

THE great adventure begins in September. The children will be starting school. Already you are busily sewing or writing countless Johnnys or Janes on small shoes, gloves, berets, jackets and mackintoshes, and you would be more than human if you did not feel just a bit anxious about this first break-away of your fledglings from the family nest.

Of course, you have satisfied yourself that the school is what you wanted for such a start; that the rooms are bright and airy and that the staff are kindly, understanding folk, with a sensible appreciation of health and happiness as well as education.

But Johnny or Jane is still very small and inexperienced really; there are traffic problems to be considered perhaps, and there are inevitably more risks of colds and allied troubles once a child begins to mix regularly with a crowd of others at close quarters and make all-weather journeys to and from school.

As your needle flies round the little tapes, or your knitting needles click along the rows of the latest small jersey, you wonder how best to instil "wisdom without fear." You realize quite well in theory that some of your anxieties about the roads may be exaggerated, but it's hard in real life not to show them.

I think the great thing with small children is to make them interested in traffic, so that they become naturally observant, without being anxious. And for this, traffic games in the garden or the nursery make a good start.

Most children at any age like to know how things "work" too, so that traffic lights have appeal this way and from these one goes on naturally to rubber strips in the road, or even the use of

Belisha Beacons, etc. And, of course, be sure that the policeman is regarded as a trusted friend and not as a "man of wrath."

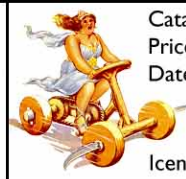
Strangers are a bit of a problem. A little child can perhaps usefully cross a road with a kindly stranger, but Jane and Johnny must be taught that there it should end and each has their own affairs to go about.

And now, what about the question of colds? This brings you to cod-liver oil and hankies and somewhere to keep them. What about pockets in the new little clothes? Patch pockets are really the easiest for this age. And does Johnny or Jane appreciate the use of hankies, not only to "blow" but to prevent other children getting the benefit of that sneeze?

CAN one really do anything to prevent colds? It's a big problem of course, but rubber boots do more than mufflers, and cod-liver oil *before* the first cold is much wiser than waiting until after, when you are faced with building up.

If you know there are colds around the school, a pleasant tasting gargle of "pink" water at bedtime is no great hardship and quite young children are often able to do it effectively, especially if they are allowed to make various funny noises in the process!

And in your final preparations for this great new adventure look at all the little clothes from the point of view of self-help for their owner. School is a busy place and the teacher, as well as your offspring, will bless you! Moreover, in your efforts these last weeks to instil "nice" manners, remember too that the small person will need also to stand on his own feet and on occasion insist on his own rights among his contemporaries! **LEN CHALONER.**



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Everywoman's
 September 1939



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Hardware Trade Journal

1st September 1939



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