



SHIPS THAT GO TO LULLABY LAND

By James Thomson

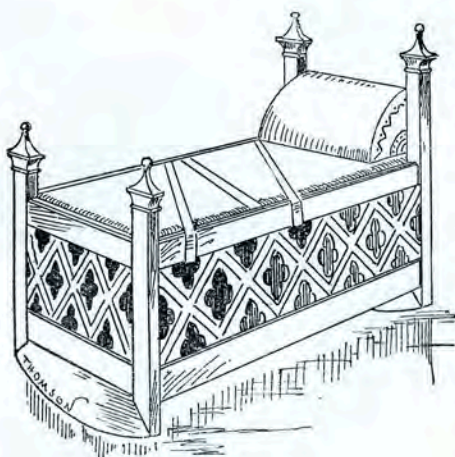


It is very true that since Moses was cradled in his little bed of bulrushes the form of the cradle has undergone many changes. But in this nineteenth century we have gone back to nearly the same form again. The design given in the initial letter represents the modern crib as based on the model of history. These cots of modern make are fashioned like their ancient prototype of willow, and are then adorned with lace and ribbon, and a

cradle, and that it is better to buy a child's crib in the first place, as it can be made use of for so many years of a child's life. The cribs with adjustable sides to let down are the most desirable, and they may be provided with a canopy rod (which is removable) or not, as one may elect. The canopy is possibly most advisable when the child is very young, as it lends shield from draughts.

These cribs may be improved by adding on either side, on the inside of the railing, a thin cushion of cotton batting or down. This may then be covered with some pretty pattern in China silk or cretonne, and may be fastened in place by ribbon bows. This simple expedient will add very materially to the comfort of the child in winter.

Without discussing the advisability of using draperies for a child's cot it may be said that they undoubtedly add very materially to its beauty, and when not too heavy can offer no serious detriment to health. It is, of course, most fitting that the material of which the curtains are made should be light, both as regards color and texture. There is provided for the use of the mother of to-day a wide range of selection in the many light-hued silks now offered. Although, perhaps, the first choice for the very young child may be found among the dainty muslins and laces, and in a combination of the two, in such a choice the drapery should be lined. When lined let it be with some pink or pale blue material that will show through the muslin. Ribbon trimmings of the color should also be employed. In the bassinet given in illustration the body of the swinging cot should be first covered with silesia of the color selected, and then over this should be stretched the muslin. The mattress and pillow should be of first quality hair, and the pillow and counterpane of cream or white, embroidered in self-tones, or in delicate tints of other colors; the sheets and pillow-cases of one of the soft muslins, as linen is not considered healthy.



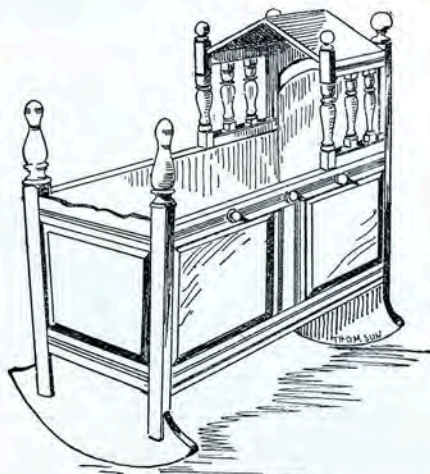
CRADLE OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

handle is very often provided, by which they may be carried from place to place.

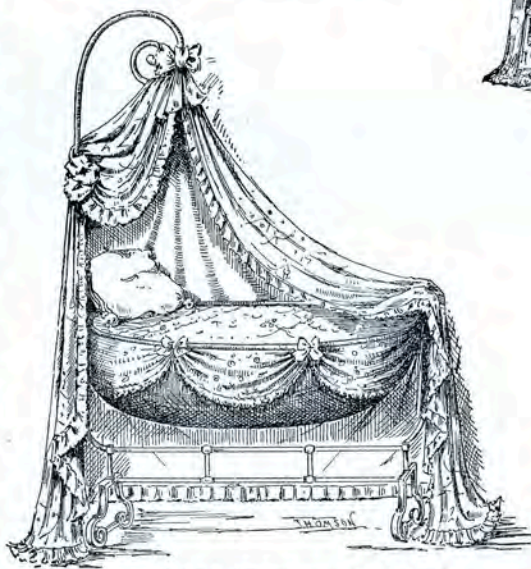
The illustration here given of the fifteenth century cradle exhibits in its severe and angular outlines the ecclesiastical influence which dominated the domestic architecture of that period. Most of the cradles shown in the manuscripts of the Middle Ages have straps to bind the little one in place. The illustration of the cradle of the time of James I can be said to fairly represent the sincere matter-of-fact people of that period in the quaintness of outline and uncompromising stability of build.

The illustration given of one end of a cradle of the time of Louis XV speaks very eloquently of the social condition of the period in question. The Queen of England still owns the carved and gilt cradle in which she was rocked, an illustration of which is here given. It is an example of an odd taste displayed at one time in representing the cradle as a boat. This may have been an extension of the idea suggested by the cradle in which Moses was placed.

The very general introduction of brass and iron cribs and bassinets has, in a great measure, done away with the rocking cradle of former days. Those made of iron may be had in many different shades of enamel, with mouldings and knobs of brass. Wooden cots are also used to a limited extent, but the preference is now for metal ones of some sort. From a sanitary point of view the iron or brass cribs are a great improvement over the wooden ones. It is advisable when purchasing the baby's bed to keep in view the fact that a child will very soon outgrow



A FIFTEENTH CENTURY CRADLE



A MODERN SWINGING CRADLE

The enameled cribs, and the wooden ones, while of less cost than the brass, are not so serviceable, nor can they be said to be as ornamental.

In the crib given in the illustration the canopy rod may be placed at the head, and the curtains allowed to fall on either side. The method of draping shown is the one most in favor in the Empire style, and is especially to be recommended in cases where the crib can be placed against a wall space.

A charming crib recently seen was finished in pale blue enamel, with the knobs and other ornamental features done in silver. It was furnished with a plaited valance from the rails down to the floor, this being of white India silk with designs in pale blue. The blanket was bound with blue, having embroidered in the corners bunches of forget-me-nots tied with lovers' knots of white ribbon. The pillow-case and sheets were of purest white with deep hemstitching as a finish. The curtaining was of white lace with a lining of pale blue. Bow-knots of blue ribbon completed the ensemble.

Another crib was in coral enamel, the drapery being nothing more expensive than cheesecloth in the natural color, finished with an edging of light, fluffy ball fringe, pink and yellow in color. The other trimmings, such as the bow-knots,

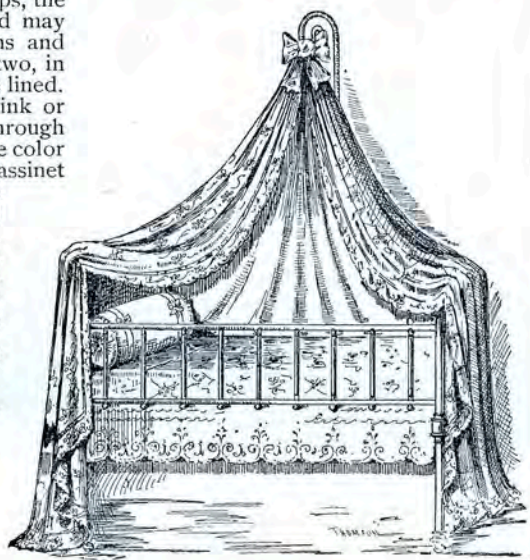
were of pink ribbon, and the spread of white embroidered in pale pink and green.

A valance of shirred cheesecloth hung from the bed rails to the floor. The results with these simple materials were surprisingly good and the cost very trifling.

Of the many gifts for the newly-arrived infant probably none are daintier nor more appreciated by its proud mother than articles for use about the crib. The first three months of a baby's life are practically spent in its crib, and crib belongings are, therefore, as useful as they may be ornamental and beautiful. First comes the little hair mattress, over which for the first few months, if the baby be born in winter, may be laid a tiny feather-bed, the softness, downiness and warmth of feathers making a nest which no mattress of hair can approach. For this should be made a half dozen fitted slips of fine soft muslin. These should be made to fasten with buttons at the side. The pillows, of which there should be two, to be used alternately, of softest feathers or white hair if preferred, should have for use unembroidered softest muslin slips. Great care should be taken to keep these pillows, which are best when about sixteen by twelve inches in size, sweet and fresh by constant airing in the open air. Two blankets of finest wool bound with ribbon should also be used



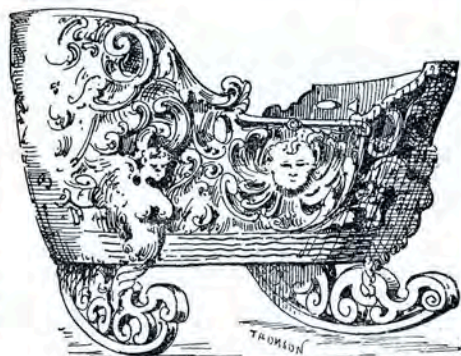
THE END OF A CRADLE TIME OF LOUIS XV



A MODERN CRIB

alternately over the little one without any intervening sheets. A cheesecloth comforter filled with softest cotton and knotted with white worsted gives additional warmth when needed. For show occasions use the embroidered, beruffled pillow-slips, but do not force the soft flesh and downy head to lie for hours on the crumpled rose leaf of an embroidered monogram. Beribboned counterpanes and embroidered quilts are beautiful for exhibition purposes or for use when the bed is dressed, but with a wee baby it is really not safe to use anything but such articles as may readily be laundered.

When children reach the crib age mothers frequently experience much difficulty in keeping the little ones covered. The tendency to kick off the bedclothes seems, like original sin, to appear in each generation, and means must be found to meet it. Some mothers sew straps of tape to the four corners of each bed garment, upper sheet, blankets and quilt, and then tie these to the four posts of the bed.



CRADLE USED BY QUEEN VICTORIA

Patent fasteners come which are more or less excellent, but the best plan of all seems to be that of having all the bedclothes of an extra large size, to allow of being well tucked in at feet and sides, and of having the nightclothes made sufficiently long and warm to insure protection.