

IN THE DOLL FACTORY.

Curiosities of a Business Which Seeks to Please Babies.

There is much that may be seen by a visit to a doll factory that would have for many people the force of a revelation. Few probably realize what a number of processes are necessary before even the tiniest of dolls is ready for the nursery. There is certainly a bewildering number of suitable substances. Beside the various kinds of wax, from the best English to the common foreign sorts, there are spermaceti and various kinds of compositions; india rubber, gutta percha, wood and rags, not to mention various judicious combinations of these and other materials. But the best dolls are made only of the best English wax. Then come the composition dolls, which are much more durable and some of which have their faces protected by a thin piece of muslin, and so on through the whole list. It is, however, the waxen dolls that appeal most powerfully to the effectives and the admiration of the girls of England.

The construction of the molds in which these are now made involves some knowledge of modeling. The molds are made of plaster of paris, the various sections being deftly joined together with such nicety as to leave but few marks of the joints. Into this the melted wax is poured while still very hot, and a thin film immediately adheres to the sides of the mold, which is quickly inverted, in order that the molten wax in the center may flow out. But although this rough mask is fairly complete in point of outline much remains to be done before it can be regarded as possessing those charms which are commonly believed to be a doll's rightful inheritance. The roughnesses have to be smoothed down, a distinctive character has to be given to the mouth and nose, the eyebrows have to be delicately penciled in; and we may well cease to wonder that Shakespeare's lover should have written an ode "to his mistress' eyebrow," when we see the wonderful effect produced on a doll's face by various arrangements of brow and lash. Then the eyes, which are like beautiful shells, although they can be bought by the gross of any color and size, have to be fixed in, which is done by plastering them at the back with a little soft wax. The method of fastening the hair so as to give it a natural appearance is one of the best tests of the case with which a doll has been made. In the best dolls almost every strand is attached separately to the wax itself, while in the cheaper kinds a wig is roughly stuck on the doll's head. This is a very important point, which doll-worshippers will properly appreciate, for is not the most delightful part of the doll's daily toilet the brushing and combing of the hair? Then there are many qualities of hair, from the best mohair to common flax.

We have said little about the tinting of lips and cheeks, processes which involve a nice appreciation of effect. So far doll fanciers seem to believers in the ruddy hue of health, for we have never yet seen an "interesting" doll with cheeks of the color of under-done pastry. But it would be rash to speculate upon the future, for the new science of taste may yet influence even the nursery and the doll trade. —Cassell's Family Magazine.

The other day a little colored boy stopped in front of a grocery, and, after wistfully eyeing a pyramid of sardine boxes, marked "only 8 cents," invested in a box. Going to the edge of the pavement, he opened the box and ate the sardines as fast as he could cram them into his mouth and then drank the oil remaining in the box. This did not satisfy him and he invested in another box of sardines, gulping them down with a gusto. Then he purchased a huge cucumber pickle, which he ate heartily, and to crown it all he bought a pint of peanuts and ate them for dessert. A gentleman who stood near watching the boy taking in food said: "Great Scott! if I had a stomach like that I would give \$1,000."

"Anybody that knows a thing before it happens is called a reporter," was the definition written on the slate of an eight-year-old boy in a Boston school the other day.

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