

..HOUSEHOLD..

All the Best.

There are three of them; bless the darlings,
 There's Lawrence and Edith May,
 And dear little baby—Walter,
 Just six months old to-day.
 And I think, as I rock the wee one
 To sleep in his tiny nest,
 And kiss the smiles and dimples,
 'It is you I love—the best.'

But Edith, with eyes so solemn,
 Climbs up on my knees to say,
 'May I hold 'oor 'fwotch?' and listens
 As it measures our lives away.
 I stroke the brown locks sunny,
 The sweet young brow caressed,
 And I think, 'Your Auntie loves you,
 Dear little niece—the best.'

But little arms clasp softly
 My neck in a close embrace,
 And a boyish cheek, all rosy,
 Is pressed against my face.
 'T's Auntie's 'ittle sweetheart;
 An' I love 'oo lots, I do;
 Whole hun'erd bushels, Auntie,
 Is 'at enough for 'oo?'

Then I kiss my ardent lover,
 And I hold him to my breast,
 And I think, 'Of all the babies,
 I surely love you—best.'
 But at night, as the tiny toddlers
 Reluctant go to rest,
 I know, as I tuck them under,
 That I love them all—THE BEST.
 —'Young Soldier.'

'MESSENGER' PATTERNS

FOR THE BUSY MOTHER.



NO. 1458—LADY'S DRESSING SACQUE.

The model of this very pretty negligee is of a white cotton and wool challis with pink figures. The edges are button-holed with pink cotton or silk. To do this evenly mark the scallops around the edge of a No. 24 spool of thread, then button-hole; or a still easier plan would be to stitch a row of pink soutache around the scallops and hem raw edges down. Pink Liberty ribbon bows and belt are used. The pattern (No. 1458) is made in seven sizes, 32 to 44-inch bust measure, and three and a half yards of twenty-seven inch or two and a half yards of 36-inch wide material will be required for a medium size. The design is suitable for any material.

Give name of pattern as well as number, or cut out illustration and send with TEN CENTS. Address 'Northern Messenger' Pattern Dept., 'Witness' Block, Montreal.

Cure of 'Tricks in Children.'

Curing the nervous habits, or 'tricks,' as the English call them, of children is one of the most insistent problems facing parents. The problem is made particularly difficult because the habits come so quietly that we find them established before we have really noticed them.

One day we see that one of the children is always making hideous grimaces or that another is forever putting his finger in his mouth; a third child pulls his lips into queer shapes, while another will suck everything he can, such as the end of a handkerchief, his sheet on his cot or the sleeve of his pinafore.

They are very little things in themselves, but they must be checked or other and less harmless tricks will follow on.

A New York boy of eleven ate the corner off every handkerchief he possessed, which is a decidedly extravagant trick. He was really anxious to break himself of it, and so the battle was half gained, and by means of dipping the corners into bitter aloes he was completely cured.

The difficulty of the subject is how to find out what caused a trick and how one can best get rid of it.

There are, however, many other fidgeting habits that have their origin in some nervous trouble; and many a child has been punished for fidgeting when really the poor little scrap was the victim of disordered nerves. St. Vitus' dance is often ushered in by mere fidgeting about, and if instead of saying sharply, 'What are you doing? Can't you sit still?' the doctor were consulted, he would find that the child's whole welfare depended upon an entire rest from lessons, and that an out-of-door life and certain tonics were all that was required.

Children should be prevented from their particular failing as much as possible at once, and it is worth while to give up a few weeks to the cure, just as one would if measles were to attack a member of the family. A bad habit, like a good one, is simply repeated action, and it is only by persistently stopping it that one can hope to eradicate it. Another great point with a tricky child is to keep its hands occupied, for it is the 'Satan finds' truth which applies to this matter as to many others, and while the small fingers are engaged in clay-modelling, mud-pie making, bead threading, dusting or other occupations the trick cannot be gaining ground.

At night the child's cot should be by our side, and first we should try to manage without mechanical aids to the cure; but if the trick is carried on during sleep the best plan is to make two little calico bags for the hands, with elastic for the wrists, so that the lips cannot be pulled nor the fingers sucked.

There is no doubt that children learn at first by imitation, and it is for this reason essential that we should select carefully those who are round the child daily, and also the playmates we choose.

See how a tiny baby tries to put on a hat or a tie just as it sees us do when we are getting ready to go out; its power of imitation is much roused by what other children do, and by four years of age a child will set to work to imitate another in any peculiar respect, so that we cannot be too careful in choosing its companions.

Twitching of the face or limbs, opening of the mouth, blinking of the eyes, hesitation of speech are all indications that something is wrong, and no child must be punished for them; indeed, mere punishment never does any good either to the tricks dependent on bad health or on those of imitation.

Angry voices should never be allowed; they only serve to draw more attention to the habit and so increase the evil and though with bigger children a little talk and an ap-

peal to good sense is likely to do good, with younger children the best plan is to control the trick as often as possible and to provide the antidotes in the form of occupation mentioned before.

Defective sight is the cause of many so-called tricks; a child whose vision is faulty screws up his eyes or scowls in his efforts to adapt his powers of sight.

Other important points to notice are those of posture or walking. It is quite common to see children throwing up one hip when they walk, or dropping one shoulder as they sit; while, again, other young creatures can never keep quiet while they are reading or trying to learn, but are forever twiddling a pencil, or their handkerchief, or scratching the varnish off the desk—and this is one of the most serious drawbacks to concentration.

Highly strung and precocious children are very prone to be tricky; we can but follow out the simplest rules of health in making them sound in body and mind; we must beware of teaching them too much because they are quick and creditable to their teachers, and we must be as placid with them as lies in our power.—'World.'

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