HOW ROYAL BABIES PLAY

TOYS OF THE PRINCELY CHILDREN PASS ON FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

BOYS PLAY AT SOLDIERING

Familiarized From Their Infancy With the Aspect and Working of the Tools of Grim-Visaged War.

Of all the branches of the English royal family, an English writer remarks, the Battenberg is the most unassuming in its manners and the simplest in its way of living. The children of very many commoners' families are brought up with infinitely more state than the Battenbergs, and in luxury that would open the eyes of these princes and princesses.

Rare and valuable toys were never seen in the Battenberg nursery; the children had to content themselves with plain story books, scrap books, gardening utensils, cheap dolls and such toys as all of us played with when we were young. * * * The Duchess of Albany has always had the strictest ideas with regard to toys for her children and has specially directed their minds toward the animal world in choosing their playthings and playfellows.

A very amusing photograph is that of Prince Arthur of Connaught in the toy uniform of a grenadier. It was thus he appeared at Princess Beatrice's wedding. The solemn, almost stern, expression on his fat little face is delightful. He fully appreciates the dignity his uniform imparts.

The old toys which once belonged to the queen's children are brought down from those top shelves to which they were relegated long ago, during the holidays at Osborne, and for as long as the holidays the children of the younger generation are allowed to play with them. This is an anxious time for the nurses, for they are held responsible for the safety of the relics and extreme care is taken in order to preserve the old toys, for the queen is very fond of them, remembers each one, and asks for any which may not happen to appear.

There is a fortress which was an especial favorite with the Prince of Wales. It has been played with during the Christmas holidays many a time by the late Duke of Clarence and the Duke of York when they were boys, and is now looked at with intense interest by the baby blue eyes of the Duke of York's children.

The little brass guns of this fortress were mounted in their present position by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, whose fingers were always apt at delicate work, from the driving of a screw to the wielding of a violin bow. Some of the mechanical animals, which were much rarer toys in the fifties than they are now, can still be made to work, and the little fat hands are clapped with joy in the Osborne nursery today when a woolly dog ambles along the floor with ungainly leaps, and the skin elephant moves his trunk up and down, while the mouth opens and shuts. These give as keen a sense of delight to the third or fourth generation as they did to the little ones in the Windsor nursery long ago. There is a certain bagatelle board which the queen's sons played with. It is often brought out for the children in the Christmas holidays.

No less than the kaiser's children, those of the Russian imperial family undergo a military education, and are from earliest years familiarized, through the medium of toys and picture books, with the working of guns, the uniforms of various regiments, and the military history of their country.

Needless to say, the toys of the German imperial family are military in character, and their taste is shared by the little king of Spain.

CLOCKS THIS MAN'S FAD

QUEER TIMEPIECES TURNED OUT BY AN EXPERT AT THE BUSINESS

From time to time reports reach America from Coutances, France, of the construction of some new and striking mechanical marvel in the form of a clock. Sometimes it is a timepiece made entirely of straw, again one of solid gold inlaid with diamonds, or even by a triumph of ingenuity a clock made of paper, and which keeps perfect time, says the Philadelphia North American.

Few know that all these freak timepieces are made by one man, a wonderful workman, some of whose productions have not been surpassed in the annals of horology.

Mons. L. Boullat is the clever artificer who conceives and executes these strange clocks, and his skill in this fascinating line of work has spread his fame all over France.

He has in the course of the last twenty years made "freak" clocks of almost every conceivable shape and material. Metal, wood, straw and bread have been used, and the clocks have ranged in size from towering giants of ten feet high, intended for halls and public buildings, down to timepieces so minute that they could be placed in a small wine glass.

Although M. Boullat sells these products of his skill, nevertheless, the making of them is, in a sense, a fad. A talented horologist and fairly well-to-do, he long since wearied of the ordinary work attached to his trade, and began experimenting on the production of new and unusual designs. His workship is a veritable treasure trove of odd mechanical marvels, and many of his productions grace the salons of some of the wealthiest people in France.

Two of M. Boullat's latest triumphs are a clock made of wood and one fashioned entirely of old newspapers.

The first of these he calls a "rustic clock," and in appearance it is a curious compound of great rough logs, twigs and pieces of wire. At first glance nothing much more different from a clock could be imagined, but on closer inspection it is evident to the practiced eye that the wooden mass, though rough and crude, is a perfect timepiece, constructed on scientific principles and with a skill that reflects credit on its creator.

The wooden clock possesses all the necessary parts, although they are simple, almost primitive. Two small logs of firewood, fastened crosswise, constitute the base, and two upright sticks, solidly connected at top and bottom, serve for the connection of the arbors. The mechanism consists of a motor weight, a four-armed wheel and escapement rack, a pendulum and two pulleys, one of which has a crank and handle for winding. A dial and hands, with the dial work, complete the ensemble.

NEARLY ALL OF WOOD.

All is of wood, except the wheel range of the rack, which is of metal. The motorweight is suspended from the drum of the four-armed wheel which occupies the central part of the clock. The force is transmitted to the pendulum, and the motion work by a wire, four and a half meters in length, rolled on one hand on the arbor of the rack, and on the other attached to one of the arms of the wheel.

The pendulum is attached to a wire, of which the length is regulated by means of a pin at the top of the frame. The winding is effected by means of a pulley placed at the lower part of the construction and connected with the axis of the escapement wheel by an endless wire. The motion work is operated with the aid of a pinion of three leaves acting on a cannon pinion of seventy-two teeth, which revolves once an hour. This pinion is on the arbor of the escapement rack, so that the latter makes twenty-four revolutions an hour; as as it has 120 teeth, the virtual length of the pendulum is about 30.6 centimeters. The wheel revolves once in four hours.

The clock keeps excellent time, and does not vary more than two minutes in a week, are remarkable result when the character of the construction is taken into consideration.

MADE OF NEWSPAPERS.

Equally wonderful is the clever Frenchman's "newspaper clock." This is made entirely from old newspapers, case, pendulum, dial wheels and all the operating mechanism. A quantity of old newspapers collected at random was made into pulp, mixed with certain chemicals and hardening substances and baked hard. In this condition it was as hard as steel, but extremely brittle and difficult to work. Nevertheless, by great care and the use of specially prepared tools, Boullat was able to cut out the posts, wheels, teeth, etc. The pendulum rod and other large pieces were made by casting into moulds. The newspaper clock does not run with the same accuracy as its rustic rival, but under the circumstances the wonder is that it goes at all.

A clock made entirely of straw attracted general attention some years ago. M. Boullat frequently receives commissions from wealthy Parisiennes to execute clocks in precious metal and stones. He has made them entirely of gold and silver, with diamond tipped hands, and rubies, garnets, pearls, opals, emeralds an other precious stones to represent the figures. Some of these clocks, especially the smaller ones, are veritable ar gems.

New Bunko Game.

New York Times.

"Why, how do you do? Charming day is it not? How are all the folks at home?" The woman rattled this off rapidly, sweetly and with much warmth that the victim she had selected in the crowded street car thought she meant it. He folded his paper, tipped his hat, rose offered the woman his seat, and began to stammer something.

"Really, I beg your pardon; but I thought you were Mr. Brown of 'Steenth street. Stupid of me, but you do look so like him." Then she settled herself in her seat, and the man blushed and looked very cheap.

He was simply the victim of a bunco game that some of the city schoolteachers and perhaps other women now use when they want a seat and find no man in a crowded car ready to offer them one.

No Wonder.

New York World.

Admiring Mamma—I don't think you have quite caught the expression of Evangeline's nose.

Artist—Madam, Raphael couldn't do better than that.

Admiring Mamma—Why not?

Artist—Because, madam, Raphael is dead.