

# Unhappy Lot of Five Little Boys in Royal Cradles

It is certain that no American baby of 3 or less who rejoices occasionally in being allowed to do what is not good for him would exchange places even for a day with any of the five little boys who are at present occupying the cradles of royalty. In spite of all the prerogatives and prestige which are supposed to go with royal babyhood, there is no lot so hard or life so strenuous as is led by the little kinglings and princesses.

There is not only no end to the scientific and hygienic principles which are practiced in the bringing up of all these babies, but there is, in addition, the fact that if they are not deprived of that best of all attributes of babyhood, the privilege of being "mothered," it is only because of one or two happy accidents. These have to do with longitude and are affected not only by the particular meridian upon which the stork has set down the baby himself, but also upon that in which has occurred the birth of his royal mother.

## Babies Taken from Royal Mother.

For instance, the "baby" of the young crown princess of Japan, who is only a year younger than her first born, the heir to the throne, is not even allowed to live in the house with her. And although his bringing up, which is considered of only little less importance than that of the older brother, is attended with elaborate ceremonial, his mother has no part or voice in the matter. At the time of her marriage the little Princess Sadl was only 15 and was considered far too young to be entrusted with anything so precious as the care of her first son. He was promptly removed to the house of Viscount Kawamura, and it was a common sight to see the nurse carrying the baby on a pillow and followed by attendants, as she went between the crown prince's palace and the palace where the guardian of the baby resided.

When the second baby arrived he, too, was consigned to the guardianship of the viscount, from where his mother is allowed to see him only as a visitor.

## Mother Love Is Ignored.

When one of the Japanese officials was asked why they were so cruel as to take these children away from the crown princess, since she could not fail to grieve for them, he answered:

"O, that is our old custom. These boys are too precious to the empire. The mother is too young to take care. Suppose she should let one boy die. It is too dangerous." He could not see that it made any difference how the mother might feel if one of her little ones died in a stranger's care. In every other respect the most scientific of western ideas is followed in the bringing up of the little princes. The baby has a dozen nurses and already has been provided with a governess who teaches him to babble in French and another who teaches him English. The third teaches him Japanese, and when he is a little older he will, like Prince Michi, have another who will begin to train him in the difficult, elaborate etiquette of the court of the mikado. The clothes of the little



has not been allowed with the little princes, who wear their hair like English babies, although the nurses are kept on account of the old custom.

Count Kawamura, who is a life-long friend of the crown prince, regulates things in a stern fashion for the babies' well being. Soon after each prince's birth he had a slight surgical operation performed which has eliminated the almond eye which belongs to the race. It was a painless little surgical operation which consisted of an incision at the point of the eyelids in a straight line for the barest part of an inch. The lashes were then drawn down into shape and were held firmly by a piece of sticking plaster. The wound healed in less than a week and both of the babies have lost much of the oriental look.

## Russian Rules Bow to Mother Love.

The traditions of the Russian court have also laid down ironclad rules for the care of the heir to the throne. The czarina, however, being of English ideas as to nursery government, has not been so easily effaced, and, in fact, has been responsible for scientific and latest improved methods



Prince George of Wales.

of rearing for babies which prevail now at the Russian court. It has not been easy, and the first years of her married life her unpopularity was increased because in defiance of all custom she insisted upon the "intruding" practice of nursing her babies herself.

Since the birth of the little Alexis hidebound custom has prevailed to a greater extent, and the czarina has given up her habit in this matter, the baby having his wet nurse, along with other medieval nursery arrangements which are harmless and merely stand for gorgeous splendor. One of these is the bodyguard in the person of a huge Slav, who is always in watching beside the tiny czarvitch and who permits none to pass into his presence except the emperor and empress.

In all of the essential matters the czarina is so determined that the little Alexis shall receive the best care that one of her secretaries is employed constantly in studying the newest literature giving instruction and advice upon the rearing of children. Many of these books come from America, England, Germany, and France. A summary is prepared of any new theory concerning the diet or treatment.

## Czarina Devoted to Her Son.

So devoted is the czarina to her son that she seldom leaves him, and the life in the nursery is of intense interest. Twice every day the baby is carried around the grounds of Tsarsko Selo by his English nurse, hidden from view in a mass of costly white furs. His clothes are mostly brought from England, for there is a family of old servants who made clothing for the family of her mother, the Princess Alice, and who have always sent the garments by the trunk load to her mother, earning thereby the highest price and praise.

follows are like those of any European baby and the customs of the English nursery have been followed from the time of their infancy.

Although the mikado is not in the least superstitious, there is a curious blending of westernism and orientalism which lingers around the little princes, the last of which is out of deference to the traditions of the country. For instance, it is a fact not generally known that court astrologers every day cast the horoscopes of both children, and this has been done ever since they were born.

## Eyes of Jap Princess Straightened.

Another thing which shows the deference paid to old Japanese customs is the fact that each little prince has a retinue of twenty nurses, who are trained in the art of shaving the heads of the children of whom they have charge. With Japanese babies generally this is practiced every day, but it

The empress loves simplicity in her daily life and her little girls have been brought up with a Spartan absence of luxury. They are usually dressed in white cotton, free from the superfluities of lace and frills, and their diet consists mainly of porridge and milk, bread and butter, and fresh fruit and vegetables. They have been obliged to rise at 6 o'clock summer and winter, with school hours beginning at 7 o'clock and extending at brief intervals until 1 o'clock.

Already plans for the education of the czarvitch are taking shape. Hardly will he be able to walk or talk before professors in physical culture, tutors, and military instructors will have control of him. The empress is entirely wrapped up in her little boy, who is a fine child, although subject to perhaps more than the ordinary small ailments of childhood. It has aroused widespread comment that her face has entirely lost that absorbed and melancholy look which characterized it before last summer.

## Queen Mother Nurses Piedmont.

Perhaps nowhere except in the home of the prince of Wales has there been such absence of formality as in the elaborate care which surrounds the prince of Piedmont. The "hope of Italy" is nursed by the queen. This fact was at first kept a secret, but it became known because the wet nurse who was employed kept her baby with her. He is described as a sweet youngster, who will eat any time and always, and who, when hungry, exhibits a lamentable absence of self-control and bad temper, which usually gets him what he wants.

The greatest of precautions are taken for his health. The doctor pays him a visit daily, inspects the nurseries, and gives orders as to ventilation and fresh air. The temperature of his daily bath is measured by a thermometer and is kept upon the tepid side, and his rooms are cleared with disinfectants. None but the king and queen is allowed to kiss his face, and it is the plan of the queen when he is a little older to send him to the north of Italy to live for a few years among the mountaineers with the hope of developing in him their hardiness.

Although his infancy is luxurious, the prince of Piedmont will be reared in a Spartan school, as was his father, who at first delicate, acquired physical robustness through training that was vigorous.

## English Nurses for Italy's Baby.

The baby's chief nurse is an Englishwoman, Sister Margaret Brown, who was nurse at Queen Charlotte's hospital and who was sent to her present post as a result of a special selection by the matron, and he is also partly under the charge of Miss Dickens, the Englishwoman who has had full charge of the little princesses. For all of his English rearing the little prince is always carried on a pillow, according to the Italian custom, and when he was baptized the most elaborate ceremonial was followed.

One of the funny things that happened in connection with the birth of this little prince was that the queen was obliged to give a cradle or \$20 in money to every baby born on the same day in Rome or Naples. Four hundred families claimed the gift, but no questions were asked about the extraordinary increase in the birth rate and the present was bestowed in every case. Later the favor was returned, as no fewer than seventeen cradles were presented to the heir, in all of which he has been laid down for good luck.

## Belgium's Heir Well Cared For.

Little Prince Charles, son of the heir to the throne of Belgium, has probably the most scientific care of any of the present royal babies, as he has his own mother, who is almost a constant attendant, also his physician. The mother was the daughter of Duke Charles, the celebrated occultist, and was always surrounded from her infancy by the most eminent members of the medical profession in Germany, and has always lived in an atmosphere of science. The Princess Elisabeth has now taken her degree of M. D. and is now the chief physician of her husband, Prince Albert, and of her husband and her children. Medicine has always been her hobby, and she has published many scientific treatises on the subject.



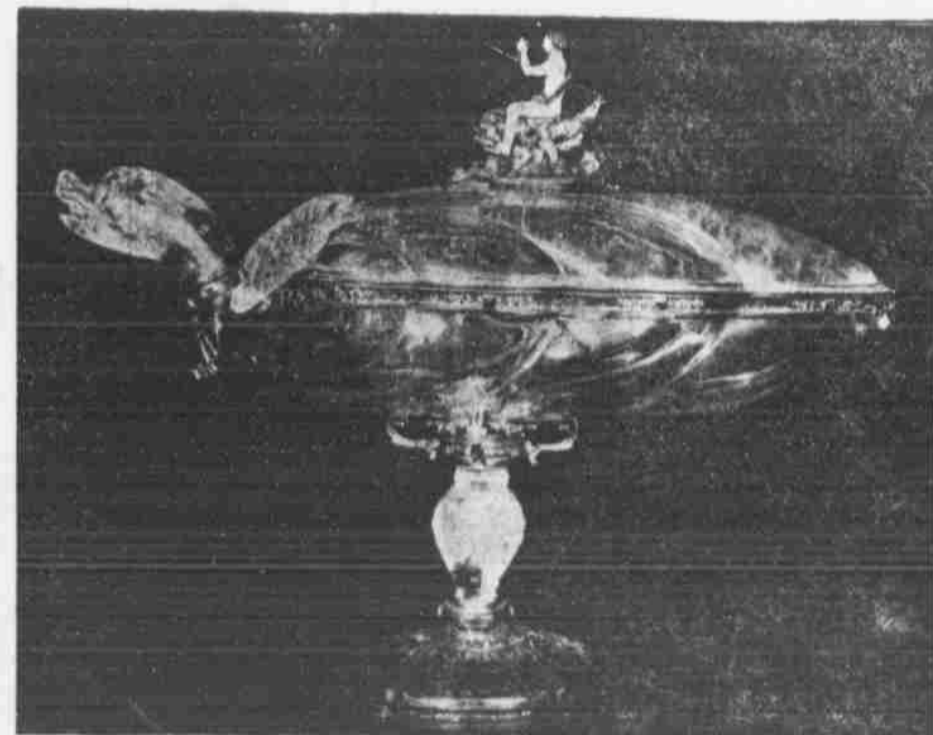
Humbert Prince of Piedmont



Prince Leopold of Belgium

# FROM NEAR AND FAR.

MOST COSTLY GOBLET IN WORLD.



This extraordinary vessel, known as the Gabbitus Biberon, which realized \$80,000, the largest price ever given for a single example of artistic workmanship, is carved in rock crystal, mounted with enameled gold. The Biberon is in the shape of a grotesque animal and the head forms the spout. The work is believed to be German, and of the sixteenth century, but the figure on the top probably is Italian. It is 12 3/4 inches high by 10 1/4 inches long.

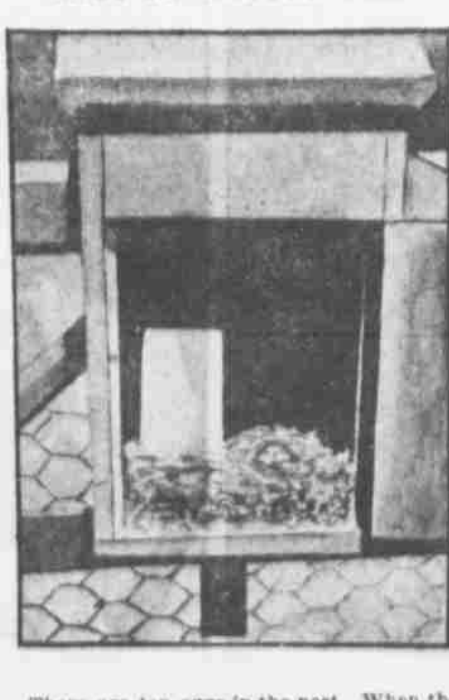
WORK WITH POWDER.



SULTAN'S FAVORITE



NEST IN LETTER BOX.



A PUBLIC READING ROOM IN 1818.



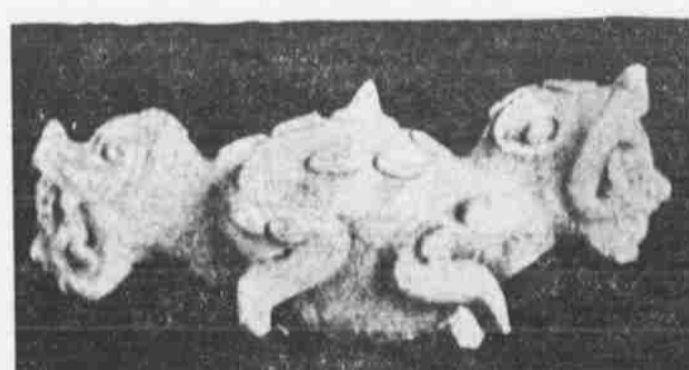
Books were so valuable 300 years ago that they were kept chained to desks in public reading rooms.

NEAR CHICAGO.



Picturesque old Dutch windmill located at Koksse, a suburb of Chicago, sixteen miles from the city.

ALLIGATOR WITH TWO HEADS.



Double headed animal intended to represent an alligator, found on a pottery urn taken from the excavations in Central America.

WASTE OF SHOE LEATHER.



In the streets of London every year sufficient leather refuse is deposited to make a shoe this size.

WORN BY STORK.



The artificial leg shown here is worn by a stork that is the pet of a German. The bird, during a storm, was blown against a chimney and the leg so badly fractured that the head of the household amputated the wooden leg which was strapped into place.

CHAUFFEUR WITHOUT HANDS AND ARMS.



Ben F. Coffman, county treasurer of Logan county, Ill., is an expert and enthusiastic autoist, although he lost both arms below the elbow in an accident several years ago. Rings at the ends of his artificial arms take the place of hands and fingers, and he operates the steering gear at will, better in fact than do many who have full use of their limbs.

TIGER'S SKULL.



This was sent to a New York man by a friend in India.

LEO XIII'S TOMB.



Leo XIII's remains have been placed finally in the basilica of St. John the Lateran. The monument is by Jules Talbot.

LIVES IN TREE.



A Massachusetts man lives in a house in a tree in summer.

Strange costumes worn by the employes of a German gunpowder mill.

The illustration "Zeltung" prints this portrait of the favorite wife of the sultan of the Futas, an African tribe.

There are ten eggs in the nest. When the householder opens the box to take out the letters, the bird simply looks at him and chirps.