SUPPOSE YOUR CHILD WERE ABLE TO READ IN HER FIFTH YEAR? THIS ONE'S MOTHER IS TEACHING HER PRODIGY HOW TO

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One morning to admit a mother leading a very small girl by the hand. There was nothing unusual in this, but something in the mother's manner stirred my interest as she talked with urgent appeal. Can you make room for my baby in your class, Miss Crofts? She must play! She can read; and this morning she brought me the newspaper saying 'mother, why did Mrs. Snyder kill her husband?'

I smiled; we receive so many supposedly brilliant children! I asked from the things in the kitchen, the name on the stove, the Bon Ami tin, cereal packages anything around the place.

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"Yes, she has read ever since she was four years old. She knows her alphabet. She learned from the things in the kitchen, the name on the stove, the Bon Ami tin, cereal packages—anything around the place.

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By this time the story was holding my interest as well as the reader's. For her expression was as natural as my own could have been, showing that it was not mere parrot knowledge of words, but an intellectual appreciation of the subject matter. Later came the sentence "A boisterous wind came blustering by," but she read on without any hesitancy whatever in perfect command of the situation.

"Sit down" I ordered: "And tell me all about it." This she did. Here is the story.

Ask Many Questions.
"She has never consciously been reading!" her mother began. "In the first place I don't know how to teach her; but she asks questions about all the words that she sees." A friend of mine gave her a Primer in November, and in December she could read it.

With this we went to the Principal and told him all about it. He gave her many different classes of reading to buy—but even a commercial engine with the word 'commercial engine' did not upset her in the least.

It was decided that she could attend kindergarten as a visitor until old enough for registration as a pupil. Her mother begged that she should have the play-life that is so necessary, both physically and mentally at this stage. This she certainly had, and enjoyed to the full; how much more the teacher enjoyed having her could not be told. She was a joy. Her little intelligent face would light up, her soft gray eyes shine as she suggested always just the right thing and so much more.

Reflects Meticulous Care.
She was a sweet little child, quiet in manner, small in build, somewhat fragile, looking, though well nourished, showing always meticulous care at home in every way. She enjoyed the dolls and building material in the kindergarten just as the other children did, but her real interest was always in creating something with intellectual content behind it.

She joined in the painting of a large picture with a group, but her bright little mind suggested that a country picture should have water in it, and so I asked her to put the water in. Always at the crucial point Frances came up with the right idea. Oh what discipline it was for her teacher to refrain from giving
the resolution that when she married, whatever came her way, she should never lack that most
necessary element of success—encouragement; for she had learned the value in having to do
without it.

Mr. Wightman is a banker in Muncie and it is said they arran-
ging his position sure by enter-
ing competitive examination at a neighboring city.

Just before Christmas Frances called to me, "Miss C., I'm
day all right."

This wasn't the way she usually talked, as she has a very
marked degree of natural re-
finement in her language, but
and I said, "Well, tell us all about it."

"We went in for an examina-
tion at my bank this week
and he won a lot of gold moneys
herself."

"Mother did!" An interesting
collection of gold pieces in a
purse, $100 for the prize the day
before Christmas—and "mother"
had persuaded him to take the
examination, bolstering him with
encouragement till he consented!

So Frances comes by her brains
very honestly.

Self-Expression, Encouraged.

Her parents are grateful for
such a treasure child, but to their credit be it said they are
more thankful for her disposition
than for her ability. The
children in this kindergarten are
encouraged to express their own
ideas very freely, and a good
deal of creative work results.

They wrote two plays which were
given at different times for the
parents and for the other
children.

In both of these Frances took
part. In the summer play, she
read a story to grandma who
was resting after working in the
garden. In the Christmas play
she was Mrs. Santa Claus and
was adorable! She
made up the plays herself;
unusually natural, not having had words and
to do with from memory,
but simply using their own
conversation in the situation as
it came.

She made a sweet little wife for
a tiny Santa Claus, serving him
with his supper when he came in
tired after a strenuous day of
preparing the toys.

At the end of the term of kind-
ergarten a consultation with the
District Superintendent
opened her in the grades on a
program, going to different clas-
ses for work as she could do it.

This tiny girl, so childlike and
yet so poised and restrained in
her attitude is now in the 3-B
grade. She will not be seven
years old till December, 1929
and in her third term in school
she is doing sixth term work. Of
course, a time of difficult social
adjustments will come when a
child of her age goes to High
School—something is bound to
happen—but we hope that
the teachers with whom she
comes in contact will have the
wisdom that her mother has had
for her up to now.

Amateur Gets Byrd
Radio Message

Muncie, Ind.—A radio message from
Commander Richard E. Byrd, who is
on a South Pole expedition in the distant
Arctic, has been intercepted here by
radio fan using only a three tube
receiving set.

While manipulating the dials of his
set Ernest Thornhill, a local commercial
radio operator, was amazed to hear a message from the Byrd ex-
pedition. The message was addressed to the
engineering staff of the General Elec-
tric Company at Pittsburgh and to
station KDKA.

Yale Health Board
Has New Quarterly

New Haven, Conn.—Yale's depart-
ment of health finally has to have ade-
quuate quarters. President James K.
Angell recently told Yale alumni that the health department would have "a
new and beautiful building designed
specifically to meet its needs, for
the construction of which the Uni-
versity has already received the au-
surance of a number of gifts." The
building is to be erected on College
street where the health department
has been struggling for years in
dwelling houses of an efficient con-
struction.