

INFANTS' UTOPIA

Youngsters Play at Will While Students Peek



Here's how youngsters are allowed to conduct themselves in the special nursery of Fordham university's class in child psychology: Upper left: Playing with educational toys while observed (without their knowledge) by students behind one-way screen. Upper right: Removing and hanging up their own hats and coats. Lower left: Ironing the wash, "just like mama" (the instructors say little boys are better at this than little girls). Lower right: Arising fresh from a daily rest period.

By WILLIAM C. UTLEY

IF LITTLE Johnny Jones next door makes up his mind that your youngster's sled is a prettier red and therefore more desirable than his own, and proceeds to appropriate it through the simple expedient of biffing your youngster in the eye and taking it away from him, don't tell your boy to turn the other eye and regard his neighbor only with humility. Tell him to biff right back—maybe twice, just to emphasize his point.

If your daughter insists on playing with her dolls so long that she is late for school, let her be late; she'll soon find out she can't get away with it.

And if you don't agree with these suggestions, you're probably not the only one. Nevertheless, they are characteristic of the New Deal in child psychology which is being given exhaustive "laboratory tests" for the first time in America at Fordham university, New York city's seat of higher education in the Bronx.

Frisch Had the Idea.

Fordham, distinguished as the alma mater of Frankie Frisch, is not accustomed to training her young hopefuls in unorthodox ways. Frankie, who used to play a whale of a lot of second base before aging legs forced him to the sidelines as manager of the garrulous Gas House Gang representing St. Louis in the National league, once gave managers heart failure by sliding into bases head first. All the laws of decency decree that it is far more desirable to slide feet first, so that your spikes may make hamburger of a stubborn baseman, than to come into the bag head first, making it a cinch for the same baseman to plant a hard sphere none to gently in the center of your physiognomy. But Frankie insisted on sliding his own queer way, just like he had been taught at Fordham, and lo!, year after year he was discovered to lead the league in stolen bases when the annual statistics were compiled.

Now comes the Rev. Walter G. Summers, S. J., head of Fordham's department of psychology, with the announcement that the university is testing methods of child training which may appear to the average parent just about as practical as sliding head first appears to the average baseball coach. The experiments are being conducted with ten bright-eyed youngsters, five boys and five girls aged three to five, sons and daughters of college graduates, and "signed up" by their parents for a year's study. For the babies, known at Fordham as the "Control Group for Study," it looks like a pretty slick deal, for they do nothing but have one grand time. The happier they are, the more successful is the course. They are perfect physical and psychological youngsters, normal in every respect.

Talking harshly to them is strictly taboo. No one will punish them; no one will say, "Ah, ah, mustn't touch!"; no one will "mama" them to the Nth degree; no one will hurry them up to eat their meals; no one will nag them, and no one will make them cry. In short, this is an infants' Utopia.

"Talent in Every Child."

Fordham's pre-school nursery is directed and maintained according to the teachings of Dr. Charlotte Buhler, of Vienna, world-famed exponent of child psychology. It is under the immediate direction of Mrs. Emilie D. Schloemer, assisted by Mrs. Anna Blitz.

Dr. Buhler's principles are simple enough. Expressed fundamentally, they are:

"Don't force a child's development—let it come naturally. There is talent in every child. Guide it when it arrives. Nature varies the pattern of every individual."

Students of the course will be able to follow closely, under ideal conditions, the normal development of a child's behavior. Focal points are reaction to language growth, physical development, intellectual development, emotional reactions and socialization.

On the third floor at Keating hall, Fordham's new graduate school building, is a specially constructed nursery. Every day at nine the children arrive and every day at noon they are taken home. So far as the children ever suspect, they are being brought simply to a pleasant nursery where there are lots of interesting playthings, a place to rest and no one to spoil their fun.

How to Stop "Gimmies."
But they are not so isolated as they think. On four-foot-high stools behind a one-way screen, students of child psychology watch their actions, unobserved.

The onlookers will be able thus to learn first hand why babies cry; why they shouldn't be nagged to eat their food; why they should be encouraged to take off their own hats, coats and rubbers; why they should not be rushed through their meals; why they should be encouraged to return a blow struck intentionally; why they should not be rushed into walking; why parents should not be over-anxious about the early expressions in a child's talk; how to stop a five-year-old youngster with the "gimmies" (one who says "gimme this" and "gimme that").

To put it briefly, the observers may learn how to be better mothers and fathers.

"After all," says Mrs. Schloemer, who interprets the Buhler theory in the nursery, "you have to live with your children 25 years, and a few common sense applications in bringing up a youngster might make the difference between a life of happiness and one of regret." This does not mean a few "common sense applications" on the seat of the pants, either, she says, and she has personally given individual training to 500 children.

Parents Are Impatient.

"Don't hurry your youngster," says Mrs. Schloemer. "Too many mothers rush their children through breakfast, rush them off to school and pepper them with a barrage of 'don't's' only an adult could remember. Let your child be late to school once in a while, but show him calmly that he did the wrong thing. The average parent has not enough patience. Any normal child wants to do the right thing and will, if he is given proper directional stability. Rushing children through breakfast results in nervous indigestion, and forcing them to eat cultivates it. I have seen children two to three years old vomit when

food is put before them. Cause—too much nagging by the parents. The sight of food has become revolting.

"When one youngster hits another, let him strike back. Up to a certain age, all arguments should be settled this way. It creates independence, assertion and ultimate understanding. Please do not misunderstand that we advocate sponsoring hand to hand engagements. To children two, three and four years old, words mean little. It is action that registers here. Naturally, in adults it should be a battle of words to settle a misunderstanding.

"Don't over-mama your child. It robs him of self-development. There's too much mama-ing from grandmother, sister, aunt and cousin. The child's mother should be the mother."

Keep Promises to Children.

She stresses the importance of adults' building respect through integrity.

"Don't change your mind," she warns. "If you promise to take your child for a walk in the park—do it. Don't say, 'I've got to do something else.' A child wants to respect you. Before you promise something stop and figure out if you will be able to keep that promise."

"Don't spank your child—it is only an extreme measure.

"Don't give your children trick toys, such as balls that roll back when they should go ahead or gas balloons that go up when they should come down. This is unnatural; a young child cannot understand it. Let him play with toys that exemplify such things as rolling down an incline when pushed, rubber balls that bounce, project blocks that teach formations. Let him play with sand, and with paints—he'll figure things out for himself very quickly.

"Don't rush your child to walk. As soon as the organs are sufficiently strong he will be impelled to walk. A child seven to eight months sits up and starts to roll over; at ten months he'll pull himself up on a crib and shortly after that he'll start to attempt the first steps at locomotion.

You Can't Know Everything.

"Don't rush your child to talk, either. He'll talk when ready. If he pronounces words incorrectly, don't attempt to correct him. Do that in later years. You can't speak a foreign language correctly the first time you understand what words mean and later on you correct your mistakes in pronunciation. Language development in a child is similar."

Mrs. Schloemer declares no ordinary father or mother knows everything about a baby, and advises that a doctor be consulted occasionally, especially in preference to experimenting when there is any doubt.

"Don't give your children too much money for toys," she continues. "Even ten cents a day is too much. A daily contribution is a short cut to creating the 'gimmies' in your child. If he gets into tantrums say 'no' and mean it—he'll get over it."

Fordham's class was besieged with babies for the special nursery when the tests were being made, but the instructors are still looking for a healthy pair of twins to add to the class. In fact, they'll be doubly welcome at Keating hall.

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STAR DUST

Movie • Radio
By VIRGINIA VALE

FOR months you will be hearing about the great success of the film "Stage Door," partly because it is such an entertaining picture, but more because it is proving a turning point in the careers of the many young actresses who appear in it.



Katherine Hepburn

Katherine Hepburn, so long tottering on the brink of whimsy and oblivion, returns to the early forthright manner of her great success, "Morning Glory" and really tugs at your heart-strings. Ginger Rogers proves to be a fine dramatic actress. Andrea Leeds and Lucille Ball make dramatic bits stand out so effectively that they have already been rewarded with leading roles. Constance Collier, for many years a great idol of the London and New York stage, proves that she can be equally effective in motion pictures.

Jack Benny has every reason to be proud of his wife's motion-picture debut. In Paramount's "This Way Please," Mary Livingstone tosses nonsensical lines about as deftly as she does on the nation's favorite air program. This picture also serves as the film debut of Flibber McGee and Molly, those pleasant homey folks of the radio, and brings back Buddy Rogers. He isn't as young and exuberant as he used to be, but he can still lead a band. Crowded as the picture is with big-name favorites, two youngsters manage to walk off with a large share of the honors. Betty Grable is a little bombshell of vivacious beauty and Rufe Davis proves to be the most hilariously-entertaining of all hillbillies with an imitation of a man sicking his hound dogs on a pig in a potato patch.

Decision on putting little Leatrice Joy Gilbert, daughter of the late John Gilbert, in the leading role of "National Velvet" is still in abeyance, but she is assured a future in films. She will make her debut in "Benefits Forged," an ambitious production in which Walter Huston will play the lead at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

With Ruth Mix, daughter of Tom Mix, starting on the first of four cowgirl pictures she will make for Grand National, this young company is assured more Westerns for release during the coming year than any other company. Tex Ritter is making eight musical Westerns for him, and Ken Maynard is coming back from his tour with the Cole Brothers circus to make eight dramatic Westerns for them.

Frances Dee retired from the screen long enough to have two babies and bring them up to the toddling age and when she returned to play in "Souls at Sea" she was not at all sure that she wanted to go on with her career. Now, however, she finds that working doesn't keep her away from her babies very much and she enjoys being able to swap professional studio talk with her husband, Joel McCrea. Paramount is equally enthusiastic over her return and will put her in the lead of "Dream of Love."

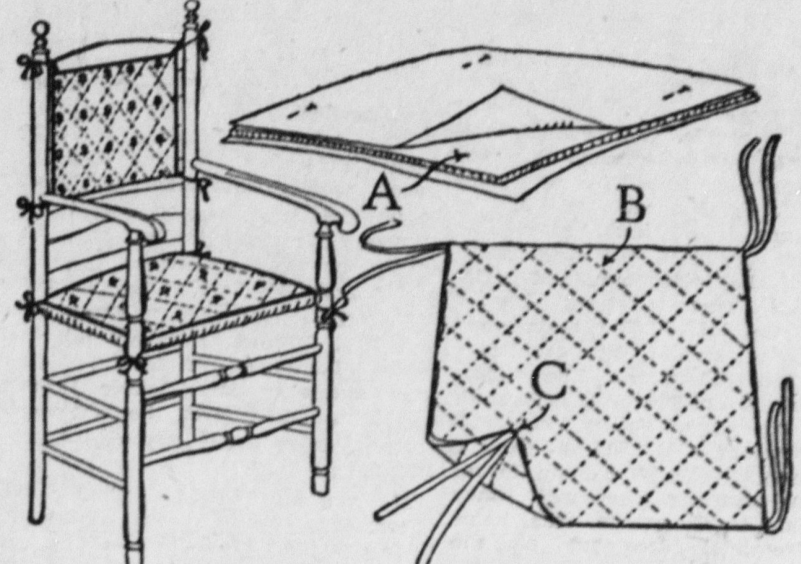
Ernst Lubitsch, Gary Cooper and Claudette Colbert have all been marking time while Paramount officials searched for just the right actor to play a very important role in "Bluebeard's Eighth Wife." They were getting discouraged, when they happened to go to a party where "The Prisoner of Zenda" was shown, and as soon as they saw David Niven they chorused "That's our man." Luckily, he was just on his way back from England, and Sam Goldwyn to whom he is under contract had no immediate plans for him.

ODDS AND ENDS—The Warner Brothers are in a frenzy because the Mauch twins are growing so fast, they are outgrowing some scenarios written for them. . . . Lionel Barrymore has gone off to England to work in Robert Taylor's picture being filmed at Oxford. . . . Norma Shearer expects to get started on filming "Marie Antoinette" any year now when she can get just the actors she wants in her supporting cast. . . . Rumor has it that Cary Grant will be known as number one comic of the screen when "The Awful Truth" with Irene Dunne, and "Bringing Up Baby" with Katherine Hepburn are shown. . . . Joan Crawford wishes that fans would write and tell her what sort of role to play next. She does not want to sing or dance, though she does both well, but will try anything else her fans suggest.

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HOW TO SEW

by Ruth Wyeth Spears



There May Be Many Reasons for Making Quilted Chair Pads.

IF ALL the reasons for quilted chair pads were lined up in order of their importance the most intangible reason of all might head the list. Yes, it is quite likely that any decorator, amateur or professional would place atmosphere at the top. But then it is also possible that first rating might be given to the reason that the pressure of slats across the backs of chairs is softened by quilted pads. Then, though it might not be mentioned, it is a known fact that worn out cane seats are sometimes replaced with inexpensive composition seats which may be disguised by gay quilted pads.

Chintz, calico or gingham chair pads are in fact one of the simplest and most inexpensive ways of adding color and charm as well as comfort to a room. Such pads are often used on the backs of chairs and not on the seats, and especially for side chairs, the seat pads used without any back covering. In making such small things as these it is quite easy to do the quilting on the machine. Or, if you wish to take the other point of view about it, the work of quilting them by hand would not consume an unreasonable amount of time. There is no doubt that handwork has a certain quaintness that machine work lacks.

The pads shown here are made with one layer of sheet wadding between the two layers of the chintz. The edge bindings and ties are made of bias tape. Cut the three layers of the pad material exactly the size and shape you want them to be when finished. Place the sheet wadding between the two layers of covering material as shown here at A. Either

pin or baste in this position, and then quilt, either by hand or by machine, as is shown here at B. Make the ties by stitching the lengthwise edges of the bias tape together, and then tack them to the corners of the pad as at C before it is bound. Now, bind the edges, sewing the ties right in with the binding as shown here at D.

Every Homemaker should have a copy of Mrs. Spears' new book, SEWING. Forty-eight pages of step-by-step directions for making slipcovers and dressing tables; restoring and upholstering chairs, couches; making curtains for every type of room and purpose. Making lampshades, rugs, ottomans and other useful articles for the home. Readers wishing a copy should send name and address, enclosing 25 cents, to Mrs. Spears, 210 South Desplaines St., Chicago, Illinois.

Favorite Recipe of the Week

Dinner-in-a-Pie

- 1 veal kidney
- 1 cup pearl onions
- 4 small white turnips
- 2 1/2 cups cooked meat, diced
- 2 small carrots
- 1 cup tomato soup
- 1/2 cup liquid or gravy
- 1/2 cup peas

Trim and dice kidney. Prepare onions, turnips, carrots. Cook kidney and vegetables 10 minutes in boiling salted water. Drain, saving 1/2 cup liquid to thin soup. Fill baking dish (1 1/2 quart) with meat and vegetables. Add pepper and salt. Add tomato soup and 1/2 cup liquid. Cover with your favorite pie crust.

Friendly Talk

BUT after all, the very best thing in good talk and the thing that helps it most is friendship. How it dissolves the barriers that divide us, and loosens all constraint—this feeling that we understand and trust each other, and wish each other heartily well! Everything into which it really comes is good. It transforms letter-writing from a task into a pleasure. It makes music a thousand times more sweet. The people who play and sing not at us, but to us—how delightful it is to listen to them!

Yes, there is a talkability that can express itself even without words. There is an exchange of thought and feeling which is happy alike in speech and in silence. It is quietness pervaded with friendship.—Van Dyke.

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LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By Fred Neher



"The charge is taxidermy, yer honor . . . he was stuffin' ballot boxes!"