

Our Children

By Mrs. W. B. Davis



sessions under control and have privacy when he wants it. The main disadvantage of two young children in the same room is that they are apt to wake each other up at the wrong times.

Sometimes, when a small child is going through a period of waking up frightened at night—Perhaps coming repeatedly into the parents' room, perhaps crying persistently the parents take him into bed with them so that they can all get some sleep. This seems like the most practical thing to do at the time, but it usually turns out to be a mistake in the end. Even if the child's anxiety improves during the following weeks, he is apt to cling to the security of his parents' bed. In the long run, it's more practical for the parent of the frightened child to bundle up in blankets and sit by his bed, even for an hour in the middle of the night if necessary. I think it's a sensible rule not to take a child into the parents' bed for any reason (even as a treat when the father is away on a business trip.)

One trouble with being an inexperienced parent is that part of the time you take the job so seriously that you forget to enjoy it. Then you and the baby are both missing something.

Naturally I don't mean you should be talking a blue streak at him all the time he's awake, or constantly joggling him, or tickling him. This would tire him out, and in the long run would make him tense. You can be quiet nine-tenths of the time you are with him. It's the gentle, easygoing kind of companionship that's good for him and good for you. It's the comfortable feeling that goes into your arms when you look at him and the gentle tone in your voice.

Young babies begin waking earlier at the end of the afternoon and this is the time they usually want more sociability. A few prefer another time of day. You don't have to pick your baby up just as soon as he wakes, but you can talk to him when you pass his crib. When he becomes restless you can put him on a bed or sofa where he can see more of you and the world. When he begins to be bored and fussy, you can pick him up and hold him until you get ready to feed him.

From My Chair

(Continued from page 2)

there are forces, created by man which destroy their creator. Which kind of force is the American spirit going to be? We can choose, all of us, for it is our spirit that our country's spirit grows.

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