

ROCK ME TO SLEEP.

Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight,
Make me a child again just for to-night!
Mother, come back from the echoes shore,
Take me again to your heart as of yore;
Kiss from my forehead the furrows of care,
Smooth the few silver threads out of my hair;
Over my slumbers your loving watch keep—
Rock me to sleep, mother—rock me to sleep!

Backward, flow backward, O tide of the years!
I am so weary of toil and of tears—
Toil without recompense, tears all in vain—
Take them and give me my childhood again!
I have grown weary of dust and decay,
Weary of flinging my soul wealth away,
Weary of sowing for others to reap—
Rock me to sleep, mother—rock me to sleep!

Tired of the hollow, the base, the untrue,
Mother, O mother, my heart calls for you!
Many a summer the grass has grown green,
Blossomed and faded, our faces between;
Yet, with strong yearning and passionate pain,
Long I to-night for your presence again;
Come from the silence so long and so deep—
Rock me to sleep, mother—rock me to sleep!

Over my heart in the days that are flown,
No love like mother love ever has shone,
No other worship abides and endures,
Faithful, unselfish, and patient, like yours;
None like a mother can charm away pain
From the sick soul and the world-weary brain;
Sunder's soft calms o'er my heavy lids creep—
Rock me to sleep, mother—rock me to sleep!

Come, let your brown hair, just lighted with gold,
Fall on your shoulders again as of old;
Let it drop over my forehead to-night,
Shading my faint eyes away from the light;
For with its sunny-edged shadows once more,
Haply will through the sweet visions of yore,
Lovingly, softly, its bright billows sweep—
Rock me to sleep, mother—rock me to sleep!

Mother, dear mother, the years have been long
Since I last listened your lullaby song;
Sing, then, and unto my soul it shall seem
Womanhood's years have been only a dream.
Clasped to your heart in a loving embrace,
With your light lashes just sweeping my face,
Never hereafter to wake or to weep—
Rock me to sleep, mother—rock me to sleep!

—Elizabeth Akers

IF I SHOULD DIE TO-NIGHT.

If I should die to-night,
My friends would look upon my quiet face
Before they laid it in its resting place,
And deem that death had left it almost fair;
And laying snow-white flowers against my hair
Would smooth it down with fearful tenderness,
And fold my hands with lingering caress.

If I should die to-night,
My friends would call to mind with loving thought
Sons kindly deed the icy hands had wrought,
Some gentle word the frozen lips had said,
Errands on which the willing feet had sped;
The memory of my selfishness and pride,
My hasty words would all be put aside,
And so I should be loved and mourned so night.

If I should die to-night,
Even hearts estranged would turn once more to me,
Recalling other days remorsefully;
The eyes that chill me with averted glance
Would look upon me as of yore, perchance,
And soften in the old familiar way,
For who could war with dumb, unconscious clay?
So I might rest, forgiven of all to-night.

Oh, friends! I pray to-night,
Keep not your kisses for my dead, cold brow;
The way is lonely, let me feel them now,
Think gently of me; I am travel-worn;
My faltering feet are pierced with many a thorn,
Forgive, oh heart estranged, forgive, I plead!
When dreamless rest is mine I shall not need
The tenderness for which I long to-night.

—Belle Eugenia Smith.

AUTHORITIES NOT IN ACCORD

Matter of Putting On or Taking Off
Weight is Subject on Which They
Have Disagreed.

Fat men are born, not made, according to Dr. C. B. Davenport, director of the station for experimental evolution at Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y. According to Doctor Davenport, the only safe and sure way to be slim and sylphlike is to have slender parents.

It is not a matter of what one eats or how much, said the lecturer. The quality which turns furs into fat is hereditary, he added. He showed diagrams of fat and thin families. One of the fat families had two daughters whose weights were respectively 300 and 350 pounds. On the other hand, children of two thin persons will never grow fat, he said.

Doctor Davenport's conclusions were questioned to some extent by Prof. Graham Lusk of the Cornell University Medical school, who asserted that appetite and nutrition had much to do with putting on weight.

"If a man drinks a third of a glass of milk above his nutritional requirements every day, he will gain nine pounds in a year, and ninety pounds in ten years," he declared.

SINGING AGAINST TIME

She—Are you familiar with the score of this opera?
He—No. But never mind the score—just so it doesn't go to extra innings.—Life.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA

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Ships are better protected from barnacles and other growths when painted in light colors, it is said.

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Japan's tallest man is 7 1/2 feet high and weighs 414 pounds.

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA

Weak, Ailing
WOMEN
should take

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The Woman's Tonic
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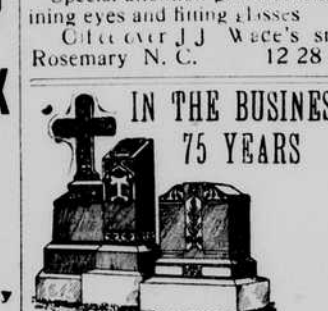
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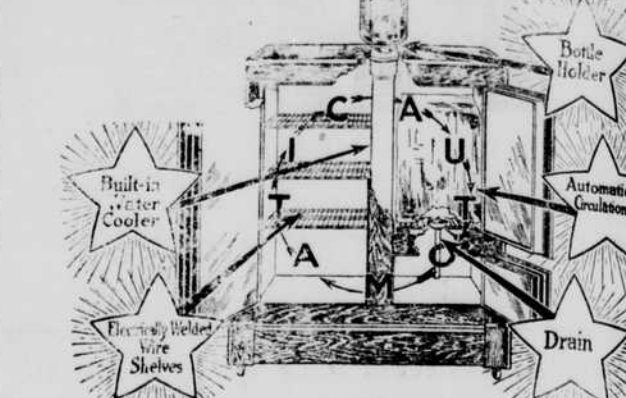
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