

LITTLE PEOPLE

Julia

Making Mother Beautiful

"MOTHERS' DAY is only a week away. I have to finish the sweater I am knitting for my mother. What have you for your mother, Mina?" Flora asked her friend and classmate.

"I don't feel like making anything. I shall just buy a ready-made chemisette in the market," Mina answered.

A fine car whizzed by. A girl inside was waving to the two friends. Beside her was an elegantly dressed woman.

"There goes Caring! She must be going to the Luneta with her mother," Flora exclaimed.

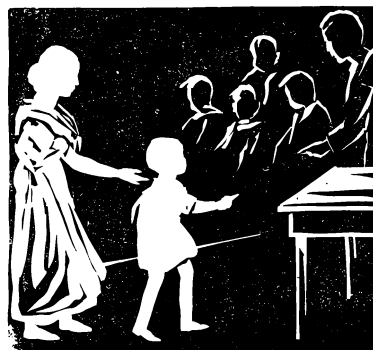
"Isn't Caring's mother very pretty?" Mina remarked.

"Pretty?" Flora's tone was questioning. "She dresses well and she is attractive. Your mother, Mina, is much prettier, although . . . she does not wear fine dresses."

Mina could not say anything. She never realized that her mother was good-looking at all. It dawned upon her that she did not notice her mother's face because her mother had always worn shabby clothes.

When Mina reached home, she found her mother rinsing the washing. She had to tend the fire at the same time, for she was preparing the supper. Her hair was done in a tight knot on the top of her head.

"Mother, please let me do the washing," Mina offered. "Father will soon be home. Give him a surprise by having an early supper." The girl shoved her mother gently and she herself occupied the place before the large wash tub.



Every day that week Mina did her mother's work whenever she was at home. She went to school just on time and went home as soon as school was dismissed. She noticed that her mother was no longer irritable. She seemed to find time to comb her hair smoothly and to dress neatly.

Mina saved all her allowance and asked her father to give her another week's allowance in advance. When her father raised his eyebrows questioningly, she whispered to him, "It is a surprise for you and Mother."

On Mothers' Day, Mina got up very early. She prepared the breakfast and set the table with more care than usual. There was a big bowl of pink *cadena de amor* at the middle. Little sprays of the same flower were arranged like a chain joining the breakfast plates.

Mina seated her father at the table first. The other children took their places.

"I shall fetch, Mother," she announced.

Mina came out leading Mother.

"Mabuhay!" she began.

"Mabuhay!" the other children joined.

Father could not take his eyes away from Mother. She was lovely in a new pink *terno*. Her hair was done loosely with a pretty knot on the nape of her neck. A few curls covered her ears.

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YOUR HEALTH

A DAY WITH FELY BRIGHT

By D. T.



I know someone by the name of Fely
A girl so cheerful, so bright, and healthy,
A girl so neat, so clean, and orderly,
That everyone loves her very dearly.

Fely Bright at six o'clock gets up
Brushes her teeth, and takes a bath
Puts on her clothes, and with a laugh,
Her things for school she tidies up.

To the breakfast room she merrily skips
Where awaits a breakfast of rice, fruit, and
milk.

It is a joy to watch her as she cheerfully eats
And chews her food well and is nice and
neat.

At half-past seven she bids her mother
good-bye,
Promising to be good and kind, yes, she shall
try,
Then off to school she happily goes
Looking both ways as each street is crossed.

At eight she quietly marches to her seat
Sits back to back, very prim and neat.
To her teacher's talk with interest she lis-
tens,
And does her work with much diligence.

At dismissal time, she starts for home
Never lingering on the way, you may be
sure.
She eats her lunch and back to school again,
She is never late. She is always on time.

At four in the afternoon, Fely happily
plays,
For well she knows, that plenty of exercise
Helps make her healthy and very wise,
And cheerful, and active, and very nice.

Directly home, at five she cheerfully goes
And for her mother dear, she does some
chores,
At supper time, a very happy hour,
She eats food that gives health and power.

The evening is such a happy time
She prepares all lessons, yes, Sir, every line,
But when the clock strikes half-past eight
She washes herself and brushes her teeth.

Before the clock strikes nine, she changes
her clothes,
And her bedroom window, wide-open she
throws,
After saying her prayers, she drops off to
sleep
To dream sweet memories in her slumber
deep.

MAKING MOTHER BEAUTIFUL *(Continued from page 303)*

Mechanically, he rose and led Mother to
her place.

"Mina," Father said proudly, "your
mother is more beautiful now than when
she was young."

Mother's eyes sparkled.

"Mina caused the change, Dear. She has

been doing most of the house work. I can
find time now to rest and pay attention to
my looks."

"It is because of the pink *terno*, too,"
Father thought. It occurred to him that
he had not bought new clothes for Mother
for many years.

"My mother is beautiful. Flora is
right," Mina thought.