

## WITH WOMANKIND

A BABY SCHOLAR.



The city of Council Bluffs, Ia, claims the honor of having the youngest reader and writer in the world. She is Viola Rosalia Olerich, the adopted daughter of Prof and Mrs Olerich, and is now two years and 10 months old. She received her first new book when she was 13 months old. Since that time her library has gradually grown. It now contains about 50 volumes. She could give one sound of every letter of the alphabet when she was 17 months old, could read a large number of sentences by the sentence method when she was 20 months, can now read at sight, with force and expression, most any reading matter in the English language.

At the age of 23 months it was found by a committee of examiners that she knew 300 nouns. Her articulation and pronunciation are almost faultless. She is able to read and pronounce distinctly such long and difficult words as indissolubly, paleontology, philoprogenitiveness, etc, and as far as we could ascertain, she can pronounce any other word in the English language after hearing it pronounced distinctly. She also reads all zoological names given in Steele's Zoology, and most of the botanical names given in the common text-books on botany. She knows and can read at sight all numbers of having more than four digits. She knows and can name 34 regular geometrical forms, all the lines and angles used in plane geometry, 22 punctuation marks, the flags of 25 nations of the world; can name, read and locate all the states and territories of the United States and their capitals, and almost all the countries of the world and their capitals. She can read the names of all the countries of the world and their rulers. She reads script almost as well as print; speaks pieces, draws, writes words and numbers and does many other things equally phenomenal. Her attention, her memory, her observation, her reasoning and her ability as a critic are as marvelous as her other attainments. She seems to understand almost everything she reads.

Viola is a bright, healthy, handsome, prepossessing blonde, with a remarkably fair complexion, brilliant eyes and very pretty hair. She has always been permitted to eat as much of everything as she desires. She has always retired alone, and slept alone, and has never been rocked or carried. At present she sleeps about 11 hours out of the 24. She admires liberty, but has an amiable disposition. Viola has always been treated kindly. She has selected her own playmates, and acquired all her knowledge in the form of play. She has never "studied" a lesson in her life; has never been asked to take a book. Her life has been a continuous game of delightful play. She was surrounded with attractive educational apparatus and then left completely free as to when and what to learn. Prof Olerich believes that all real eminence in education must be attained by interest, kindness and freedom. To the use of these he attributes his unparalleled

success in educating Viola, and he claims that her future progress and ability will be immeasurably greater than any other which has heretofore been recorded, unless something unforeseen comes up to prevent. He claims that all learning, when rightly pursued, is nothing more than play, and no strain on the learner.—[J. B.]

**Boys' Hands.**—You tell the girls a great many nice ways to keep their hands and skin smooth and soft, and entirely forget the boys," says my little nephew. I believe in being as careful with boys as girls. They can play marbles, ride their wheels, play football, etc, but when they leave the outdoors to spend the evening at home let them make themselves neat and clean. Have on their washstand a good quality of toilet soap, a piece of pumice stone for rubbing off stains, a little dish or jar of borax for softening the water—and it cleanses quicker, getting the nails clean—have plenty of towels, whisk brooms and clothes brushes convenient so the boys can dust their clothing nicely; have a shoe polish and blacking convenient, and what is better, if they live on a farm and have to get their boots very muddy, have a substantial pair of slippers for them. It relieves their tired feet and saves the carpets. It is a great mistake to have manicure sets, silver backed combs and every imaginable dainty thing on the girls' dresser, and across the room where the brothers stay there is hardly a respectable comb and no brush or clothes brush, etc. I have seen it so, and such boys grow up untidy, careless of their surroundings and never make as genteel an appearance as being thus neglected. There are many practical reasons why a boy's room should be made attractive. It should have book shelves, pictures with a tradition that will educate, and a good light to read by at night, with a table convenient.—[S. H.]

**Inquiring Friends.**—Ford Wattles informs us that Miss Becky can obtain the music of the Georgia Camptmeeting from the McKinley Music Co, 309 Wabash avenue, Chicago.—N. B. Allen, Box 206, Dexter, Mo, wants to know about the vicinity of Galveston, Tex, as a place to live.—The book, Why I Am What I Am, by 14 clergymen of different creeds, is what P. G. wants to know where to get.—Mrs M. McC, the Scott Stamp & Coin Co, 18 East 23d street, New York city, will send you literature on the value of coins.—Floyd E., we believe there is no premium on 25 and 10c scrip. See reply to Mrs McC, above.—Florence A. asks for directions for knitting the old-fashioned lace our grandmothers put on white bedquits and table covers.—Mrs Clara P., we have printed a good many knitted lace patterns suitable for aprons, and if you will say the kind of apron we will tell you suitable patterns for it.

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