



LA VIÈGE—BEST PURE WHITE DWARF KNOWN.

When putting each shoot into its new pot, hold it carefully and gently in the centre, so that the soil comes quite as high as the sand did originally. Press—but not too hard—the soil all round the root. Your young

plants can then be watered and placed in a frame, though not exposed to a hot sun, or the plants would droop and perhaps fail. In a few days they must have plenty of air, and when the temporary check to growth which all transplanting occasions has passed away, the plants can be removed and placed out along or on any hard substance, for the roots might otherwise strike through the hole at the bottom of the pot into the soil on which the pots are, and this would never do. Lastly, you will find that in a short time the pots will be filled with roots, and that means that each plant may be turned out, as you see mine now are, into the borders where they will bloom—and indeed where ours are *now* blooming (“And *ours too*,” suddenly interposed Mrs. Alice Smith) in their dwarf state.”

“Bravo, Mr. Charles!” put in John; “but are you sure that all this is *necessary*, Charles, for bloom?”

“Undoubtedly *not*, John; but, as I think I said at the outset, that terribly lanky and untidy look which chrysanthemums naturally have is by this process avoided, and you will have flowers at less than half the height they would have attained, nor will your plants have lost their foliage or their colour. And what is more, John, these very plants which we are now looking at would next year be as tall as any other if we allowed them to remain on untended for another season.”

John again, for his part, thought it best to hold forth upon the beauties of the tall chrysanthemum and of the shrubby specimens also. “No one can deny,” said Charles in reply, “the beauties of these; but for our smaller garden, perhaps the dwarf specimens are best adapted.”

NURSERY ACCIDENTS.

BY A FAMILY DOCTOR.



“ACCIDENTS will happen,” even in the best regulated households, and there is no part of the house where they happen oftener or cause more anxiety than in the nursery. Everybody who has anything to do with children should possess the knowledge of how best to manage when any accident has occurred. One or other

of the children is always “in the wars,” and a great deal can be done to help the little sufferer at the time, and—what is often more important—very much to ward off the evil after-effects which sometimes follow apparently trivial injuries, by anyone who possesses an intelligent idea of “first aid” in such accidents.

Many of the accidents which happen to children

could be prevented by forethought and care on the part of those who have charge of them. We must remember that young children do not know the difference between anything they may play with in safety and the most dangerous things. At first they will attempt to play with the fire or a can of boiling water just as readily as with their rattle, and it is only after the first accident with each dangerous plaything that they begin to exercise caution. “Once bitten, twice shy” is a very true adage, but “Experience is a dear school” is just as true, and it is very cruel for us to allow our children to find out dangers by experience.

“Prevention is better than cure,” and the best way of managing accidents in the nursery is to prevent them. Everything which by any chance could be dangerous should be kept well out of the children’s reach. Never leave bottles or crockery lying about on the tables, as if they are knocked off or in any way broken, the pieces may cause dangerous and even fatal injuries. All medicines should be put carefully away. Matches, knives, scissors, hammers, and tools of all

kinds should be kept on a high shelf in the cupboard, and never be given into the hands of children. Many toys are dangerous either from hard sharp corners or from their being heavy and large; the large rocking-horses, swings, etc., although good for older children, are dangerous to the younger ones, and they should not be used unless an adult is present to keep the younger children out of danger. Mothers should be very particular in looking after servants, to see that they do not leave anything poisonous within reach, such as furniture polish, turpentine, disinfectants, etc. Begin early, and train the children to keep away from the fire. Never allow them to play with, or poke the fire, and always have a fire-guard tall enough to prevent them from reaching over. Train them to be obedient, as often, when danger threatens, if a command is given and they obey, the danger may be averted, and much anxiety and pain prevented. It is very important that proper attention should be given at the time to all cases of accident, as very frequently on tracing back serious or fatal illnesses we come upon a fall or some other preventible cause, and the grief at the result is harder to bear when we think that the bad consequences might have been prevented had more care been exercised.

Still, when all precautions have been taken, accidents will occasionally happen, and every mother should be able to render intelligent "first aid" to her children.

In many cases first aid consists in just preventing things from going worse, and in judicious letting things alone until the doctor can be summoned. Much harm has been done after broken limbs, beads in the ear and nose, and other cases, by well-meant but mistaken attempts to remedy matters. In other cases, as choking, clothes on fire, etc., first aid is the most important of all treatment. We will just consider some of the more common nursery accidents, and see how we can best treat them at the time of occurrence. It will be better to take them in alphabetical order, as reference to them in an emergency will be greatly facilitated by such an arrangement.

Bites.—Sometimes while playing with a dog or cat the children get bitten. Very often the teeth do not go through the skin, and the fright is the worse thing in such cases. When the teeth do go through the skin, you should immediately apply a hot bread poultice, and renew this when cold.

Broken Limbs.—These occur as the result of falls off a table or chair or down the stairs. The first thing to do is to send for the doctor. Do not lift the child from the floor at once, as very often, when the bone is broken, lifting the child allows the limb to hang, and the sharp broken end of the bone may tear a hole in the skin, or even damage the blood-vessels, which are very near to the bones, and either of these complications makes the injury much more serious. Before moving the child, you must place the injured limb in such a position that no further harm can be done. If the leg is damaged, gently tie it to the other leg with soft handkerchiefs above and below the place where it is broken. If the arm is broken, place it tenderly on a

soft cushion, and let one person attend entirely to the careful lifting of this cushion as the child is lifted into bed. He should be placed upon a mattress, and not on a feather bed. Do not attempt to take off the clothes, but leave everything as it is until the arrival of the doctor.

The same treatment should be adopted in the case of any of the bones being put out of joint. This is the best place to give a serious warning against allowing anybody to lift, swing, or jerk a child by its arms. Often by a sudden jerk or lift, one of the bones is put out of joint near the elbow, and this leaves a permanently weak arm. Nursemaids and others are greatly to be blamed for the habit of jerking children over crossings or puddles. Whenever a child is to be lifted, it should be caught round the waist or under the shoulders, as no harm can be done in this way.

Burns and Scalds.—Where matches are left about, or there is not a proper fire-guard always in front of the fire, burns are frequent. Should the clothing catch fire, immediately lay the child flat on the floor, and roll the hearthrug, a shawl, or some woollen garment, round it to smother the flames. If a doctor can be obtained, leave the child quiet, only keeping it warm, and if faint, giving hot milk as a drink. If the doctor cannot be got at once, very carefully remove the clothing, cutting any part which tends to stick to the skin, and leaving it where it sticks. Do not break any blisters, but cover the whole surface with strips of linen soaked in oil, or, where oil cannot be obtained, dredge flour thickly over, and then cover with cotton-wool.

Scalds result when the child upsets a cup of hot tea or a kettle, etc., over itself. They are treated in the same way as burns. All cases of burns and scalds are serious, and should be seen by a doctor as soon as possible.

Cuts.—When the child gets a cut with a knife or any sharp object, such as glass, or from a fall, wash the cut well with warm water, to remove any dirt which may have got in, and then put a piece of clean soft linen round the part, and fasten it on by winding cotton round it, or by means of a handkerchief or bandage. Should there be much bleeding, or the wound be large, you should send for the doctor, as a stitch may be required to prevent a very ugly mark, which would be left if the cut were allowed to gape open.

Falls.—Children are constantly tumbling, and generally their falls are not very severe. Should they have a bad fall on to the head or back, this should be carefully attended to, and an examination made by a doctor, as serious consequences often develop some time afterwards. Some children have become cripples from falls down the stairs, or from their nurses' arms on to their backs. If the child is stunned, lay him flat and keep him quiet. Loosen the clothing, and give him fresh air, but do not attempt to rouse him, and let him be seen by a doctor as soon as possible. Even slight falls should be prevented whenever possible. There should be a gate at the top of the stairs, provided with swing hinges, so that it is

always kept shut and fastened. Young children should not be allowed to climb into chairs or on to the table, etc., as many nasty tumbles may result.

Substances in the Eye, Ear, and Nose.—Children very often put such things as peas, beads, or cherry-stones into their noses or ears. If they have only just put the substance inside the nose or ear, it is easy to remove it, but should it be pushed tightly in, there is always a good deal of difficulty in getting it out, and it is very unwise to attempt it, as specially-shaped instruments may be necessary, and even chloroform may have to be administered. Every unsuccessful attempt pushes the substance further in and increases the risk and trouble in finally removing it. When anything gets into the ear, turn the head on one side, with that ear undermost, and if a few gentle taps on the head do not dislodge the body, do not make any further efforts, but take the child to a doctor.

When anything gets into the eye, gentle efforts to remove it may be made by using the end of a tightly-

rolled paper spill, which has been softened by chewing. Hold the lower eyelid down, and carefully remove any dust, etc., then bathe the eye with warm milk and water.

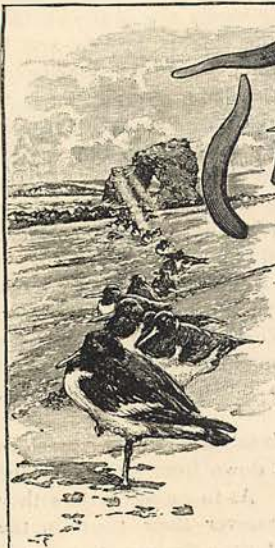
Peas, beads, etc., in the nose are difficult to remove, and if they cannot be expelled by an attempt at sneezing, or by putting your mouth over the child's mouth and blowing sharply, you should seek medical assistance.

Swallowing Coins, Buttons, etc.—If any substance sticks in the child's throat, and it threatens to choke, try to pull it up with your fingers, passing them as far down as possible, and hooking the substance up. If this is impossible, make the child swallow coarsely-chewed bread to try and send it down. Do not give emetics or aperients.

Sufficient has now been said to show how a little intelligent first aid is often of great use in preventing serious consequences following the little mishaps which are likely to occur in the nursery.

BIRD DWELLERS BY THE SEA.

BY F. A. FULCHER.



OYSTER-CATCHER'S dwelling-place is paved with gold. Yellow sands stretch far and wide where these quaint birds make their abode, gleaming pale gold under a wintry sky, burning red gold in the fierce heat of summer, gold alloyed to shifting shades of changeable yellow, lemon, maize, orange, as cloud and wind and weather work it. Summer is the time to see the pale sands to per-

fection. Wild rock borders find their fullest expression in winter, when a seething sea boils over and floods the boulder-strewn beach and the cliffs bow beneath the weight of scudding storm clouds as they sweep over the brow of the hill. Storm winds howling as they climb the ramparts, storm waves booming as they cannonade the fortress, they but whisper the tale of the mighty convulsions and explosions and upheavals that have written the story of the spot, but they tell nevertheless of the rock sorrows and rock conflicts whose scars and whose triumphs are here. It is then that rock-beaches tell out their sermons.

But summer is the time to see sands. They creep

out from under the blue waters where the mills of God are grinding slowly fresh grains to replenish their store, and spread upwards towards high-water mark where they may take courage and bring forth the beautiful blooms of sea-poppy, golden like themselves, and tufts of sea-holly, blue in memory of the waters behind. Onward go the drifting sands where they travel high and dry led on by the tiny blades of marram, that wonderful land-winner—working in its quiet way and reclaiming vast tracts of salt sands to add to the rich pastures of inland. Fields of sea-lavender often wave purple triumph where the sea sand-grass has won a victory and a patch of barren sand has been converted and has become a fruitful field. The sunlight falls softly on the sands when their flowers are blooming, each tiny particle reflects it, and a brilliant shimmer of light plays on their wide surface, the gentle ripples of clear waters wash them softly to and fro in waving ridges—a soft haze from the deep blue beyond sails in upon the wandering breeze and veils, but scarcely dims, the brightness of the glowing flowers and the smooth yellow sands that were else too gay in the summer garden of a sandy shore.

The oyster-catchers have the wit to appreciate this phase of the varied charms of their abode, and when the dunlin, and the sanderlings, the godwits, and turnstones, grey plovers, and hooded crows, who have spent the winter with them on the sea sands, fly away to the moors and fells far north, they remain and in company with the little-ringed plovers and the sand-martins have the best of sand seasons to themselves as far as birds are concerned.

The birds on such strands by the sea in winter are