

QUICK RELIEF FROM PAIN

DON'T
ALLOW
HEADACHE
TO CHECK
WAR
WORK



It's a national duty to keep fit these days. Counteract nerve strain by taking Vincent's genuine pink Tablets, which are a scientific combination of Aspirin and Phenacetin. Vincent's Tablets give prompt relief from headache, neuralgia, sciatica, rheumatism and all nerve and muscular pain. Thousands of homes keep them handy. Ask for—and see that you get—Vincent's genuine pink Tablets.



SOLD BY ALL CHEMISTS AND STORES.
Trademark owned by Vincent Chemical Company Pty. Ltd., Sydney, Salmond & Sproggon Ltd., Customhouse Quay, Wellington. Registered User. 65.3



For magical relief from tired, sore feet. Pedax Foot Powder (sprinkler tins), and Pedax Ointment (handy pocket tins). Priced at 1/7 each at Chemists and Stores. Try a tin to-day and banish foot troubles.



Approved by
Good House-
keeping Assn
of Australia.

N.Z. Distributors: Belle Jeane Laboratories,
Anzac Avenue, Auckland.

PETER RABBIT GREW UP TOO —And Became Worth A Lot of Money

A CABLE from England the other day announced the death of Beatrix Potter, the author and illustrator of the Peter Rabbit books. She left £211,636 sterling. That is a lot of money to have made out of children's stories. How did she do it?

But first it is interesting to notice, in the face of those figures, that when she first tried to publish her books, six publishers turned them down. The only way she was able to have them published was by drawing money out of the savings-bank and paying the expenses herself. Even then her friends and relations had to rally round and buy up most of the edition.

Happily this state of affairs did not last. For in the next year, 1901, Frederick Warne and Co. Ltd. brought out a new edition, this time with coloured illustrations by the author. The books have grown in popularity ever since, till to-day the demand for them is greater than ever. Even Mickey Mouse, with all his Hollywood paraphernalia of publicity, has not reached the heights of Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle-Duck, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, Squirrel Nutkin, Jeremy Fisher, and the rest of them. The Wellington Public Library reports that the books never stay a day on their shelves, and that new copies are always being ordered to replace the old ones as they fall to pieces from constant handling.

In Many Languages

There are, in all, 19 longer stories, and four or five shorter booklets which include *Appley Dapply's Nursery Rhymes*, *Cecily Parsley's Nursery Rhymes*, *The Pie and the Patty-Pan* and *The Story of Miss Moppet*. Dramatic versions have been printed of *The Tailor of Gloucester*, *Ginger and Pickles*, and *The Roly-Poly Pudding*. There is a series of Peter Rabbit music books; there are Peter Rabbit pictures, jig-saw puzzles, bookshelves, tiles for bathrooms and fireplaces, wallpaper friezes for the nursery, cups and saucers, porridge plates, egg-cups, and a Peter Rabbit race game. The books have been translated into French, Welsh, Spanish, German, and Afrikaans. For instance, if you are a little South African, you can read *Die Vierhaal van Mevrouw Piekfyn* (Mrs. Tittlemouse) or *Die Vierhaal van Flopsie-Familie* (the Flopsy Bunnies). Little Germans read *Die Geschichte von den zwei bösen Mäuschen* (Two Bad Mice). At least they did once. We don't know if there is a new Nazi version.

Classics of the Nursery

Beatrix Potter, not to be confused with Beatrice Potter, who became Mrs. Sidney Webb, married at the age of 47. Her husband, William Heelis, owned a farm in the South Lake District of England, a district where Beatrix Potter spent almost the whole of her life. Her childhood fell in the days when there were governesses for little girls and only the boys went to school. She stayed at



THE TALE OF BE

home and learnt to read from the Waverley novels. In her early days she composed, or tried to compose, such things as hymns and ballads, imitating Isaac Watts. But her verses wouldn't scan and she decided she was not meant to be a writer. For a long time she gave it up.

Then about 1893 she became interested in a little invalid boy, Noel, the son of a friend. He had a long illness and she used to write letters to him. Some of them were about an animal character called Peter Rabbit. Noel grew up and became a hard-working clergyman; Peter grew up too and graduated from letters to literature.

Beatrix Potter's little books, with their fascinating mixture of reality and fancy, have a lasting quality and the flavour of real literature. Her pictures and stories are full of her own Lakeland scenery. Squirrel Nutkin sailed on the Derwentwater; Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle lived in the vale of Newlands, near Keswick; Tom Kitten and Samuel Whiskers lived in a facsimile of the author's own old farmhouse at Sawney.

How They Happened

When Beatrix Potter was asked "How did they happen?" she replied, "I am inclined to put it down to three things. One: matter-of-fact ancestry. I am descended from generations of Lancashire yeomen and weavers, obstinate, hard-headed, matter-of-fact folk. As far back as I can go, they were Puritans, Non-jurors, Nonconformists, Dissenters. Instead of sailing in the Mayflower to America, my ancestors stuck it out at home, probably rather enjoying persecution. Two: the accidental circumstances of having spent a good deal of my childhood in the Highlands of Scotland with a Highland nurse girl, which gave me a firm belief in witches, fairies, and the creed of the terrible John Calvin. (The creed rubbed off, but the fairies remained.) Three: a peculiarly precocious and tenacious memory. I have been laughed at for what I say I can remember, but it is admitted that I can remember things quite plainly from one and



Peter Rabbit



Mrs. Tittlemouse



Two Bad Mice



Jemima Puddle-Duck