

For Mary's Birthday

By A Child of Mary
Greetings to thee,
Most loving Mother,
On this your birthday,
So dear to us all.

Again we entwine
Your rosary bouquet
With the fragrance of love
In each "Ave."

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LONDON. — Officially reported missing in the Middle East is the Rev. Austin Jackson, chaplain in the Forces who was auxiliary priest at St. Monica's Basilica, until he put on khaki.

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LEARN HOW TO BATHE A BABY



Sister Sophie goes through the routine of bathing a baby—one of the "musts" of the Home Nursing Course conducted by the American Red Cross for a class of 30 nuns in Brooklyn, N. Y. Mrs. Lester Wilson, Supervising Director, looks on, as Sister works up a good lather on the doll dummy. (N.C.W.C.)

Barbarous Babies

By Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter M. H. Wynhooven
Editor-in-Chief, *Catholic Action of the South*

HOTHEADS AND HARDHEADS

In Hollywood, I once witnessed the filming of a scene in a movie. A young man, very much enraged, burst into his hotel room, took off his hat and threw it on the bed. The director stopped "the shooting" three times, not being satisfied with the rage the actor registered. Only when he vigorously and recklessly flung his new straw hat into a corner of the room and smashed it, did the impresario let the filming continue. He explained that, in order to act naturally, one who is very angry and excited should not give thought to the value of a hat.

Relieving one's tension and temper by doing something violently on the spur of the moment, may temporarily blow off some high-pressure steam, but it is not getting anybody anywhere in particular. Banging telephone receivers and slamming doors, soberly considered, is a very silly performance on the part of a grown person, for it may necessitate repairs that are costly. After all, the poor phone or door could not help it. The "hot-head," most probably, will get over his fit immediately, and then the realization of what a fool he is will overshadow the momentary sense of satisfaction which his display of temper gave him.

Hotheaded people, as a rule, are ready, post factum, to apologize, with the excuse: "You know, I am quick-tempered. I'm sorry, but I can't help it." By this unassuming confession they unwittingly point the finger of condemnation at their parents, indicting them for neglect of duty.

It cannot be stressed often enough that each child has a character and temperament all its own. In a family of seven, all the children may have the general traits of the parents, but each one, nevertheless, has a disposition different from the others. Hence, all children should not be handled alike. The one who tends to be temperamental should be dealt with very carefully, and with a great deal of patience. Consistently "whipping it out of him" will seldom prove successful; in fact, in most cases, it is a dangerous procedure. A child inclined to bursts of temper should never be punished by a parent aroused to anger, for it stands to reason that you cannot impress even a baby with the necessity of controlling one's temper when the one who is teaching the lesson cannot control his own.

Be at all times calm with the youngster. When he is still too small to appreciate reasoning, let him have his fun all by himself; let your negative attitude be the only sign that you are displeased. Never go through the foolish antics of "whipping" an object that caused the little one's dissatisfaction or pain, as so many unreasoning parents will do. This measure

leaving a little child alone when he is in a tantrum will, in time, bring home to him the lesson that there is absolutely nothing to be gained by "crying up."

A quick-tempered child who is old enough to understand should be quietly reasoned with. Patiently proving that nothing of any benefit to him is achieved by his behavior, but that, on the contrary, harm is done, will eventually impress him. When this type is about "to go off" he or she should be caught in time and asked to see if self-control cannot be exercised. At the same time, offer or suggest some distraction which will, in a measure, make him forget. If success is achieved, he should be praised. Thus encouraged, he will gradually, on his own initiative, try to overcome his unruly temper. And soon he will begin to feel justly proud of his success, realizing, at the same time, that it pays to behave. The idea of God's pleasure should repeatedly be manifested.

The little hardhead presents an entirely different problem. He has a bad trait that can be turned into a desirable one. The determination to insist on driving through according to his own will and doing things his own way may be built into the foundation of a strong character that later will accomplish good and laudable things in spite of obstacles or reverses.

But, this task will prove a difficult one, and it must be scientifically handled. Fundamentally, hardheadedness is a dangerous condition, for it ruins the prospect of all obedience. Just as an unbridled temper may lead to eventual murder, so may hardheadedness bring one to a disregard of all laws and restraint.

In the unruly child, you should differentiate between easy disregard of discipline and deliberate obstinacy. In the latter case, orders should not be incessantly given or reprimands and punishment constantly administered. This method creates more opportunities for the child to display his fault of contrariness, especially when he is small. Some little ones around the age of three or four will develop the habit of saying "No" in answer to every order. Study the little offender. Insistence that he obey may tend to make him more hardened and even may work up an antagonism for the disciplinarian. Silent but evident displeasure will be more effective, in some cases. When he gets older, he may be reasoned with, his attention being called to the hurtful consequences of his behavior. This method will help greatly to cure him.

At all times, carefully distinguish between a hot-headed child and a hardheaded one. The two have to

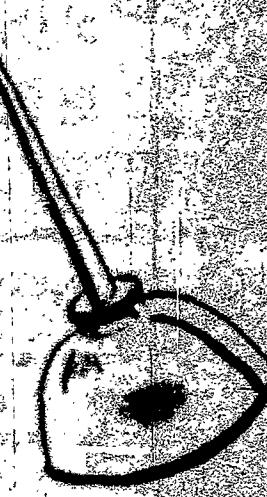
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