

Children's Department.

The Hooded Seal.

An interesting denizen of the ice-fields off the Greenland and Labrador coasts is the stemmatopus, or hooded seal. This is an ungainly beast, often larger than an ox. He lies in a great heap on the ice, and is much the color of soot. On days when the sun is strong, as the spring advances, the oil fairly oozes out of his glistening skin. I have sometimes seen him lying so still, and bathed in his perspiration of oil, that I imagined him dead, and "rendering" out in the heat. The seal-hunters call him the "dog hood," because he has a huge hood or membrane consisting of blubber and a tough tissue, several inches thick, which in the twinkling of an eye he can draw over his head. He is then safe from all ordinary assault, being shielded all over the body by several inches thick of blubber or fat, through which the heavy shot of the seal-hunter's guns cannot reach vital parts. The greenhorn delights to capture the pelt of a dog hood, but the experienced hunter is just as content to let the ugly brute alone.—Harper's Young People.

Joe and Jenny.

Have any of our young readers noticed an odd difference which there is between the generosity of boys and that of girls?

Joe and Jenny, for example, are walking to school and pass a cat which had been hurt, or a bird with a broken wing. In almost every case the girl will stop to pet and care for the hurt creature. She lavishes time and tenderness upon it, while the boy with a shrug runs on and thinks no more of it.

It is Jenny who will bring flowers to the invalid at home; who will hang over her couch trying to be useful; who will gladly sacrifice play or sleep in order to help her.

Joe as a rule hates a sick room, shirks the sight of pain, and has little sympathy to give to any misfortune of grief.

But if Joe and Jenny have each ten dollars to spend, it will usually be the girl who will hoard the pennies, or who will be hard and sharp in driving a bargain, who will be unreasonable in expecting too much for her money from tradesmen.

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