

THE LIFE OF BERT WILLIAMS No. 16 . . .

Text by BEN DAVIS, JR.
 Drawn by A. W. RENNEGARBE



A. In 1914 he posed for a few one-reel plans in order to make sure that he screened well, for it was thought that in motion pictures his pantomimic talent would be a great hit. But this venture never materialized.



B. Bert never lost his sense of humor. Once his physician advised him to go to Mt. Clemens, to take bicycle rides. But one day a Michigan constable ordered him to "get off the wheel," asking him where'd he steal it at.



C. His last stage appearance was made in "Under the Bamboo Tree." In this production he played the part of a hotel porter named "Ananias," and true to that name, he "lied" to the entire cast.

Child Training

By Elise Johnson Ayer
 Authority on the Care of
 the Child.

INTERESTING THE CHILD AT HOME

The child at home, whether it be in city or country, has an excellent opportunity to learn, provided he has parents who are interested in him and who are clever enough to give him the proper environment. I say, clever enough, because the parent himself should always have an object of his own in giving the child what it really wants. Here is an instance of what I mean.

One parent hit upon the idea of renovating a little-used basement room, which is on the level of the street, as a play room for his four youngsters, and their friends. There is only enough furniture in it to allow for needed rest—a few chairs. There is space for the smaller ones to romp and even ride about. Near a window is a work-bench for the older boy who is a radio fan.

The rest of the equipment is left to the children to devise as they wish. They find boxes, pieces of carpet, pictures, table-cloths, and other things for playing house. And the more they are left to their own choosing, the fonder they are of their play room.

They like a place of their own, where there are no "don'ts" in the air to cramp their freedom. They like a place where they can be hospitable to their friends in their special way without supervision.

It is a happy trait in healthy, normal youngsters that they also like to have their parents visit them at their play. When a parent is truly welcome, it is proof that the parent is a success in this role. He must first establish this cordial relationship of good comradeship in order that all his other efforts will bear the fruit for which he works. Then can he attain his goal—guidance toward full development and growth.

Visiting the play room in the spirit of play, the mother or father has created ideal conditions for real study of the child. Then, by inviting or rather encouraging the children to invite outside children in to play the mother can watch the budding social tendencies of the youngsters.

It is on the playground of the school yard that teachers say they become really acquainted with their pupils. Generosity or selfishness, good-sportsmanship or caddishness, leadership or backwardness etc., all make their appearance as pupil reacts upon pupil. Unless there are many children in a family, the mother seldom knows this side of her child unless some such device as described above creates the social situation.

These revelations of the playground or play room, forecast a picture of the child's future actions; and to the wise mother, means hints for the gentle, indirect moral guidance which she must give.

Over in the corner of the work bench, there is another kind of reve-

lation for the parent. By quietly watching without much interference, the father can detect degrees of

manual skill in his son, executive ability, grit to stick and see it through, neatness, carefulness and many other traits. Cannot the mother watch for these same traits in the daughter in the kitchen? In fact, the whole house is a laboratory for the knowing parent to study his child.

And after all this study, beginning

in infancy and extending over years of the child's life, what then? It is all for the purpose of facing the facts about our children; really knowing their capabilities; sympathizing with their ambitions; and avoiding illusions and our own desires to falsely mold their lives into shapes for which they were never intended.

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By Dubose Heyward



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