

# How to Bring Up Baby.

(By HYGEIA.)

Published under the auspices of the Society for the Health of Women and Children.

*"It is wiser to put up a fence at the top of a precipice than to maintain an ambulance at the bottom."*

## The Babies in Europe.

AN important addition to the honorary staff of the Central Council of the Society was made at the annual meeting in May by the appointment of Mr W. Jenkins to the position of foreign correspondent. In reality, Mr Jenkins had been virtually filling this position for some time previously and had for years taken an intense personal interest in what was being done in New Zealand.

During a recent visit to the Old Country he had taken stock of the practical work being carried out by England and on the Continent in the interests of motherhood and babyhood; and he was particularly struck by the progress made in Vienna through the agency of a private society subsidised by Government and also by the Municipality, and having many points of resemblance to our New Zealand Society, though not established on the same broad basis in regard to all-round mutual helpfulness.

## Work in Vienna.

The result of the work of the Vienna Society has been to bring about a considerable and progressive reduction in the infantile death-rate. Mr Jenkins, who keeps in touch with the latest developments in Austria by corresponding with the wife of one of the professors of Vienna University—a director of the Austrian Society—says that, apart from New Zealand, which now holds a unique position, Vienna is pre-eminent in its solicitude for the proper care of infants as Hungary is for that of older children. The recognition of what New Zealand has been doing is, of course, very gratifying to our Society, but we think many of our readers will be surprised to learn how in some respects what we have been aiming at has been largely foreshadowed in work which has been in actual progress in a district on

the third morning, and at once made their way to the Prince Merbaby, who was the first to see them enter the room. "Oh, Rupert!" he called. "Have you brought me the cure?"

The boy rushed forward and emptied the contents of the bottle over the poor little tail. The effect was wonderful. Up sprang the little Prince and hugged Rupert for joy, until Rupert cried:

"Here, that's enough, old fellow! You'll choke me!"

Then the King and Queen came up and thanked the hand boy for his brave deed. Rupert declared that it was all owing to Coralie, and that without her he could have done nothing to win the cure. At this the King told Rupert that Coralie had been going to marry. It's eldest son long since, only the marriage had been stopped by the Weird Witch changing the mermaid into a flying fish.

The wedding of the Prince and Coralie took place that very day, and no one enjoyed the festivities more than the Prince Merbaby, as he went about with Rupert and Seafan. And then, as the twilight was falling, the Princess Coralie sang to them. Rupert could never remember what she sang, but the baby rattles rocked to the music of her song, and a delicious feeling stole over the boy and he seemed to be floating away on the billows to some strange, wonderful country, when—

Suddenly he came to himself. Where was he? He looked round drowsily, and to his great surprise he found he was sitting on the very stone near which he had first seen Seafan. But not a single merbaby was in sight, and, after waiting a while, he went home.

Rupert often went down to the sea to try and find his friends again. He called them by their names, and sometimes he thought he could hear their voices in the shells on the shore. Or now and again he fancied he saw their faces peeping through the masses of the white horsetails as they came charging up the beach. But never did he forget his adventures in the Land of the Merbabies.

the coast of Bohemia for some 80 years.

A remarkably interesting account of this is given in the July (1911) number of the Contemporary review, to which we refer our readers. The article is on "The Remediable Defects in our Conception of Elementary Education," by Canon Wilson, who was headmaster of Clifton College. As, however, there must be many who cannot consult the original, we give the following extracts:—

## A Bohemian Ideal.

The district to which Canon Wilson refers has a population of about a quarter of a million; is mainly agricultural, but has one mining and one mountainous and wooded region, and one considerable town, Tseuan, on the coast, with about 40,000 inhabitants.

nally established, and still small improvements were going on.

## Fundamental Principles.

The duty of the Kinder Bureau, or Board of Education, is briefly defined (officially) to be "to produce the healthiest, most intelligent, and best materials for the nation that are possible."

It was this conception of elementary education which struck me as most novel.

MEMO BY HYGEIA. Canon Wilson's remark, "this conception of elementary education struck me as most novel," is surely the most astounding commentary on the lack of logical purpose and foresight displayed in the whole conception and system of modern education. What on earth can be the aim and end of education if it be not to produce the healthiest, most intelligent, and best possible materials for the nation?

Surely the first question to ask in the framing of any education system is: What is our goal—what do we want to arrive at? What kind of men and women do we want to produce? After all, the definition of the Bohemian ideal is practically only another way of stating the ideal of the ancients—to build up sound, capable minds and personalities in sound, enduring bodies. If this seems strange and novel to us nowadays, it only shows how far we have strayed from the paths

to be tolerated amongst us. The children and young people are, with the rarest exceptions, as I can testify, well grown, vivacious, intelligent and well-behaved. None look neglected. There is no doubt that the aim of the Bureau has been achieved. The materials for the nation are excellent. The old people all testify to the change in the children, and in the whole population, is very great. How has it been effected?

## Thieving a Railroad.

No stranger theft, writes an Englishman, was ever committed than the "lifting" of an entire railroad, twelve and a half miles in length, which once connected Birr and Portlanna in Ireland. The line had cost £300,000, and for years it did service for the Great Southern and Western Railway Company until the year 1876, when the company, which had been running it at a loss, washed its hands of it. The line was derelict. Nobody wanted it. For a few years it stretched its useless length through North Tipperary; then its neighbours began to turn covetous eyes on it. Rails and screws and other portable trifles began to vanish. A few prosecutions were instituted, but the charges were withdrawn. Nobody seemed to care. The thieves, thus encouraged, grew bolder. Farmers brought their carts and horses and loaded them with spoil of rails, sleepers, switches, and semaphores. The gaudy station vanished, to its last brick and door, in a single night. They were great times for Tipperary. Boatloads of booty, hundreds of tons of rails, were sent away from Portlanna by unlicensed "contractors," and the work of spoilation went on until not as much as a turntable was left.

## UP-TO-DATE JAPAN.

According to statistics published in an English journal recently, there are at the Tokio Women's Medical School, several hundred candidates for the degree of M.D.

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PORTRAIT OF A GENTLEMAN WHO MARRIED A "HIGHBROW."

## History.

The educational principles and system, now firmly established, were introduced about 80 years ago. They involved great changes, which were brought about by a small body of men and women of immense enthusiasm for national and individual welfare. These enthusiasts gradually fired the whole nation with their ideals; as did the Japanese nobles two generations ago. (Twenty years, I gather, sufficed to revolutionise education in the villages; Tseuan was far harder to deal with; it was only within the last 20 or 30 years that they considered their new principles to be irrevocably and univer-

sally established, indeed, from the paths of ordinary common sense.

In discharging this duty the Board were now supported by the feeling, even by the enthusiasm, of the whole province. It had become a passion with the people to produce and rear the handsomest and most active, capable, courteous, and good children. A new lady was an excitement and a joy to the village or the street. At first, in the villages, and finally in the city, the sight of a grubby, neglected, half-fed and rude child became, so I was told, unthinkable. It would no more be tolerated than brutal cruelty or open flogging of a naked child would

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