WAKEMAN'S WANDERINGS

CHILDREN OF THE BRITISH NOBILITY.

They Are Reared Under a Regime of Extreme Rigor—Good Health and Nobility Closely Sought—Everyday Life of Little Lords and Ladies.

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LONDON, Oct. 12.—During a number of years' travel in England, Ireland and Scotland I have often been situated so that observation was both proper and possible in the manner in which children of the nobility are reared, and have personally found something interesting in understanding more and not the details of their everyday life. We have some immense impressions regarding the subject. A certain class of interests is responsible for this. Generally speaking, it conveys the idea that British nobility are a pampered breed, living in a fabulous of jewels, sweets, flowers and frills.

This is not true, so far as I have been able to observe. Their regime, until they take their place of nothingness in the world, is one of considerable rigor. Good health, good manners, good habits and good morals are the necessary results of those who have been in charge, and the discipline invoked with this end in view is really severe and tireless. That they do not all become pensy fops men and women can scarcely be the fault of their training.

It is fortunate for any child to be born in the country. It is estimated that this good fortune has befallen 90 per cent of the British nobility. Wherever domiciled, most of continental cities make upon the British noblemen in point of social duties and residence, his town house after all is only his lodging house, and little less than even if it be a splendid palace. As a time of twelve expectancy, to the castle or country house nobility always resides.

Nobility before a new scion of a British house makes its ordinarily human red-and-sprinkled appearance, the order for its appearing has been given again. If the child enter much of an advantage over plebeian little cuts it thus early receives a marked and important favoritism. Its bipeds usually comprises fifteen to twenty dozen of close each of bands, shirts, skirts, dresses or robes, plaining blankets, sackings, caps and "carrying cloaks." Its shirts, skirts —except it be a "bigger baby," when they are then all made of silk flannel—and robes are of the finest Irish linen lawn, its bands and plaining blankets of silk flannel, its caps of real lace and the most delicate ribbon and its carrying cloaks of earth silk or India and lace. These are usually ordered from "fitted outfitters" of repute in London, Liverpool, Belfast, Dublin, Glasgow and Edinburgh, but occasionally they are prepared by several private seamstresses and embroiderers who work under the immediate direction of the housekeeper or nobody herself. In either case the dainty fabrics are covered with exquisite hand embroidery, are adorn with rare Valenciennes lace, number from six to ten pieces and have undoubtedly cost from $1,000 to $2,000.

Accompanied in the house of the nobility is accompanied by an extremely attendant of medical and surgical talent. As one physician, however constant, is relied upon. Two or three are always present, and often half a dozen, while several trained nurses have been secured from famous hospitals. The fees expected and paid are often out of all reason, and frequently the dinner will equal the fee. The occasion is always welcomed by the entire retinue of servants. In many great families all of these receive gifts of money, the attending nurse, particularly if she be an old retainer, is unofficially remembered, and the "lower house" is usually allowed to indulge in a quiet merry making at mistress's ungrudged expense.

Another matter of the gravest import has to be arranged. Titled ladies do not nurse their own children. The woman who is to be the real mother of the helpless infant for the first twelve to eighteen months of its babyhood cannot be either the subject of extraordinary and anxious care. Her childbirth must be blameless, yet she must be selected so that for the length of time she can forever be one with her foster child. These and other supplementary necessary qualifications are not easily satisfied, and perhaps some of the most interesting and furtively worried advertisements found in the columns of the British press are those which have been prepared for quota. No other person in any capacity of household service commands such wages as do these women when they have been found. The young receive less than $100 per month, and often from $200 to $300 in pay.

This nurse is always provided with two or more unfortunates. With her precious charge she is not consigned to the regular nursery of the castle, which is always a capacious apartment well removed from those of the chief inmates, but is provided with a room or suite of rooms, which in ordinary use are quite elsewhere, not far from nobody's boudoir. This provision is a temporary one, and the little lord or lady's surroundings are for the time being of the plainest character. The customary furniture is removed and packed away. A plain cot, perhaps a sofa, a swinging cradle, a chair or two, the requisites of babyhood necessities only, and in no open grate a tiny coal fire which is never permitted to go out. In winter or summer, see all that the titled baby's eyes can look upon during its first year or two of life. Its nurse mother may occupy the same room, if possible she is given an adjoining apartment.

The first real event in the baby's career is its christening—or "christening," as the servants, surrounding dignitaries and visitors persist in calling it—and its robes for this occasion are marvels of the needlewoman's art. Christening always occurs between the ages of six weeks and three months. British conservatism and form attach a double importance to the event. The child is thus authoritatively signed, sealed and delivered over to the ranks of the uncrowned nobility, and its titled mother officially permitted to resume her place in noble society. Attached to nearly every castle or manorial hall is a private chapel, or more frequently the ancient parish church, the "living" which is nearly always the gift of the lord of the manor. Christenings among the nobility are invariably celebrated in these, and not rately. Possibly the parish registrar may be present. Occasionally near relatives and close friends are invited. These and the immediate household constitute the only attendants. But the incumbent of the living, though he may be assisted by second curate or preacher, always performs the office. A dinner follows, and while of a most austere character it is invariably an expensive and superb feast, the clergyman or priest who has officiated being the guest of honor.

From the moment of christening the baby—which has received only its Christian names but its title, often a long line of family and property appellatives so entwined as long—is never addressed by parent or servant in any other manner than by its title. Its parents may commonly allude to or forget themselves so to speak some under nickname or term used in the child, but the servant and attendant are the more of great secrecy and weakness. It is unknown to all friends and servants in the child presence, as "Lady Hoggie." "Lady Arthur," or the either of nobility is big prefixed to the child's Christian name. Its titular title is applied only after the death of the person from whom such title descends, usually, if it is necessary until or accession, or when its age of majority is attained. Eldest sons carry their titles from the first of childhood.

To illustrate, take the house of Marchester. The eldest son of the late duke was Lord (William George Victor Irvgen Mandeville. He was Lord Mandeville from christening. He is the present Duke of Manchester. His younger brother, Lord Charles Hastings, was always "Lord Charles" simply, in childhood and minority. The very son of the present Duke of Manchester is Lord (William George) Kim Sutton. The child is therefore now "Lord Mandeville" and someone to the duke-dom. It is, perhaps, irreverent to imagine these little lords as either than beings in perfect to the life of their sister peers and parents conditions, but "Lady Hoggie" has wind on her little stomach and "Lord Arthur" has to run the gauntlet of jeers sorts after each, precisely as with poor child as mine.

At about a year's age, the nurse mother is relieved. Perhaps for another year special nurses are employed to the care of the child. At from two to three years of age it is usual to send the child to a kindergarten, although the special nurses may be somewhat longer retained. This nursery is always a most spacious apartment. Connected with it, or leading from it from an adjoining hall, are a dozen or more pleasant little rooms where some children sleep, sometimes with a nurse in each room, and the nurses, governesses and her assistants. The principal room of the nursery is not only a fantastic museum of everything conceivable with which to amuse children, but is is also their library, music room, study, dining room, play room in unpleasant weather, and the sitting room and prison home of nobody's professional governess.

This individual is expected to educate and form the manners and morals of the children, of the girls up to the age of twelve and the boys to the age of seven or eight, when tutors for the latter are provided. These are both instructors and slaves. The governess must read, write, speak and teach French and German, and be able to instruct in the rudiments of Latin, the sciences and philosophy. She must sing and teach vocal music, and play and instruct upon the piano and harp. In fact she is to be capacity, composition and extreme her charges. Her emoluments is forty pounds to sixty pounds per annum. In the greatest houses she is allowed two, and sometimes three, nursery maids, at from ten pounds to sixteen pounds each.

The daily regime of these children of the nobility is about as follows: They rise at 7 o'clock, the year round. They are given a short walk before breakfast, which is served in the nursery at 8, and consists of oatmeal and cream, a little boiled or mashed potato, perhaps a bit of cold lamb, milk and fruit. They may most audibly study until 10. Then comes the walk in the grounds or a drive in a double phaeton, the governess in charge and no other coachman or stable boy as driver. On their return they are allowed to pounce a little until dinner. At this meal they are served with soup or bouillon, a bit of fish, sparingly of game meat or grilled chops, a small "pudding" of vegetables and a little fruit, or tossed, mixed or fine pudding. The younger ones may only eat the elder ones play until 8 o'clock