

MRS. A. E. BENJAMIN'S NOTES ON CHILDREN

Feb. 1, 1908 - Harold was six months old January 20. He likes to play "peek-a-boo" and holds a rattle, lets go and picks it up occasionally. He sits up quite straight if supported a little, laughs whenever you speak to him. Weighed 20 lb. at four months, nine pounds at birth and gained a pound a week for some time.

Edwin has just begin a scrapbook and has a paint box at $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. His numerous Christmas toys pretty well used up-so quick. Yesterday he said, "Bet, Edwin do it" and his soap bubble "bust" learned from new nurse girl evidently. This a.m. he said, "Don't go papa. Stay home once." He has a good deal to say about the "Fire part." meaning fire department. He telephoned to grandma this a.m. for the first time, said "Goodbye", "pretty well", and "yes". Never would speak before, just smiled. He wants stories told all the time.

Feb. 2 - Weighed Harold today. He weighed 21 pounds with all his clothes. Arthur took care of him this p.m. while I took Edwin out. He said he had not got so well acquainted with him before. I asked Edwin if he wanted a certain picture in his scrap book and he said it was "too homely". First time he said that. I don't know where he heard it, but he is very attentive and remembers things I say.

Feb. 5, 1908 - Began today to fee Harold Mellin's Food. He wouldn't nurse from a bottle but took it quite well with a spoon. I thought I did not have enough for him any longer. This a.m. I was kissing Arthur goodbye and Edwin began to pull and scream at me. I said, "Can't I love papa and he said, "No, love Edwin." He is very affectionate now, as a baby he would never let one hold him or love him. Edwin telephoned to his father today and spoke loudly and plainly. Afterward he said, "Edwin telephoned fine." When he wants to be amused he says, "Mama, I want something nice." Yesterday Grandma came out and bought Edwin a pair of new mittens and Harold a dress.

February 7 - Last night Harold took four ounces of Mellin's food from his bottle just fine. He seems to like it and it agrees with him. I had such a time making Edwin nurse from a bottle that this seems quite a victory. Yesterday I went down town and Edwin said goodbye very willingly, but then said, "Bin Edwin tumping, Mama." This a.m. he got in his highchair alone and then climbed down. He was delighted and did it over and over saying he would have to show papa.

February 10, 1908 - Harold won't nurse his bottle at all. Have to feed him with a spoon. Edwin is interested in Valentines and has several to send. I asked him whome he wanted to have them, and he said, "Catherine Erb, Johnnie Todd and Mama." Today for the first time he didn't want to put on the suit I selected, showing a decided preference for a red and white gingham.

February 16 - Harold has two new teeth through, appeared the first of the week. He takes his bottle all night again now and shall begin tomorrow to feed him three times a day and nurse him the other three. We took Edwin down to the new office last Sunday. After looking it all over with a good deal of interest he said, "Papa ought to have a band." In the a.m. now he says, "Papa, papa, time to get up." "Half past six," no matter what time it is. Lately he says on every occasion, "What's 'at", meaning what is that.

March 14 - Harold has been having a little bowel trouble. Takes his food very well, only nurse him once in 24 hours now. Put him in the baby walker day before yesterday. He is very active, much more so than Edwin was. It took Edwin over a month to move it any to speak of and Harold did it the third time. He rolls over on his stomach now, first time yesterday. He doesn't want to sit still, but rocks back and forth.

Edwin let his new balloon get away and said, "It fell up, Mama." He told Grandma to "skidoo" yesterday. I have beautiful new pictures of both of them. Edwin's is the evolution of a smile.

April 4, 1908 - Harold has been completely weaned for some time. He is a little constipated just now but is well and growing. He sits up real straight on the floor

now and reaches after his playthings. Yesterday I took Edwin down to the park. The last time he saw it it was frozen and covered with snow. He asked where the snow was and wouldn't be satisfied until I explained it. Then he said, "Where do the birdies sleep?" On the way home he said he wanted a fire engine. I told him he would have to wait until Christmas. Then he said, "Where does Santa Claus stay?" I tried to put him off, but couldn't so finally I said, "up in the pink sky." Then he said, "Well how does he get up there?" Harold moves the baby walker now more and more.

May 1 - nine months - Harold holds his bottle alone now. He runs all around in the baby walker, turns, etc. He doesn't tumble over when he is sitting on the floor now. He has two more teeth nearly through. He says, "pa-pa-pa" and talks a good deal. Edwin said it was Norwegian. Tena has gone and Mary come. We have cleaned house and after being torn up a long time, when it was in order Edwin said, "Don't it look swell." It is very hard for him to mind and he has to go in the closet a good deal. He is all right if we can just keep him busy. Harold has begun to use his nursery chair successfully. Edwin is well trained for both night and day for some time.

May 20, 1908 - Harold has his two upper incisors now. He plays peek-a-boo, holds his dress up and then takes it down. He is beginning to do cute little things. Edwin said when I asked him if he would be a good boy today, "Yes, but I taint."

June 12 - Both the children were baptized last Sunday, Children's Day. Edwin behaved very well, just hung back a little, but Harold pulled his papa's ears, nose, patted his cheeks and talked all the time. He kind of pushed the minister away and gave a mad little grunt. He plays patty cake now, slaps his little hands and seems to understand things. He comes down to breakfast and has bread crumbs and water. He and Edwin have great conversations across the table. Edwin and I went over to Mabel Owens for lunch a few weeks ago. Edwin ran away and was lost two hours. He went to

the Bryn Mawr round house. They say it was a miracle he wasn't killed. I never was so desperate or so glad and thankful when I got him back. He wasn't at all worried or scared. All he said was, "I saw the engines." When I tried to tell him what might happen if he ran away again he said, "Oh, a man would take care of Edwin". We went to the Sunday School picnic at Big Island this week. He had a great time. He always behaves well when I take him anywhere. Tonight we went over to Grandma's to supper, the first time he has been away from home at that time. He has learned how to manipulate the phonograph now and we have music all the time. Harold will cry if it stops.

August 1, 1908 - Harold was a year old July 20. He has six teeth and seems very large and healthy. He stands up by clinging to things but now alone yet. He uses the baby walker a good deal and seems lots older in many ways. He doesn't say any words but "see." He knows what bye-bye means and holds up his hand. He creeps all around and picks up everything. The first words Edwin says in the a.m. are "stop a lelling," when Harold wakes him up. Poor Maude has been sick so long and Helen having diptheria that she hasn't seen them for ever so long.

September 1, 1908 - Harold stands alone and walks taking hold of things. He creeps and gets up and down every minute he is awake almost. I have had lovely pictures taken of them. Edwin told me his first dream the other day. He said a "titty came in his room and bumped its nose." The next a.m. he said, "The kitty didn't come last night." I asked him what kind of a kitty it was and he said, "Bown titty and it bumped its nose on the wall." I asked him if he didn't see it last night and he said, "No, I turned over quick so I wouldn't see it." We took him to Minnehaha on his birthday and had a picnic supper. He enjoyed the animals very much. I gave him a train of cars for a present. I told him about it and all he said was, "Will a big black smoke come out." One day he wouldn't take hold of my hand when we were walking. I asked him why, and he said, "I would if you had a pretty dress on."

Edwin and Harold play together now a good deal. They both want the same thing at the same time so yesterday I bought them each a red ball. It didn't do any good though. Harold wanted Edwin's just the same. He seems to think Edwin is wonderful. He shows a lot of temper though when Edwin takes his things away. When he gets something he wants he grabs it and then creeps away as fast as he can, looking back to see if Edwin is coming and then he laughs and squeals.

July 10, 1910 - Maude Elizabeth Benjamin born March 31, Thursday at 7:30 a.m. Mother was sick about one hour and ten minutes. Had two stitches. Dr. Litzenberg assisted with the stitches as he was too late for anything else. Was ~~thankful~~ to him for a little ether. Miss Irma Hebbard took care of me and was just fine. Maude weighed eight and a half pounds, small but very fat. Had the colic for ~~six~~ weeks every night and slept all day. Her bowel movements were not right and finally Dr. Benjamin asked Dr. Sedgwick about her and he advised nursing every four hours. Great improvement immediately. She weighs $14\frac{1}{2}$ now at three months. Began to smile when you talk to her at six weeks. Laughed aloud at three months. Sleeps all night now and is just as good as a baby can be. Her eyes are quite a decided brown now and I think she is prettier than the boys were.

Edwin and Harold both had the measles at the time of her birth. Both very sick. Harold had a convulsion the night before she was born. Dr. Sedgwick called and was just fine. Miss Dunn, N.W. nurse took care of him. Sylvia took beautiful care of both of them all the time I was sick. Dr. Benjamin was sick with grippe at the same time. We are now at the lake cottage and all well and happy. Papa has been away three weeks. When walking the other day Edwin saw a cow and said she was chewing gum and Harold said she was chewing her "cuddle." One day I threatened to give Maudie to Mrs. Ekstrom and Edwin went over and asked her if she could give Maudie her dinner. Mrs. E. said she

was afraid not and Edwin said, "Well I'll tell you. You sit down and rock her and take off your dress." When I was washing Maudie one day Edwin looked at her very closely. I said, "She isn't like you in front, is she?" He said, "No, but maybe she will be when she gets older." Harold is a fat little fellow and very affectionate. Both boys are devoted to the baby, can hardly let her alone, but very careful. Edwin says, "She is such a tender little thing." They both enjoy having some playments, Marie, Ruthine, Bernice, and Natalie.

August 1, 1910 - Maude is four months old now and weighs a little over 16 pounds. She is just as little care as a baby can be. She is so good. Mother and everyone who comes here say they never saw such a good baby. She sleeps all night and all the a.m. usually, just waking up to be nursed and cared for. She sleeps on the upstairs porches in the a.m. and in the p.m. comes down on the front porch and wants to be entertained a little. She smiles whenever you speak to her and laughs aloud. She likes the boys all right and laughs when they come to her. She was a little sick last week and the boys have had little spells of fever and vomiting, but have been very well for such a hot summer and sudden changes in weather. Edwin said, "Why don't Miss Hebbard come out and have a tea party with us?" Harold likes to play doctor and will say, "Tare does it hurt you?" so solicitously.

October 9 - Maude is six months, weighs eighteen pounds. She does not sleep so much now and insists on coming down to breakfast. I think her teeth are bothering her as she wakes up in the night now and has to be amused. We have had her picture taken and it is very lovely. She is very pretty with large brown eyes. She is the best baby, I ever saw. Everyone who sees her speaks of it. Mabel and Florence act very much in love with her. Mother gave her two beautiful short dresses and she will be in short dresses soon. She still nurses all right. Since coming from the lake Edwin and Harold have been to Sunday school just once. Edwin has been real well, but Harold has had two

real sick spells and looks quite thin. They will go to Plymouth Sunday School later, but just now there is so much sickness that Dr. thought best to keep them at home. Quite a while ago Edwin said, "Why don't you have two or three papas like Mrs. Rogers (Miss McCormick). Then when one went away we would have one left to play with." We have to be very careful of the boys' diet all the time as they both seem to have weak stomachs. Edwin had his first tooth **filled** not long ago and as a reward I took him, Mildred and Jessie to the Orpheum. They enjoyed it very much. Harold doesn't like to be left behind now. He wants to do everything Edwin does. Maude wants something to play with now. She enjoys Harold's silver rattle very much. She likes to ride too. Always good in the automobile. We call her Maudie. Edwin calls her "Punchy."

November 27, 1910 -- Maude is nearly eight months old. She has changed a good deal lately. She sits up fine now on the floor and in the old highchair that Helen, Mildred, Edwin, and Harold have all used. She uses their bed too. She has no teeth yet. She weighs nearly twenty pounds. She has been very well. At $6\frac{1}{2}$ months she refused to nurse for a few days with her accustomed appetite, but it proved to be nothing. She has been all right every since. I tried for a month to give her one feeding a day, but with no success. She would not take it. Dr. Sedgewick advised nursing her until she was nine months so I stopped trying to feed her and she seems to be getting enough and is doing well. She said, "Ma, Ma, Ma." today and acts so much older. She looks very cute in her short dresses.

Edwin and Harold both have colds just now and Harold had another sick spell a couple of weeks ago while Arthur was away hunting. I treated him as usual, but the third day he was no better so I had Dr. Brown. He was much better in a couple of days. His papa brought him a baby Bumps when he came home and Harold says he has "brownchitis" as he has a brown spot on his bed.

They haven't been to Sunday school yet, but hope to start them soon. We took them both to the Orpheum last week. Harold enjoyed it very much, his first experience. They play together reall well now and it is not much work to take care of them now, so much easier than it was before. Edwin is very much interested in his father's books and wants to look at the pictures and he told about them. Harold says his feelings are hurt and he wants to take them out. Edwin is very gentle and loving to Maudie, treats her the way he did Natalie Bennett two years ago. We have had the boys' pictures taken with their father. They are the five and three pictures. We have the one and three, the two and four and now the three and five. Hubner took these and they are not as good as Lee's.

Dec. 12, 1910 - Maudie is 8 months and 12 days. Two days ago the two lower incisors appeared. She is very active now and uses the baby walker real well. Better than Harold and Edwin at that age. She doesn't seem afraid of strangers and smiles on every occasion. She goes to sleep beautifully, just put her in bed and leave her. If Lydia does it she cries, but if I do she smiles and puts her thumb in her mouth. Harold had croup last week. The first time and not very bad. Yesterday I was going to leave him with Lydia while papa, Edwin, and I went to Auntie Maude's, but he said, "Is papa going too?" "Is Edwin, well aren't me?" I hadn't the heart to leave him so we bundled him up and took him. He didn't seem to take more cold. Edwin went to church in the a.m. and always wants to go shake hands with the minister. They are very much interested in Christmas now and on every occasion run to the fireplace and say, "Santa Calus, you needn't bring Edwin anything. He is naughty." Harold took a picture of Geo. Washington down from the wall and said, "Washing from Georgia is dead. He is tilled."

January 28, 1910 - Maudie is nearly ten months old. She has three feedings a day now of oatmeal, water and milk. It was a great struggle to get her to take it, worse than with the boys. She does not have a bottle. We have to feed her. Three weeks ago she was real sick, had a sore throat and gathering in her ear, not serious and did not break. Dr. Sedgwick was just fine and he is advising me about weaning her. She uses a nursery chair now instead of the bed pan for b.m. She looks fat and well.

The boys are both well. Harold went with me yesterday for the first time, Edwin staying home. It seemed queer to leave Edwin. Harold was talking to himself yesterday and said, "My nerves are all worn out." They are both learning "Old Leerie" now. Harold talks about John Gilpin all the time.

May 30, 1911 - We leave for Minnetonka Wed., June 1, 1911. Maudie is quite different from last year at this time. She began to walk alone Sunday, a week ago. She has been a fine creeper. She has six teeth. She has quite a variety of food now, four times in the 24 hours. She is very affectionate and seems to think Edwin made the world. She drinks from a glass much better than the boys did at her age. Edwin seems like quite a big boy. He is full of life and very active. Harold is quieter so far. Harold wants papa to tell him about Miss Jonson, meaning a fire in Wisconsin. He says very funny things. They both sleep later in the a.m., but Maudie is on hand at six and before. Maudie doesn't say much but makes the cutest little crosses and says "Oh" on every occasion. They got along all right with Lydia while I was away in April. They missed their mother all right to make them behave.

The boys have enjoyed the Plymouth Sunday School very much, have improved a good deal too. Harold asks Jesus to help him be a good boy and then says, "Has Jesus got sharp ears?" Edwin has learned several pieces, learns very easily and Harold has learned some from hearing. Edwin says "Old Leerie", "The Rockabye Lady", "My Little Shadow", etc., etc.

June 13 - Are well settled at lake now. Arthur has gone West for three weeks. It will seem good to leave the auto this time. Maudie walks real well now and sleeps until 6:30 a.m. She sleeps much better out here. We are all out on the porches. She has grown and is fatter but doesn't talk much of any. Her eyes are lovely and her hair curls. Edwin seems lots older. Harold rides his auto successfully now. Edwin rides the velosopede fine. They have been in bathing and enjoy it ^{out} ~~and~~ here very much. Maudie has only six teeth, but is getting ready for more.

August 2, 1911 - Maudie is sixteen months old. She has the upper two double teeth through now. Two lower ones just appearing. She says several more words now. Edwin is very much interested in a history reader. I read it to him and he tells ~~of~~ me about it. Yesterday we had our first lesson in making figures. Edwin came in the other day and said Harold was real naughty. "He talked naughty to Marie." I said, "What did he say?" Edwin said, "He called Marie an old bossy cow." Harold has had his fourth birthday. He has been real well, has had one sick spell. I took him to the circus. They have been exposed to whooping cough, but guess they **escaped**.

August 29, 1912 - Have had another beautiful summer at the lake and leave for home next week. Edna Jackson came in May and has been with us this summer. Helga Anderson reminds me of Petra. The children had a series of colds last winter and Maudie was very sick with tonsillitis at Christmas time. They have been very well all summer. Edwin is lovely to Maudie but teases Harold all the time. Maudie says, "Naut boy" and "Be dood" to them. She takes the spanker and goes in their room in the morning and says "Behay" for behave. Maudie says everything. Edna has taught her to speak very plainly. She says everyday and many times during the day, "Papa lite do lake. Eddie lite do lake" etc. She has learned several letters last winter from hearing Harold and could always pick out A,B,C,S,O,P,L,E, and H. Harold learned all of his last winter and did very well. The little girls were good and Miss Morse and Miss .

Aug. 29
1912

Have had another beautiful summer at the lake and leave for home next week. Edna Jackson came in May and has been with us this summer. Helga Anderson reminds me of Pety. The children had a series of colds last winter and Mandie was very sick with tonsillitis at Christmas time. They have been very well all summer. Edwin is lovely to Mandie but teases Harold all the time. Mandie says "Naut boy" and "Be dood" to them. She takes the sparkler and goes in their room at morning and says "Behay" - for behave. Mandie says everything. Edna has taught her to speak very plainly. She says every day and many times during the day - "Papa bite do lake" "Eddie bite do lake" etc. She learned several letters last winter from hearing Harold and could always find out A. B. C. S. Q. P. L. E + H. Harold learned all of his last winter. Edwin went to Stanley Hall all the winter and did very well. The little girls were good

to write up

and Miss More and Miss Shadwell especially, but I thought he would be happier with other boys so this year he will start in at the Whittier school. He said "Mamma, if you and Harold should come over at recess, I could walk up and down with you". He has read every day this summer in First readers, and he has learned to tell time. Harold sticks to me. When Edwin and Maudie play with Papa or get in bed with him, I would always come to me. Yesterday Dulge in passing tea spilled some on Harold's neck and it is badly burned. The poor little fellow feels pretty bad to-day, but is brave about it. The boys I have learned a lot of naughty words from two little boys in the Johnson house. They don't play together any more. Edwin is seven and Harold five - both tall for their age. Maudie has beautiful brown eyes - is shining and auburn dark, with light hair. It has been bobbed and is a little curly. She is very pretty and sunny.

This is the first summer they
 have not been sick at all.
 They run lots stronger and
 older. The boys are not much
 trouble to take care of now, but
 require a good deal of super-
 vision to keep them out of mischief.
 They don't mind anyone but me.
 Edwini can row really well and
 rides a bicycle. Harold has a
 new velocipede. Maude takes
 long rides with Edna every day
 and is out doors most of the
 day and night too. She has a
 lovely color and tanned too.
 We have enjoyed our garden
 this year. The boys have
 worked in it a little and
 taken lots of interest in it.
 Maude and Harold take long
 walks everyday but Edwini has
 graduated.

Dec. 7
1913 -

Oct.

Alice Louise Benjamin born Nov. 24, 1913 -
Friday. @ 8.30 A.M. Miss Hebard was
here again and had a delivery like
Maudie E's. Nurse got strong so quick
and the baby is very good and
healthy. Acts like Harold did. Uses
the bed from every morning as Maudie
did. Weighed about eight pounds
at birth. So six weeks old now
and very much. Louise came a
couple of weeks before she was
born and will stay this winter
anyway. The children have improved
very much since she has been
here. I felt as if they were being
ruined with Edna J. We did not
go to the lake this summer on any
account. We enjoyed our new
electric auto very much. The boys
had a garden on 24th Street and
got along very well in town.
Arthur took them on a good many
trips with him in his car.
They were all delighted with the new
baby. Maudie kept saying "is she
going to stay all night?"
Edna goes to Whittier and Harold to
Stanley Hall. Both doing well. Wish

I had written down more of their
 auto sayings. They are eight, six
 and three now. Quite a while ago
 Harold and I come home from down
 town and I said "Harold, don't you
 want to go to the bath-room, before you
 go to play?". He said "I should say not,
 I shouldn't have power enough to
 get over to Harry Fights if I let all
 my gasoline out". He plays with
 Harry Fights a good deal. They are
 in the same Sunday school class.
 The boys ask pretty well in church
 now. Mandie has not been yet.
 I took them all down to Peyton's last
 Sat. to see the Kansas toys and have
 lunch. At lunch Mandie got her
 finger bowl first and took it right
 up and drank out of it. Edwin
 laughed so, but Harold took her
 fork and said she didn't know any
 better yet. They rode the ferris and
 had a very good time. Harold
 went to Chandler Hibbi's party in the
 P.M. Harold has the same teachers
 that Edwin had at Stanley Hall. Edwin
 has had lovely teachers too. Miss
 Self and Mrs. Edson the second year
 and Miss Ford so far this year.

Miss Ford says he does unusually well at painting and modeling. He reads well too, thanks to Stanley Hull and likes number work, to my surprise. I am going to visit Harold's school soon. Maudie begs to go to "tuck" and school. Edwin and Harold help out a good deal. Taber turns helping out in the A.M. making beds etc. They get lunch Sunday P.M. and clear off the table. Maudie wants to do everything they do. Harold doesn't go to school in the P.M. and then he takes care of her. They go up in the attic and play a long time. She comes down occasionally and says "Harvall wasn't nice to me". She was dressing the other day and they were in her room and she said "Gentlemen, get out of my room". She is very much interested in her clothes and always ready to clean up. The boys get ready for school alone now and are quite independent. Maudie has always tried to dress and undress alone. As a baby she would make rifty faces and take her nappies off-etc. Aunt Louisa

has remarked about her eyes flashing if she gets provoked, so now she says, if she gets mad - "Do you see my eyes." Her eyes are quite remarkable - Very pretty. The nose & body looks like a blond. They both have very dainty hands. I had beautiful flowers when Alice's cousins came. Mrs. Fitz Gerald, Mrs. Chase Arthur, Norwestern Nurses, Mrs. Jackson Mrs. Gamble, Mrs. E. L. and Mrs. D. L. Robinson, Sophie Gustafson, I missed another this time. She has only seen an baby once. She used to come so often. Spent our first Thanksgiving at home this year. Always have been to mother's before. Spent last Xmas in Florida, taking Edwin and leaving Harold and Maudie home. Harold was just recovering from a broken arm when we left. All the three were well last winter. The atomizers seemed to prevent and help colds.

Mar. 12
1914 -

Alice Louise is $4\frac{1}{2}$ ans. Has done very well and is a lovely frank healthy baby. very good. sleeps all night - as good as Maude E. was. Am very well and strong myself. Louise B.C has been here this winter and I have not had to worry over nurse maids. We have had good times together and children much improved. Mother has only seen the baby twice. She has been so fickle & fickle this winter.

Harold had a new Sunday suit and he told Aunt Louise it was blue with a white frame around it. I heard Maude tell Aunt Louise she loved her like the devil yesterday. The baby loves the children. She smiles at them whenever they come near her. She looks just as Harold used to & seems to like him particularly. Harold reads real well in his first reader and Edwin is in the fourth grade & $8\frac{1}{2}$, so he is doing well too. Edwin is very companionable and quite a little man. Harold has always seemed lots younger. They have all been well this winter.

They all want to be read to, as much as I did. Books are a great resource to them. We read the "Sandman Story" every evening. They are crazy over the Oz books. Harold especially - he has a great imagination and such a chatter box.

Mar 22
1915 -

Edwin &
Harold
ten &
eight
this
summer

Alicia Louise is seventeen months now. Was very active at 9 mos. but did not walk well until she was fourteen months. She talks quite a little now and is very amusing. She has always been very sweet on "Eddie" as he takes care of her a good deal. The four of them have had whooping cough this winter. Maudie E. had it the worst. The boys were out of school seven weeks, but studied at home so they went on with their classes. Edwin is in fifth grade and does very well with drawing and anything using his hands. Harold had a hard time when he began 2 grades @ public school. Did not learn much @ Stanley Hall. I worked with him a half hr.

every 9. M before school until Xmas. He does pretty well now, so in 9. second. Mande and the baby play together so nice, although Mande plaques her some. The boys have begun to take music lessons and Edwin is doing better than the average. Miss Fisher says. Halya left her Jan, after being with us 2 1/2 yrs. We have Sema and Martha now.

We are making plans now for our trip with Papa in June. We were alone at the safe last summer as Papa went to Europe, came home earlier than he had intended on account of war. We are having the tubs houses fixed up again this spring. Electricity and front porch glazed in. Mother has been much better this winter.

The boys have been going to the swimming pool this winter and can swim quite well. Mande has her fifth birthday soon. She is very pretty. Alice Louis does not look like her at all - is very blond, but I think she will be pretty too. They are going to have their pictures taken

tomorrow, Edwin is interested in
 "The Flying Machine Boys" - but Harold
 still clings to the "Oz" books. Edwin
 reads to himself now a good deal,
 but Harold likes to be read to.
 The baby is crazy over books. The
 minute we sit down with her,
 it's book, book. She is always
 ready for pictures. She likes the
 dolls, papa bought from Europe,
 and thinks every drawer has
 dolls in it. She talks about
 the "Polly" a good deal and is
 glad when we have the
 victrola going. Maudie likes to go
 to Sunday school and says there
 is a little boy in her class
 named "thead". She says "at the
 little boy, I ^{don't} know his name, is it
 nice to the little girl, I don't know
 her name. She is very much in
 love with Harold. She wouldn't go
 down to breakfast with me. She had
 to wait for her king, she said.
 The boys and papa have slept
 on the sleeping porch all winter.
 The baby has taken teeth. My electric
 has been free to take the children out
 in, have had it two years now.

Jan 27 -
1918 -

Alice Louise is 2 years and 3 months. She says everything she hears the boys say. Calls me an old aunt when I offend her and for a "shrimp." She has had a good many colds this winter and Maudie & too. Maudie goes to the Whittier kindergarten in the P.M. and seems quite a big girl. She always goes with Harold. She had her tonsils and adenoids out this fall and has been better ever since. She and the baby play together all the A.M. Baby has all her meals with us now. She and Maudie sleep in the middle room and I have my room to myself again. When I put her in bed one night she said "Just right" like Goldilocks. She has always been very fond of cat pictures and now wants me to sing three little kittens. She had a fine Western trip with the boys this last summer. They talk about it so much. Edwin and Harold are both doing well in school this year. Harold doesn't learn as quick as Edwin, but he remembers well. He has a real nice voice and sang a solo. I wondered to-day to the hills, Maggie's -

at the Tom Thumb Wedding. He and
 Maudie were both in it and talked
 and played it for weeks. The baby says
 Jack and Jill went up the hill, Maggie.
 Every time I come home, she hugs my
 knees and says "sub oo, sub oo."
 She talks about our summer at the
 lake and remembers so many things.
 Bobbie, Nellie, Bill, Marie's Betty, go
 in bathing etc. Jane and Lucretia M.
 Maudie is six on March 31. She may
 go to school this spring.