

## The Midwife.

### JOY BELLS.

Come, rock the cradle for Him,  
Come, in the crib adore Him,  
Dull care, I pray you, bury,  
And in the Lord make merry,  
Sweet little Jesu, sweet little Jesu.

One of the joys of this Christmas will be that, for the first time in the lives of many little children, they can make merry without the sinister shadow of war being flung across the Christmas festival, and the grown-ups can enter unfeignedly into their merriment, without anxiety gnawing at

a place in which children—all children, not the favoured few—shall be well born and have space, light, air, food sufficient for their needs, and that through their young lives the joy bells shall ring—those bells whose sound is so often stilled by the harshness and the injustices and the cruelties of humankind. Let us cherish the joy-bells, and do everything in our power to make melody for all with whom we come in contact, and especially for the little children.

"It is a comely fashion to be glad,  
Joy is the grace we say to God."



MOTHERHOOD—A CHRISTMAS GIFT.

their hearts and without listening for the dreaded knock accompanied by

"Just a little scrap of paper  
In a yellow envelope,  
And the whole world is a ruin,  
Even Hope "

As the joy-bells fling their message over the countryside this Christmas—the bells which have been silent for four years on Christmas night—and as we kneel in adoration at the crib of the Christ Child—"Sweet little Jesu, sweet little Jesu"—we shall surely record a vow each one of us that so far as in us lies we will help to make the world

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPEECH.

Dr. W. E. Robinson, in his book on "Baby Welfare," published by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, says that "Speech develops slowly. At quite an early age—four months about—the infant crones to itself. A little later it begins to imitate sounds of words, and at about nine months it learns to respond with such words as 'ta,' 'dada' and 'mama.' In many babies, and especially when there are other children in the nursery, stringing together of words begins at about thirteen months. Where there is but one child, however, this stringing together of words is postponed to sixteen or eighteen months, or even later."

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