

a useful purpose in alluring insects. The petals of such flowers are often characterized by dark markings, radiating towards the centre, which help to guide the insect in his search for the prize within.

The more modestly colored flowers, such as the lily-of-the-valley, mignonette and sweet alyssum, know the attractive power of perfume, and are furnished with an inviting fragrance which serves the same purpose of attracting the pollen-distributing insect. Others are provided with a drooping petal or lower lip, upon which flying insects may rest while they explore the flowers. This is especially noticeable in the flowers of the horse chestnut, while in the pansy, there is found, in addition, a beautifully bearded portion, which affords a safe foothold to which the insect may cling while sucking the nectar.

Toronto

A Kind Word

How little it costs, if we give it a thought,
To make happy some heart each day.
Just one kind word, or a tender smile,
As we go on our daily way.

Perchance a look will suffice to clear
The cloud from a neighbor's face,
And the press of a hand in sympathy
A sorrowful tear efface.

It costs so little, I wonder why
We give so little thought.
A smile, kind words, a glance, a touch,
What magic with them is wrought!

How to Deal With a Child's Fears

By Mrs. W. J. Jamieson

Jean Paul Richter says: "Nothing is more infectious than fear or courage; but the parent's fear is doubled in the child." Perhaps, therefore, the most important requisite in dealing with a child's fears would be that the mother, before she becomes a mother, shall learn to control her own fears.

But, aside from all parental influence, the child will be largely the result of his environment and the atmosphere he breathes; and we cannot too soon begin to guard the little

child from impressions that may produce fear. The tiny babe is more easily frightened by strange noises than by strange sights. We may well put ourselves in the place of such a helpless, inexperienced bit of humanity, and seek to counteract all harmful impressions, soothing the little mind by a tone of voice, whose meaning the tiniest infant so soon learns to interpret.

Darkness is often a great source of terror to childhood. So far as my experience goes, this is not instinctive in the babe, but caused by some mental impression received in, and attributed to, the darkness, or fostered, later on, by gruesome tales or weak threats of what the "bogey-man" will do when night comes on. So long as parents will use, or allow others to use, such crude and barbarous methods in the control of their children, so long will the darkness make of them fearful cowards. Rather, accustom the little infant to go to sleep in the dark, taking care that he is not frightened by unusual noises. As he is able to understand, people the darkness with the protecting presence of God; teach him to look upon the darkness as one of God's most blessed gifts to a weary world; tell him little stories of sleeping birds, beasts, flowers and people making ready for the coming of another new day, and note how he will watch for the curtain of night to fall.

Another common source of fear is a thunder-storm. Here, too, we find that the noise of the thunder strikes terror to the child's heart, rather than the blinding flash. Fear begets fear. He will quickly draw his own conclusions from the blanched, terror-stricken faces of those to whom he looks for protection. Happy the child who is taught to listen for the "bumping" of the clouds together, the music of the pattering rain, and to see beauty in the gathering storm and the lightning's flash. Happier still the child of maturer years, who, though he now recognizes the element of danger, knows, too, the great, life-giving power of the forces at work, and has learned to rely upon Him in whose hands are the issues of the storm.

Where a child is afraid of animals and insects, seek to awaken in him an intelligent interest in the beauties, habits and uses of these creatures of God.