



DETECTED.

"Tu-whit! Tu-who!"  
Caught as the deed was almost done,  
Detected when the prize seemed won!  
In vain all efforts to conceal

The egg you've risked so much to steal!  
"Tu-who!" the owl croaks forth anew:  
"Just put it back! Tu-whit! Tu-who!"  
Tu-whit! Tu-who!"

### CARDBOARD HOUSES AND TOYS.



FIG 1.— A DANCING MAN.

FOR the benefit of my young friends, whether boys or girls, who wish to compete for the prizes to be awarded next autumn at the LITTLE FOLKS Exhibition—and no less also for that of their poor sick fellow children to whose hospital homes all the toys will be sent—I am about to offer a few suggestions.

When I was in the nursery, long ago, with a brother and sister to join me in my amusements, we used to enjoy our play-hours at home just as much as our games out-of-doors. We used to cut out men and women in white or coloured paper, dressed as sailors, soldiers, kings and queens, and ladies in every description of dress. These were pencilled, painted, or sketched with a pen and ink, and scraps of gilt paper cut into

crowns, and other ornaments, were gummed upon them, or pieces of steel-coloured glazed paper (taken off packets of tea or packages of writing-paper), which looked like steel armour when cut in the form of a cuirass, and affixed to the paper warrior. The way in which we cut out a man was by folding the paper in half, and beginning at the fold, cutting the outline from the head downwards.

We also used to make either square or round pasteboard towers, and two or three squares, or circles of slighter card, to make as many floors as required, and so exactly cut as to fit inside. These floors were fixed into their places by gumming a thin sheet of paper all over the under side; cut a little larger every way, so as to extend beyond the edge of the floor. With a pair of scissors we snipped this paper here and there, neatly all round, gumming the underneath part of the snipped paper edge, having first bent it upwards, all round the card. Then we gently pushed down this little floor into the tower, till it reached just below the windows already cut in the walls. It was easy, by using a long paper-knife, to smooth against the inside walls those snipped edges, already wet with strong gum. In making the men and women for the cardboard houses, castles, or churches, you

must make them of paper only, as you can cut them both smaller and more delicately than you could in card, and you can bend them, and place them sitting or kneeling, or in any other position, just as you please. When they are intended to be used merely for play among yourselves, of course you would place them in the houses loose, so as to be taken in and out, as you were inventing and telling

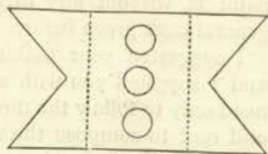


FIG. 2.—CHIMNEY.

yourselves the story about them (and I assure you, our stories were very entertaining to us, and used to run on for many days); but in sending your houses and paper men to the Exhibition, you had better gum them down on their chairs, or standing where you wish them to be, and turn up the ends of the table and chair legs, so as to attach them securely to the floor. Inside the openings cut for the windows you should gum on a piece of coarse net, such as is used for window-blinds or curtains, to look like diamond-panes or lattice-work for the window-sashes. Of course, if the windows be large enough, and especially if there be a party of paper men and women inside which ought to be seen and admired, you should procure from a photographer some pieces of the transparent talc-like covering which is sold to answer the purpose of glass in photographic albums, called mica, and place this inside the window holes, gumming narrow slips of paper down the edges, to secure it to the inner walls.

You must always practise on paper, and then cut the card by it; and in any case, paper will always be much needed, because the joinings must be made by it, and all the corners of the outside of a house strengthened by little straps of paper, long and short alternately, and drawn round with a pen or pencil, so as to look like "stone-facings." Begin by cutting a house a few times out of old envelopes or notepaper already written upon, and then take a double piece of stiff brown paper and make a pair of houses alike. Finish one of them to see how it looks; paste it together at the back and fix it on a stand of the same. You will soon see the faults to be corrected, and can make the alterations required on the other model. Then take the card-

board and lay this corrected model upon it, and pencil the outlines to be cut out. In making the models always fold the paper in two, and make folds again, so as to cut through double wherever the windows are to be made in pairs. But cut single where you wish one to be different in shape or position. Your paper house can have an extra strip of paper left all round, to be turned up and gummed to the ground. If the cardboard be not very thick—which it need not be for a small house—I think you might rule the lines marked for the corners, and carefully bend the card instead of cutting and joining it. The roof must be secured on to the walls by means of a thin piece of paper gummed all over the inside of it, just so far on each side as to reach the place where it touches

the two side walls; there the loose part (not gummed to the roof) must be bent down so as to lie on the walls, and then stuck upon them with the gum. The roof should be made wide and long enough on all four sides to make overhanging eaves, resembling those of a Swiss chalet, only not quite so wide.

A verandah could be made on one or two of the sides, or a balcony, and steps up to the hall door, just by following out the plan of pasting on paper wherever required, to make the invisible fastening to the walls by means of a loose edge, snipped

here and there when necessary.

The building of a chimney (see Fig. 2) requires a little thought. I have given an outline of the card which will form both the sides and the top. The two notched ends are to be bent down to fit upon the ridge of the roof, and two sides gummed on. The top of the chimney must be punched in three or four places, and into these holes fix in little well gummed rolls of paper painted black for chimney pots; but do not let them be long, nor uneven in height. Children's models are generally spoilt by making the different articles of wrong sizes when compared together.

For instance, you may often have seen a doll intended for a baby so big that it could not possibly be carried through the door of its house. Either the baby should be smaller, or the house larger. Observe



FIG. 3.—PUMP.



FIG. 4.—CHAIR.

how large or how small every thing about you is, when compared to your own size, before you attempt to make anything as a toy to go with other toys. This remark, of course, does not

apply to separate things exhibited by themselves, which may be of any size you please to make them. I think that you might improve your house model by making a pump (see Fig. 3) and a trough, and standing it just outside the back-door, the house being surrounded by a paling of open-work cut in card and painted. Scraps of moss would make good shrubbery inside it here and there, and in the centre an oval-shaped bed, before the hall-door, as you should make a drive

in front, where a carriage could turn, and a good cardboard gate, painted a dark colour. The hall-door and shutters should be painted alike. At the back of the house the door should be small, two small square windows cut high up, and one larger-sized for the kitchen on the ground-floor; and on one side in the back yard you might place a rabbit-hutch, for the sake of the children of the house. But remember that you must not make such a small thing as a rabbit-hutch big enough for a house to hold the men and women.

A rabbit-hutch is very easily made; it consists of an oblong-square box; that means, that it is longer one way than it is the other. You have only to cut out straight strips, on one side leaving bars and open spaces extending a little more than half the length of the side, and then in the square a door must be cut. The rabbit-hutch will have to be provided with a little stand, which can either be made separately and the hutch pasted upon it, or else you could make the stand, front and back, all of one piece of card with the front and back of the hutch. You might cut out and paint a rabbit, and place it inside if you like.

If you had sufficient space in your back yard you might make a tool-house, or a dog-kennel, or a kind of shed with a back wall to it, but the roof resting on slight pillars in front. We may also suppose that the house is under repair, and you might then put a short card-ladder against it. Perhaps you would like to make a washing-tub with raised handles on either side. This should be painted a light wood-colour, with lines drawn down the sides, to show where the separate boards meet. One

of you might practise cutting out a wheelbarrow also, and various other things, which I leave for you to think about, as I always think that it is twice as entertaining to plan some fresh thing oneself, and find out the way to cut out and paint it, without any further directions than the general ones given before.

I suggested your making a pump and trough, and I supplied you with a little woodcut, and you need only to follow the directions given for a house and roof to compose the whole thing for yourself. Cut a small hole for the spout of the pump, and fix in the little roll of card. I should get a scrap of that bright steel-coloured paper, and paste it round the spout to look like metal, and also on the pump-handle. And you might also make the bands round a tub of the same, instead of painting them; and a little scrap of iron or steel wire would answer well for the iron handle of the tub, as well as for many other little things, which are amongst those which I leave you to think of for yourselves.

To cut out a chair is also very easy (see Fig. 4). I have laid the pattern flat to show how it looks, but to cut it out it must be folded together all down the middle of the back and seat. Where the dotted lines appear you must fold back the legs and gum the part lined under the seat. Then bend the back upright, and the four legs down to support the seat. A couple of little straps of paper can then be gummed across between the two front legs and the two back ones, to form the rungs. I have cut them square, but you can make them more ornamental to resemble turned legs.

A table (see Fig. 5) is made much after the same plan as a chair. The sides—of which the legs are a continuation—should be turned under the table and gummed to it, and the small flaps at the ends

bent down. Rungs should be fastened on to keep the legs together in their proper place.

A child's cradle (see Fig. 6) can be made in two ways—either by bending a straight slip of paper,

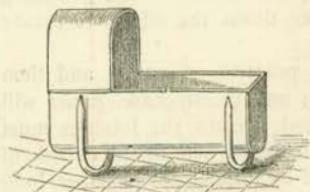


FIG. 6.—CRADLE.

like a piece of tape, leaving the foot end rounded and the head end in sharp corners, and one end lapping round the other side so as to make a flat head end, and by pressing down the bottom of the cradle into it, and fixing it in place as you would a floor; or else by making the bottom and sides in one with an oblong square of card, leaving the underneath rounded, and putting a flat head and

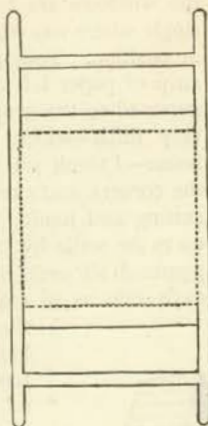


FIG. 5.—TABLE.

foot piece. The rockers can be gummed up on each side of the body part, and left bowed out underneath it; but take care that the two straps—of either stout white paper or cardboard—be made exactly alike, and are gummed on very evenly, so that the cradle may stand and rock well upon them. The head of the cradle is a straight piece of card or paper, the ends of which, when it is bent round, should be tucked inside the body of the cradle, just at the square head end. A scrap of pink or white tissue-paper can be gathered-in at top, tied to the right depth, and sewed or gummed in place, and the two ends can be drawn together and gummed, to shut up the back, and the two ends fall down on either side, like curtains. The cradle can be covered with coloured paper inside and out.

A windmill is made as you make a pump, only you must cut one or two little windows, and paste in some coarse net for the panes of glass; and the house or top part of the mill should be placed on a larger square building, painted, to look like stonework or brick, in little oblong squares. But you must take care to make the upper or tower-like part of the mill long enough for the sails when they turn round to pass clear of the wider part which makes the foundation. The top portion of the mill should be marked with lines round, to look as if made of laths of wood; and the much-sloping sides of the roof in the same way, just like the pump. I have given a sketch of the sails (see Fig. 7). Cut a broad cross, and then shape it.

I will now show you how to make a cart and horses. I give a flat sketch of the cart, when the first

cutting has been done (see Fig. 8), showing the sides, ends, and bottom of the cart. When bent up, so as to make the corners meet, bind them with strips of gummed paper. The front part is

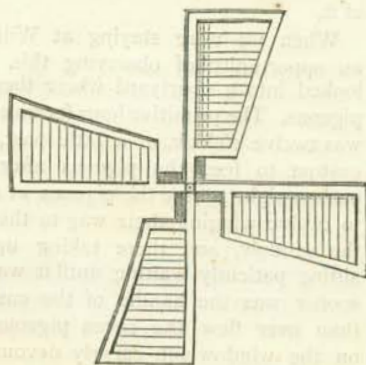


FIG. 7.—SAILS OF THE MILL.

marked A. Next cut out a pair of shafts, and gum them flat along the lower part of each side. Cut out the wheels by laying a shilling or larger coin on a card, marking the circle with a pencil,

and then cutting away the card so as to make an upright, and a St. Andrew's Cross, in all eight spokes. If you cannot draw a horse, get a wood-cut and gum it on card, and cut it out. You will require two, for, while the cart is wide, the

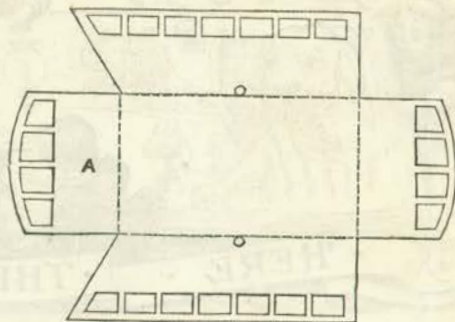


FIG. 8.—CART.

horse is only the width of the card; so I should advise you to gum a horse on each shaft. The wheels should be attached to the cart by means of a hair-pin pierced through the sides, so as to lie along the bottom of the vehicle (touching it), exactly in the centre, each point of the pin being passed through the centre of each wheel respectively, and then bent down to catch it (by means of a small pair of pliers). A piece of white paper may be gummed over the bottom of the cart so as to hide the black pin. Bridles may be put on the horses, and short ones crossing each other from one head to the other, to keep them together, and fill in the space between them. And now, with one more easily-made toy, I will bring my instructions about cardboard toys to an end.

A dancing-man (see Fig. 1) is made by first cutting out the head and trunk all in one, and the arms and upper and lower parts of the legs all separately. Let the arms be laid on the back of the shoulders as the shoulder-blades lie. Make a good knot in a thread of purse-silk, and with a needle pass the latter through the upper part of the shoulder-blade and the shoulder, and make another good knot close up to the body in front, and cut off the end. Do the same at the hips, and at the knees, so as to put all together with a single thread, as a second stitch anywhere would prevent any movement. Then pass a short piece of silk across from the lower parts of each shoulder-blade, and another short piece across from the overlapping tops of each upper leg. Then fasten a long thread to the centres of each of these short strings, and when the long thread is pulled the arms and legs will dance about in a most wonderful fashion.

S. C.