

Jeanie is pleading, "Oh, Jamie, lad,
There's fair and there's stormy weather,
To-day may be fine, but to-morrow's gales
May scatter abroad the fishermen's sails
That leave the harbour together."

"A fair July and a hot July,
And a glorious time on the water,
Why, Jenny, it's just the life for me,

Why should you trouble about the sea?
And you a fisherman's daughter."

"July will go, and mother and I
Will weep through wild nights together.
Oh, Jamie, don't go!" but he whispered
"Nay,
God watches the sailor-lad day by day,
As in fair so in stormy weather."

JULIA GODDARD.

CHILDREN OF ALL NATIONS: THEIR HOMES, THEIR SCHOOLROOMS, THEIR PLAYGROUNDS.

VII.—CHINA AND JAPAN.



A CHINESE PEEP-SHOW.

THE Chinese are a very superstitious people, and when little babies are only three days old they are solemnly washed, and often have their wrists tied up with a red cotton cord, and to this a charm is attached so as to keep off evil spirits

from the baby. The head is shaved when the child is a month old, the hairdresser then having to wear red, this being considered a "lucky" colour. Presents of cakes and other things are sent to the baby, and when it is four months old there is a ceremony to thank "Mother," the patron goddess of Chinese children, for sending the little child, and to pray to her to make it good, prosperous, and happy.

Ming, or an infantine name, is given to little babies in addition to their surnames; but although they must always call themselves by this name, after they are twenty they must never be addressed by it, but by the *tsa* or manly name, which is bestowed upon them at that age. Then boys at school have some particular name, by which their masters and schoolfellows call them.

Instead of having a baby name given to them, girls are called No 1, No 2, and so on.

Boys are thought much more of in China than

their sisters, because they can earn more money when they grow up, and help to support their parents. They can also worship with more effect, it is thought, their ancestral tablets—pieces of wood into which one of the spirits of an ancestor is supposed to have passed, for the Chinese believe that people have several spirits.

A dreadful practice exists in China of putting little girls to death when there are too many in a family. The father commits the crime, which, however, is hardly looked upon by Chinese as a crime at all. Very much is thought in China about forms and ceremonies, and doing things in a ceremonious manner. When a baby is four months old he learns, for the first time, to sit in a chair, and then his mother's mother has to send him, besides a great many other presents, some soft sugar-candy, which is made to stick to the chair upon which the baby is then seated.

The first birthday is another great day of rejoicing, when once more a thank-offering is presented to "Mother," and the baby is put upon a table in front of a number of things, such as ink, books, gold, or tools, and whichever he first touches is to decide what is to be his future character or employment.

As soon as he is old enough to do so, the little child is taught to worship his patron goddess, and many other gods and goddesses, and he is most likely brought up to be either a little Buddhist, Taouist, or Confucianist, the three principal religions of China. Some of the Japanese are also Buddhists. But whatever the young boy is he will be taught to honour Confucius, a very learned philosopher, who was born 551 B. C., and wrote, and put together, books inculcating very good morals. No boy ever goes to school first on the day on which Confucius died or was buried.

Very much is thought of education in China, and if a poor boy take literary honours he can fill as

high a position as though he were a boy of rank. All boys, especially in the south of China, are expected to go to school, but besides the mission schools there are not very many for girls.

A tutor has not only to teach boys how to read and to write, but politeness forms the basis of Chinese education, and the many ceremonies belonging both to public and private life have to be learnt at school. Very much trouble is also taken with the writing-lessons, "an elegant pencil" being thought of great consequence, and all the mistakes made in the writing-lesson the master corrects with red ink.

Like boys of Japan, the Chinese learn their lessons out loud, and sometimes make a great clatter in the schoolroom while doing so. But boys may not talk together in school, and to prevent their doing this the desks are arranged some distance from one another.

When a lesson is known the boy takes his book to the master, bows, turns his back, and repeats it. This is called *pey-chou*, or "backing the book," and is to prevent the boy from reading the lesson, which the large characters would make it very easy for him to do. The way that the Chinese are taught is on a very different system from ours.

They learn by heart first, and then have explained to them what they have learnt. Their first lesson is on filial piety, and throughout life the Chinese boy, and girl, and man, and woman are noted for their love towards parents. They then learn the Sacred Trimetrical book, which treats of the nature of man, modes of education, social duties, and many other things. Next come the four classical books, and then the five sacred, so when Chinese boys go to school they are well set to work. Unlike the Japanese, however, they do not think that they have anything left to learn from other nations.

At the mission school for girls the children are taught to read and write in the morning, and in the afternoon to make their own clothes. A Chinese girl's dress consists of a long loose jacket, and a pair of loose trousers, both made of bright colours. They also make their own shoes, which are beautifully embroidered. All little girls wear fringe. Like the Japanese, they have to remove them before they go into a room. Most of the better class girls have very small feet, made so by being cruelly bandaged when of tender age.

The Chinese have two principal meals in the day, the one in the morning, the other in the evening, and a few cakes and some tea between morning and afternoon school, a pot of the latter being kept in the mission schools. They eat with chopsticks.

Battledore and shuttlecock is a very favourite game amongst Chinese boys and girls, which they

play sometimes in circles, often using their elbows and feet instead of battledores. Unlike their little neighbours in China, I do not think Chinese girls care for dolls; but they are fond of playing at a round game similar to our mulberry-bush.

They also skip, and boys play at horses, and fly the wonderful kites for which the Chinese are famous, and which their fathers and grandfathers so often fly with them. A great many peep-shows are about the streets, which delight the children very much.

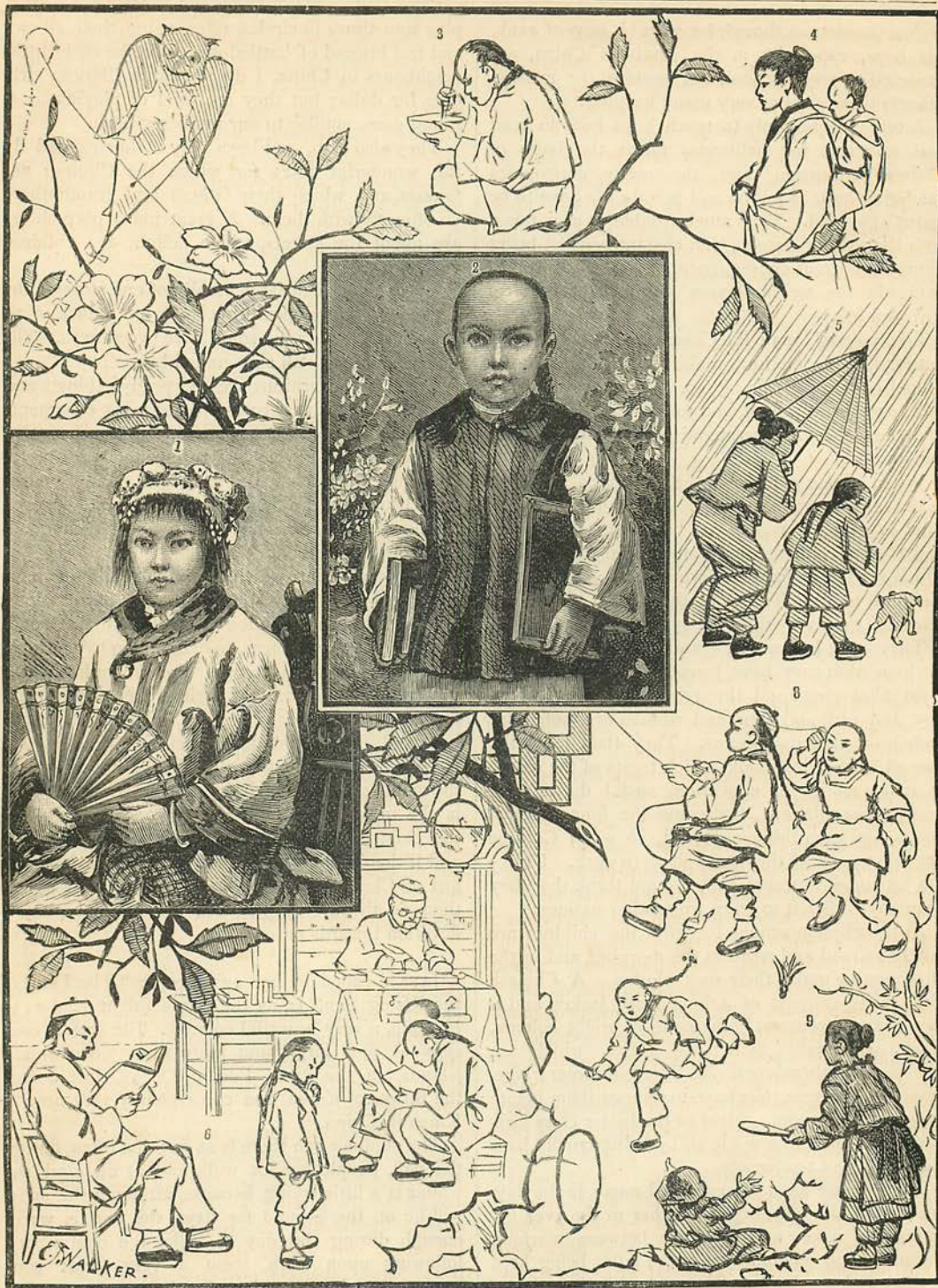
Their homes consist generally of one storey; the Chinese in their superstition think it "unlucky" to live above ground; but some have two storeys. The better houses are all surrounded by walls.

Amongst the furniture are very pretty cabinets and screens; in a Chinese room are also many ornaments and fans. Silk or satin curtains hang on the walls, on which good advice is written, and very pretty lanterns hang from the ceilings. Many houses have beautiful gardens and large verandahs, even the poor loving, and carefully tending, their good-sized pieces of ground.

The constraint which Chinese children have to practise (as they are taught to be cautious, reserved, and to hide their natural wildness) would be likely, one would fear, to make them hypocritical and to train them to tell the untruths which unfortunately so many of their elders seem to tell almost as a matter of course, whereas Japanese boys and girls are taught, in their first lessons, that of all contemptible things to lie, or cheat, or take the smallest thing which does not belong to them, is the most contemptible. Yet one lovely virtue the children of both countries have in common, and if there be any difference perhaps the boy and girl of China exercise it even to a greater extent than do those of Japan, and this is filial piety—devotion towards parents.

JAPAN, called by her own people "The Land of the Rising Sun," is, as the name might lead us to imagine, a very beautiful country. The empire consists of four large, and more than 3,000 small, islands, in the great Pacific Ocean, just across the Straits of Korea, and consequently very near to Korea in China.

The summer sun there is so hot that often, during the day, people cannot walk out at all, and the winter is a little trying, because, although the snow will lie on the ground for days, the sun is warm enough during the day to make the cold nights, following upon them, seem a very great contrast. But Japanese boys and girls know very well how to make themselves happy at all seasons of the year, and this is no wonder, for, as we shall



SCENES FROM CHINESE CHILD-LIFE. (See pp. 22, 23.)

- 1, A Chinese Girl; 2, A Young Chinese Student; 3, Eating with Chop-sticks; 4, A Mother carrying a Child in a Hood; 5, In a Shower; 6, "Backing the Book"; 7, Boys in a School; 8, Flying Kites; 9, Battledore and Shuttlecock.

see presently, they have no end of toys and amusements ; and one thing that would, no doubt, make them happier than anything else is that they are most loving and obedient children to very fond parents, who never punish them. Never being punished would not, however, make them happy if it were not that, strange to say, they really do not seem to require or deserve punishment—a word softly spoken to Japanese boys and girls being alike enough for admonition and reproof.

The people of Japan are an inquiring race, very anxious and eager to gain knowledge ; and to see the little black eyes of the brown-faced babies roaming here and there in seeming inquisitive search, at two or three weeks old, one would fancy that they had early inherited this thirst for knowledge.

I wonder whether they admire their strange-looking mothers when they are first old enough to really notice them, with their brown faces powdered white, their teeth painted black, and their eyebrows shaved. It used to be the universal custom for Japanese girls to do all this to their faces when they married ; but I believe the custom of painting their teeth black is now happily dying out a little.

Mothers carry their babies slung in front of them, and when they are tired the fathers are to be seen carrying them in the same way. They next mount their parents pick-a-back fashion, and not only do fathers and mothers thus give their children repeated rides, but elder brothers and sisters do the same for the younger ones, when the bearer is very often but little taller than the one to be seen perched upon his or her back.

The Japanese are a particularly clean race, and think so much of the bath that, although there are bath-rooms in all the large homes, bathing-houses appear in every direction, which are known in the streets by a dark banner hanging over their doorway, and these are generally crowded. But besides the baths Japanese mothers would tell you that they teach their little children to be hardy by ducking them in cold rivers, and even plunging them into snow.

Education is a matter of great importance in Japan, and both boys and girls of all ranks and classes are expected, not only to learn to read and write, but to have some knowledge of the written history of their own country, which they say extends over 2,500 years. They are very proud of their country, and perhaps justly, as it is supposed to have the most ancient sovereignty in the world, the sovereigns, or mikados, having formed, as it is said, an unbroken dynasty since 660 B.C. Most Japanese children are, therefore, sent to school, and

are generally to be seen on their way thither learning their lessons out loud. The Japanese are a reading people, and a great many book-stalls are to be found in their streets, and those who have prepared the literature of the country have taken good care not to forget her younger children, for the selections contain a great many picture-books for them. In the same way that children invariably learn their lessons out loud, their elders have a peculiar habit of reading aloud to themselves. Although Japanese children have to learn to write their characters in columns, from the top to the bottom of the page, beginning at the right-hand side, as do the Chinese, the characters are not at all the same, and the two languages also differ very much, the Chinese words being all short, and many of the Japanese very long. Then, also, the latter has an alphabet, but the former has none.

Children of "The Land of the Rising Sun" have their heads shaved, with the exception of four little tufts, one before, one behind, and one on either side. They wear bright and many-coloured clothes, their loose jackets having very long sleeves almost to the ground, in each of which is a pocket. They look odd little mites, sometimes going about in clogs, with their little shorn bare heads. Some wear stockings, but all do not. Those worn are made like a baby's glove, with one division for the great toe, round which the sandals of the wooden clog are fastened. Uncomfortable in which to walk as we should consider them to be, the children even like to have these clogs too large for them, because they are then so much easier to throw off, and they have always to be removed before the children go into a room. Sometimes they take them off to use as balls.

Besides the pockets in the long sleeves many boys wear a pouch, in which they carry a purse and materials for writing. Their money, which has a hole in it, is often strung together in the purse for fear it should be lost. A man always wears, hanging to a string round his waist, a small portable inkstand, a brush wherewith to write, and a good deal of paper.

About the religion peculiar to Japan little folk would not understand much. It is called Shinto, and boys and girls are taught to pray to the sun, moon, and stars, also to rivers, trees, &c. ; and amongst gods and goddesses the sun-goddess, who is supposed to have been won from a cave, is their patron divinity.

Japanese children are taught to strictly keep festivals in honour of their gods, and on a festival morning boys will go off very early to the barber to be shaved (the time in Japan for getting up is sunrise, and the time for going to bed sunset) ; then

they will put on their best clothes, paint and powder their faces, and start away for a Shinto temple. Outside they may find some bronze dogs. If they do they will first touch one of these all over, and then themselves in the same way, which signifies a prayer to be well and strong. When they go into the temple they ring a bell to call

care of themselves. Should there be time a child will stop to give one of these dogs a combing, but some of them look too formidable to be meddled with. The stray ones all go off to some stable or yard at night, and like we have policemen to protect us the dogs of Japan have guardians to take care of them, and there are hospitals for those that are ill.



SCENES FROM JAPANESE CHILD-LIFE. (See pp. 23-27.)

1, A Japanese Mother and Son; 2, Boys Wrestling; 3, In Bed; 4, Walking on Stilts; 5, Blowing Bubbles; 6, Playing at Football.

the god's attention to what they have to say, drop some money into a box, which they have carried with them, and ask the god to bless them. Coming along they have most likely bought two rice-cakes, which they give to a boy belonging to the temple, in exchange for which he gives them one that has been blessed.

The dog is quite venerated in Japan, and nobody is allowed to kill one. On their way to school children meet a great many dogs. Those who have owners they will know by their wearing a wooden label; the others look in very good condition, and as though they knew how to take

So much is done in Japan to make children happy that it would be impossible to describe it all; wherever they walk they find stalls in the streets, on which toys or cakes and sweets are sold, but perhaps what would interest English girls more than anything else would be to hear about a feast kept, on the 3rd of March, called "The Feast of Dolls." The name would lead us to believe that it is the grandest and happiest day in the whole year for girls, and so it is. Their dolls are, on this day, all displayed, and many a new one has been bought from shops, fitted up with them, for the occasion. The dolls are mostly made of wood, or enamelled

clay, and are very beautifully dressed ; and as girls play with their dolls until they are grown up, and then save them for their children, they accumulate until a great many are in the possession of one family. No doubt many little fans are hung upon the dolls, for we know that Japan, like China, is noted for its fans and pretty little nicknacks.

There is on the 5th of May also a special festival for boys called "The Feast of Flags." The toys then consist of effigies of great commanders and heroes, and all kinds of implements that are used in war, especially many flags. In the same way that dolls were bought, two months before, for the girls, these toys are now bought for their brothers.

Japanese children are very good mimics, and very fond of acting. The boys also like athletic sports, especially wrestling, play football, fly kites (beautiful ones made of tough paper, and representing a variety of things, even children). Then they walk very much on stilts. Girls are very fond of battledore and shuttlecock, the shuttlecock being sometimes in the shape and form of a bird,

and the battledore consisting of a flat piece of wood without any vellum. And blowing bubbles is a very favourite amusement of Japanese children. Then boys and girls like round games, also quiet ones round the table on a winter's evening.

Japanese toys are too numerous to describe, but so many of them now come to England that they are becoming familiar to English children.

One thing I have forgotten to mention with regard to a stall in the streets which delights little purchasers very much. A man sells all the materials necessary to make a cake, and then allows his little customers to manufacture it themselves, and to cook it on his stove.

So you see that both within and without of doors people do all that they can to make these children happy, and how glad they must be in return to know that they are doing all in their power to give pleasure, by trying to be very loving, truthful, and obedient! Besides loving and honouring their parents Japanese children are also taught to honour all their ancestors. E. C. PHILLIPS.

CLAIMED AT LAST;
OR, THE LITTLE SEA-WAIF.

CHAPTER I.—OUTSIDE THE BAR.



It has been a hard pull, and a strong pull, and a pull altogether, John, or we never yet should have landed." The speaker laughed, a merry, ringing, boyish laugh, as he wiped the perspiration and the salt spray off his heated brow, his companions doing the same. They were half drenched with

the sea-foam which had dashed over them as they bravely beat their way homeward, amid the rising storm. It was with a feeling of pleasure that they stood now on firm ground, the boat hauled up out of harm's way, looking out over the waste of waters.

"Ay, lads! we did it but just in time; it was a risk, but it answered. Hear how the wind is rising, and hark to the harbour bar," spoke the

hardy old boatman who always waited on those four fickle, tricky young gentlemen, and went on their boating excursions with them, by reason of his many years of experience and knowledge of the treacherous sea.

The waters were becoming more tumultuous every moment; great foam-crested waves came tumbling in landward, and the bar moaned, as if in sorrow at what was coming. A red, lurid sun-setting was adding a grandeur to the scene, the great fiery ball sinking down, as it seemed, into the troubled waters, amid confused masses of dark frowning clouds, rolling together, separating and uniting again, like an army marching, counter-marching, and getting into battle array. Long shafts of light lay athwart the ocean, tipping each foamy wave with crimson; the cliffs were aglow with it, the town, the harbour, and the nest of white houses which formed a village farther along the shore, just within the bar—a momentary glory, ere the storm came down, with its blackness and its gloom.

"If that 'ere ship as we see a-beatin' about and makin' for the bar don't run in soon, it'll be as much as she'll do to clear it; and hark to the creatur's moanin'! I never likes to hear that dismal sound: it always bodes of something un-