

to put on the plate as mother and father do. We kneel to pray and the little eyes watch us keenly and down come the little figures on the stool with heads reverently bowed. We rise to sing, and the childish voices ring out above the rest, often to our amusement and embarrassment. And so it is through the years of childhood, and even further. We see what a wonderful gift this power of imitation is.

The results of imitation are most important in character building. In the first place, "when the child imitates he begins to understand." For example, Jack learns to share his toys in imitation of mother who shares things with him, and he soon understands the joy of unselfish sharing. Dorothy cuddles her baby doll and showers caresses upon it, and thus understands better mother's great love for her. She plays that her dolly is disobedient and thus learns to realize what her disobedience means to her mother. Again, the children enact the stories they have heard, perhaps that of David; and, as they save the sheep from the fierce beasts, they understand better the shepherd's love and care for his flock, and, from that, they grasp the significance of their evening prayer.

"Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me;
Bless Thy little lamb to-night."

Perhaps they have heard the stories of Jesus told so frequently and vividly, that, even although they may not dramatize them, their desire will always be to do as Jesus did "when he was a little boy."

In the second place, repeated imitation results in habits which become an inseparable part of the child's life. Repeated giving, in mere imitation, will make generosity a habit; repeated irritability, in unconscious imitation of mother or nurse, will result in bad temper and disagreeableness. Let us, therefore, see that the good acts are repeated and that the bad ones are never allowed to recur. We cannot begin too early "to be careful what we do before the baby," for the unconscious imitation begins before we are aware, and is often too late to uproot the bad habits acquired. One moment may afford the baby an example to be copied again and again, but it is often

the work of days and weeks to cure him of naughty ways.

Toronto

Baby Land

How many miles to Baby Land?
Any one can tell;
Up one flight,
To your right—
Please to ring the bell.

What can you see in Baby Land?
Little folk in white,
Downy heads,
Cradle beds,
Faces pure and bright.

What do they do in Baby Land?
Dream, and wake and play,
Laugh and crow,
Shout and grow;
Jolly times have they.

What do they say in Baby Land?
Why, the oddest things;
Might as well
Try to tell
What a birdie sings.

Who is queen in Baby Land?
Mother, kind and sweet;
And her love,
Born above,
Guides the little feet.

—George Cooper

The Child's Problem

"You don't know what a problem that child is!" said a tired mother to her caller. "I punish her and scold her until I am fairly ashamed of myself. Then her father takes her in hand, only to make matters worse. What can I do?"

So much for the mother's side. No doubt her child does present a problem that looks hard to solve. All parents know how it is. But what of the greater problem that the father and the mother present to the child?

If we could put the child's own thoughts into words, we should probably get something