one down flat on its back. And he made the hook of the figure five before he made the shaft. But they were a very nice set of figures for all that.

Nobody in this country had ever taught him to write them, and this was the first time he had been to an American school. So the teacher was puzzled. She asked Wadi what language his teacher taught him to write in Egypt. Then he spoke up real loud, and said, "In Arabic, teacher." That explained it all. For ours are Arabian figures, too.

Then the teacher told them the story of how we came to get them. She said, "Years and years ago all the people who used to speak English and Latin and Greek made the figures we call Roman numerals. We do so still when we number our chapters or our paragraphs and some other things. And the Romans said they took them from the Greeks, their clever next-door neighbours."

"When men went to those Eastern countries, long, long ago, on pilgrimages and to war, they found many of the people who lived all round Arabia counting with the same nice, easy figures you are using to-day. When they asked the sheiks, or Arab chiefs, how they had first made such

And if you will look at the beginning of the chapters of any book, you will see somebody thinks so still.

"We have used the new numbers only three hundred years. It was only about the time that the Pilgrims came to America that the people of England began to use these Arabic figures. Of course we followed their customs, for this country belonged to the English king until after the Revolutionary War.

"So this is the way we came to borrow Wadi's number signs. The first borrowing happened so very long ago that almost everybody has forgotten about it. And we didn't mean to steal either, you know. Nobody cared to keep their numbers all to themselves. This is why Wadi surprised us all by writing his own number work."—Youth's Companion.

A Matter of Training.

WHEN Josephine was six years old, she was taken for the first time to see a trained-animal show, and came home much pleased with the performance. As she was at times slow to obey, Mamma thought this a good time to teach a lesson, so she said: "Don't you think, Josephine, if dogs and ponies and monkeys can learn to obey so well, that a little girl like you, who knows much more than the animals, should obey even more quickly?"

"Of course I would, mamma," came the instant reply, "if I had only been as well trained as they have."

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Create a reserve fund of energy.

BOVRIL which is the essence and strength of Beef stimulates nourishes and is the great body builder.



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And the price is so small it seems utterly absurd.

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It tells how to wash fancy prints and other fabrics without the use of acids. It tells how to clean the daintiest lingerie without injury.

It tells how to wash woollen material thoroughly without shrinking it one particle.

It tells how to make hard water soft and save half the soap.

It tells how to remove the drudgery from wash day, and a host of other things that every woman who washes clothes should know.

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