

THE HAPPY WARRIOR

*“THERE is no need for us to hate,
Since peace and war must alternate;
And there are diplomatic reasons
For fluctuations in the seasons.*

*In Spring, when every prospect pleases,
Wars are likened to diseases:
Then every spokesman will agree
On universal amity.*

*In Summer, truths can still endure
The swiftly rising temperature;
But with the cooling Autumn weather
Ideals and leaves all fall together.*

*Then, as Winter comes, we see
The hidden blight of enmity;
And to conform with newfound facts
We turn to “realistic” acts.*

*And yet be sure that no ill-will
Determines those who fight to kill:
All have a diplomatic reason
And shoot, like gentlemen, in season.*

—Anton Vogt

the whole home world to explore, and he gets around, falling, poking, probing, popping everything possible into his mouth. If you can't get a noise out of it, or pull it to pieces, at least you can see what it tastes like! And here in his propensities is the key to the forethought required. Burns and scalds, the biggest killers! Right—fireguards preferably fixed to the wall on either side of the fireplace and over all electrical fires. Matches, cigarette lighters, and all inflammable liquids out of reach. He has seen you use all these and is sure to have a go when you are absent. No flexes hanging down or trailing! You can get safety plugs for those open electric sockets, so why not in your home? Do stove pot handles need to stick out so that toddlers can pull them over, or teapots and hot liquids need to be anywhere but in the middle of the table? Toddlers are especially curious about anything higher than their eye level. If you have stairs a gate may save falls, or the playpen will keep him in when you aren't about. On the other hand it is quite easy to teach a crawler or toddler to crawl safely backwards down stairs! As he will put practically everything into his mouth all household cleaning and poisonous substances and medicines should be in cupboards he can't open or places he cannot get at. If you leave pins, needles, buttons or other small things about, you can't grumble when they are swallowed, and you have to take him for an X-ray and give yourself a lot of worry. Two-year-olds love to climb into things, so be watchful against falls, and lock your motor-car doors. No water about your place is safe. A baby can drown in one inch and a toddler in two inches of water. Creeks, ponds, troughs, or tubs of water are irresistible.

A three-year-old will climb more vigorously to drawers and on to tables, and burns, falls and poisonings is now the order of trouble. But now he can understand the reason for the safety precautions you take, so you begin explaining why toys must be picked up and put away, and why both of you stop at the footpath kerb and look both ways before crossing the street. And why he must never sample pills although he may see them taken. There were nearly 200 child poisonings from parents' sleeping pills in a recent year.

So take forethought according to a child's stage of development, and try to dodge all serious accidents in your home.

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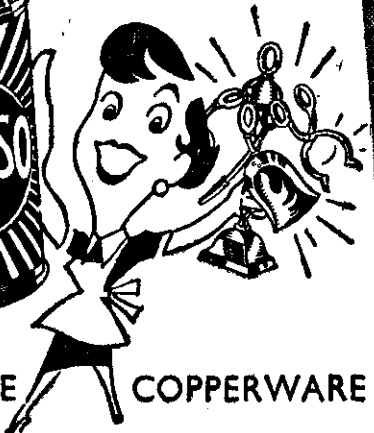
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