

The Family Circle

MY SHADOW

I have a little shadow that goes in and out with me,
And what can be the use of him is more than I can
see;

He is very, very like me from the heels up to the head,
And I see him jump before me when I jump into my
bed.

The funniest thing about him is the way he likes
to grow—

Not at all like proper children, which is always very
slow;

For he sometimes shoots up taller like an india rubber
ball,

And he sometimes gets so little that there's none of
him at all.

He hasn't got a notion of how children ought to play,
And can only make a fool of me in every sort of way;
He stays so close beside me, he's a coward you can see,
I'd think shame to stick to nursie as that shadow sticks
to me.

One morning very early, before the sun was up,
I rose and found the shining dew on every buttercup;
But my lazy little shadow, like an arrant sleepy-head,
Had stayed at home behind me and was fast asleep in
bed.

—Robert Louis Stevenson.

TWO SCHOLARS

In the course of an article on ideas in child-training, H. Addington Bruce in the *American Magazine* tells the story of Lord Kelvin and his father, James Thomson, an Irish farm laborer, who had fitted himself for college without the help of either skilled teachers or good text-books, and had graduated with honors from the University of Glasgow. At the time of this boy's birth the elder Thomson was professor of mathematics in a Belfast school. Looking back over the long years of effort it had cost him to prepare for college—he had been nearly twenty-six when he graduated—and feeling keenly the lack of education in his own childhood, James Thomson determined that from the first his boy should receive the care and attention which he had had to do without. Furthermore, he felt that if he only began the child's education soon enough, and persisted in it vigorously and systematically, he would be able to fit him for the work of later years more effectively than school-bred children are fitted.

Literally as well as figuratively he took his son to himself. He made a constant companion of him, even slept with him. He lavished on him a rich Celtic heart full of paternal love. As soon as the little fellow was able to speak he began to teach him his letters. He never wearied of talking with him, always sensibly, always about subjects in which he believed it would be well for the boy to become interested. History, geography, Latin, mathematics—these were matters to which he turned his thoughts before he had reached the age of six. Then, having meanwhile been called from Belfast to Glasgow to occupy the chair of professor of mathematics in his old university, he encouraged his son to attend his lectures and the lectures of other professors, his wish being to discover to which department of knowledge his interest chiefly inclined.

Soon it appeared that the study of science, and particularly of physics, made the strongest appeal to the lecture-goer. He frequently attempted, in a juvenile way, to repeat for his father's benefit the scientific demonstrations he had witnessed in the classroom. Before he was ten he constructed for himself electrical machines and Leyden jars, with which he enthusiastically administered shocks to his playmates. A few months later—to be exact, when he was ten

years and three months old—he was admitted as a regular student in the university. In his first year he was twice a prize-winner, an exploit which he repeated in his second year, while in his third and fourth he headed the prize list, graduating with the highest honors and a special medal for an essay on 'The Figure of the Earth.'

His future? It is written large in the annals of British science. For it was this same William Thomson who, at the advanced age of nearly eighty-four, died three years ago as Lord Kelvin of Largs, one of the foremost scientists of two centuries.

HOW DOGS WERE NAMED

It is probable that few persons know whence the bulldog obtained his name. He is called a 'bull' for the reason that formerly his services were employed in the driving of cattle. The dog was trained to meet the rushes of the bull by the simple expedient of seizing its charge by its most sensitive part, the nose. The spaniel, formerly one of the most popular species of dogs, gets its name from Spain, from which country the first breeds were sent to England, where for a long time they were called 'Spanish dogs.' Some have thought that the fox terrier derived its name from the fox, by reason of his pointed, fox-like muzzle, but as a matter of fact the dog was not so named on account of any fancied resemblance to Reynard. On the contrary, the fox terrier is so named because, in the days when it was much larger in size and of greater strength than now, it was employed by English sportsmen to draw and kill the fox, being sent down into Reynard's burrow for that purpose. Many of the species of hounds so popular to-day are survivors of the time when most hunting dogs were taught to 'hound' game. Then dogs, selected by reason of their superior speed and powers of endurance, were chosen to accompany the hunting parties. Hounds were divided into two classes—those best qualified to follow the game by scent, and those capable of sighting the quarry a long distance away. All, however, were expected to unite in the running down of the quarry. And so it happens that, in the Teutonic languages, the name of 'hound' or 'hund,' as the Germans have it, was originally used to designate all species of dogs, but came in time to be applied to hunting dogs only. In later times there came a differentiation with respect to greyhounds, bloodhounds, deerhounds, etc. An interesting case in point is that of the German dachshund, which means 'badgerhound.' The first dogs of this species were employed in the drawing of badgers.

AWFULLY SCARED

A lawyer tells a story of an accident at a railway crossing at night, in which a farmer's cart was struck and demolished and the farmer injured.

'I was counsel for the railway,' says the lawyer, 'and I won the case for the defence mainly on account of the testimony of an old colored man, who was stationed at the crossing. When asked if he had swung his lantern as a warning, the old man swore positively—'

'I surely did.'

'After I had won the case I called on the old negro,' says the lawyer, 'and complimented him upon his testimony. He said:

'Thanke, Marse Jawn, I got along all right; but I was awfully scared, 'cause I was afraid dat lawyer man was goin' ter ask me was my lantern lit. De oil done give out befo' de accident.'

FOR BETTER HEALTH

Teasing baby to make it laugh is a crying shame.
When you don't know what to eat—eat nothing.
Dark living rooms speedily plant candles at your
head.

Many eyes have been closed prematurely by 'eye-openers.'