



The Rock-a-By-Lady.

The Rock-a-by Lady from Hushaby street
Comes stealing; comes creeping;
The poppies they hang from her head to
her feet,
And each hath a dream that is tiny and
fleet
She bringeth her poppies to you, my sweet,
When she findeth you sleeping!

There is one little dream of a beautiful
drum—
"Rub-a-dub!" it goeth;

There is one little dream of a big sugar-
plum,
And lo; thick and fast the other dreams
come
Of popguns that bang, and tin-tops that
hum,
And a trumpet that bloweth!

And dollies peep out of those wee little
dreams
With laughter and singing;
And boats go a-floating on silvery streams,
And the stars peek-a-boo with their own
misty gleams,
And up, up and up, where the Mother
Moon beams,
The fairies go winging!

Would you dream all these dreams that
are tiny and fleet?
They'll come to you sleeping;
So shut the two eyes that are weary, my
sweet,
For the Rock-a-by Lady from Hushaby
street,
With poppies that hang from her head to
her feet,
Comes stealing; comes creeping.

—EUGENE FIELD.

Mother's Clubs.

(A PAPER BY "ELIZA".)

I am going to speak to you about
Mothers' Clubs and what they
stand for, their objects and aim.
In the first place they stand for more ideal
motherhood and for a bond of sympathy
between parents and teachers. In the
United States in many cities and towns
they have what they call "A Parent-
Teacher Association," which is much along
the same lines as our Mother's Clubs.
It is not well in any state or community
for people to live too much to themselves.
Interchange of opinions, friendly clasp
of hands, meeting to rest both body and
mind, benefit any community or any
set of men and women, and the school
affords a perfectly natural place for
such meetings. "In all that interests our
children," wrote Emerson, "we ought to
have the deepest interest. Else how
can we expect the child faithfully and
cheerfully to walk with us. A child
is always stumbling along, always more
or less in the dark. It requires from us,
guidance, and understanding companionship.
We give this to it when we train
ourselves to go where the child goes,
walk where the child walks and to make
steady effort to restore within ourselves
some of the child nature lost in the
passing of our years."

The counsel of the sage finds an echo
in the strong, sane, public movement
to make a social centre of the public
school to draw the parent several
steps nearer to the teacher, and much
nearer to the pupil. The hope or
despair of the future lies in the child
of *this* hour, and what parent, teacher
and school can do for or against it.
Master Trebouins, a teacher of a school
in Eisenach, in 1490 and thereabouts,
saluted his boys as he entered the class-
room by lifting his hat to them, because
he said the great ones of the earth were
among them and at the salute the eyes
of the boy Martin Luther used to kindle
with pleasure and appreciation. It is
said that nothing has caused a greater

upheaval in the world of teaching than
child study has accomplished. It has
set the child himself in the midst, and
now we study him instead of things about
him. Mothers are the first God-given
teachers in the child-world, and long
before the teacher has an opportunity
to mould the infant character the mother
leaves her impress forever. Mother is
the pivot around which revolves the
home. If a pivot gets rusty or crooked
things are apt to go in a jerky way
sometimes well, sometimes ill. It has
been written:

The woman who is a wife and mother
has three alternatives. Will she spend
her life simply as a wife and mother,
living only for the material comfort of
her family and bounded by the restrict-
ing walls of the house; will she shirk the
responsibilities of the wife and mother
(often repudiating the latter altogether)
and devote her life to outside interests
and self advancement; or will she
combine the two, being the best
possible wife and mother and still
being a citizen a thinking, reasoning,
self-active individual?

"But it is impossible to combine the
two," many women complain. "It
takes all my time to keep my house, and
after that is done I have no strength or
inclination left for anything else. A
woman's first duty is to her home."

To that I will reply in the words of
Thomas à Kempis:

"It is thy duty oftentimes to do what
thou wouldst not, thy duty, too, to leave
 undone what thou wouldst do."

Have you ever stopped to think that
an injustice is done, both to one's self
and to one's family through a mistaken
sense of duty? In our struggle to do

maelstrom of housekeeping who will
resolutely set about to "find a way or
make it." She must know early in
life that something must be left undone
and then set about to learn what that
something is that is least necessary
to the happiness of herself and her
family.

As Ruskin says:

"Do not think it wasted time to
submit yourself to any influence which
may bring upon you any noble feeling."

* * * *

One's mental attitude has much to
do with physical comfort and well-
being. Hated work is hard work no
matter how it may be accomplished.
We should try to find even our most
homely duties, "Somehow good," and
it will be much easier to be tolerant
of toil when a higher and more pro-
gressive standard is adopted and am-
bitiously maintained. We are endeavor-
ing through our Mothers' Clubs to set
the profession of motherhood before our
women in its very highest and most ideal
aspects. We meet once a month in
the different clubs to hear spoken of
and to discuss subjects of most vital
interest to the child, the parents, the
home, the school, and the community.
A good many of the problems encountered
by the social worker, the church, the
business man, the lawyer and the doctor
are those created by negligent and un-
instructed homes, and the most practical
method known for the solution of these
problems is the "Parent Teacher" as-
sociation or in our own country the
"Mothers' Clubs." As a result of these
associations children are more anxious
to attend school, truancy is less, school
houses are beautified and there is (or

sary, but try to strike the happy medium
in this direction.

We are first of all not a money-making
institution; our fee is only 10 cents a
year (the year beginning and ending in
May.) Any woman married or single
higher, more ideal conditions of life
may become a member. Our officers are
of course women. Our officers are
Treas. for each club, with as many com-
mittees as are found necessary. Meetings
open with the mother's hymn and are
generally followed by the repetition of
"The Lord's Prayer" in concert. The
minutes and Treasurer's report, business,
roll call, a song or two come next, and
then a speaker gives the topic chosen
for the evening's consideration and much
profit is gained if a discussion follows.
Afterwards refreshments are served, or
not, as the club desires; the national
anthem follows and then home.

The Mothers' Hymn.

Tune "Autumn," 447 Pres. Hymnal.
Up to us sweet childhood looketh
Heart and soul and mind awake,
Teach us of thy ways, O Father!
Teach us, for sweet childhood's sake.
In their young hearts, soft and tender,
Guide our hands good seed to sow,
That its blossoming may praise Thee
Praise Thee where so e'er they go.

Give to us a cheerful spirit,
That our little flocks may see
It is good and pleasant service
Ever to be taught of Thee.
Father, order all our footsteps,
So direct our daily way
That in following us the children
May not ever go astray.

Among the Books

Among many books received for re-
view a few which may be noted as worth
while are:

The Birds of Peasemarsh (illustrated)
by E. L. Marsh. The Musson Book Co.,
Toronto. This is an intimate, readable
story of the birds that sojourn at Pease-
marsh, a sanctuary at the foot of the
Blue Mountains, in the Georgian Bay
region. The chapters deal with the
value of birds, the various bird fam-
ilies, habits of birds, bird enemies and
bird protection, bird-houses, bird-clubs
and bird sanctuaries; and the writer
finds ample opportunity to give practical
hints in regard to making bird-houses,
attracting the birds, protecting them,
etc. He would "bell the cat" to save
the grown birds, but points out that this
will not avail to protect the nestlings.
The shotgun, he thinks, is the best agent
to use against the English sparrow—that
fighter of our native birds—and he holds
that "One of the first duties of the sanc-
tuary owner is to rid the grounds of the
red squirrel."

Fragments of Philosophy, by John
McQuarrie, the Musson Book Co.,
Toronto. An attractive little book of
essays on a variety of topics, public and
personal. Some of the bits of wisdom are:
"Unnecessary work is a great hindrance
to progress." "It is well that money
is not the only thing which can give
advantages." "A speculator adds nothing
to the wealth of a country and even does
not help to pay for his own living."
"Political parties may be necessary, but
slavery to them is not." "There are
only a few people who show genius,
and they are the ones who happen to have
occupations to which they are naturally
adapted." "While clean sports are of
great benefit to humanity, and are enjoyed
by many of the best of people, there is no



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the thing that seems the most im-
portant, we lose our sense of values,
mistaking a trivial and unnecessary
task for one of the utmost importance.

Does the woman owe no other duty
to her husband and to her maturing
boys and girls than to keep their
home clean, cook their food, repair
their clothes and do the endless other
tasks that contribute to the comfort
of a well-kept home? Can she afford
to allow herself to go backward, to
stagnate and grow narrow-minded? Is
she really fulfilling the sphere of wife
and mother in the most complete and
satisfactory manner by filling only
the place of a hired domestic? Does
she not owe something more to her
family and to herself?

"Where there's a will there's a way,"
is an old and trite saying.

No woman has to be lost in the

ought to be sympathetic co-operation
between parents and teachers. The
management and the importance of child
responsibilities is unlimited. She ought
to keep a watchful eye upon the children
at home, at play, and at school. Quite
frequently the latter has been overlooked.
Since mothers have formed clubs and
have discussed their problems, they have
found there are many conditions that
require their attention. The Mothers'
Clubs were organized first and foremost,
as an education and inspiration to more
intelligent grappling with the everyday
problems that are always confronting
our mothers, and therefore while not for-
getting that "All work and no play
makes Jack a dull boy," we try not to
allow our meetings to run too much to
entertainment, though that too is neces-