

# MAKE-BELIEVE CHILDHOOD

MAKE-BELIEVE.—By H. D. Lowry. Illustrated by Charles Robinson. 16mo. John Lane. \$1.50.

FROM *Women's Tragedies* to *Make-Believe* is a long step. It is no easy task to write of children, when we have already the *Child's Garden* and *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Golden Age*. Mr. William Canton and Mrs. Meynell are now in the field. Mr. Lowry is hardly an improvement as an interpreter of childhood.

Doubtless there was a little Doris in a Cornish garden by the sea, and with her Mr. Lowry may have hunted for hidden treasure and contrived fairy tales, and heard lovely music, and passed many an idle hour. But Doris, as we find her in the book, is not a child. She is not even Mr. Lowry's memory of childhood. She is Mr. Lowry caught on the instant, or rather one side of Mr. Lowry's nature. His introspective moments he has (perhaps unconsciously) translated into dialogue. Doris is his quiet moods, his gentle regret for the golden age, his hours of weariness with the town, a kind of wistful cynicism which makes fairyland his ideal of social structure. This is all very prettily set forth to the accompaniment of Mr. Robinson's drawings, which are a real ornament to the text.

The only technical flaw in the book is Doris's speech. She voices Mr. Lowry's simplest thoughts, but in his most careful phrasing. Her vocabulary is too extensive, and she never uses colloquial contractions.

If Doris be not a real child, she will nevertheless prove to many a very winning figure.