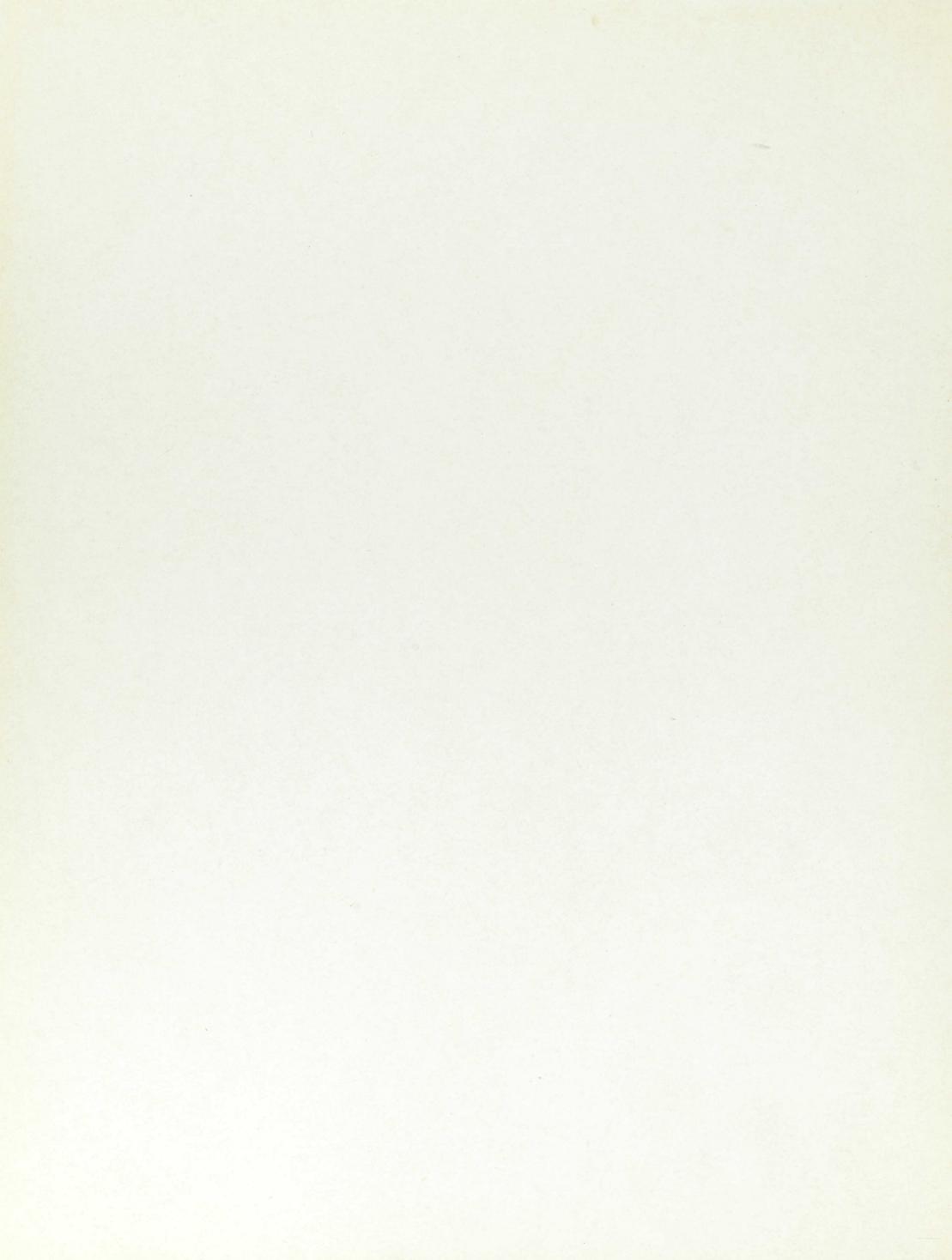
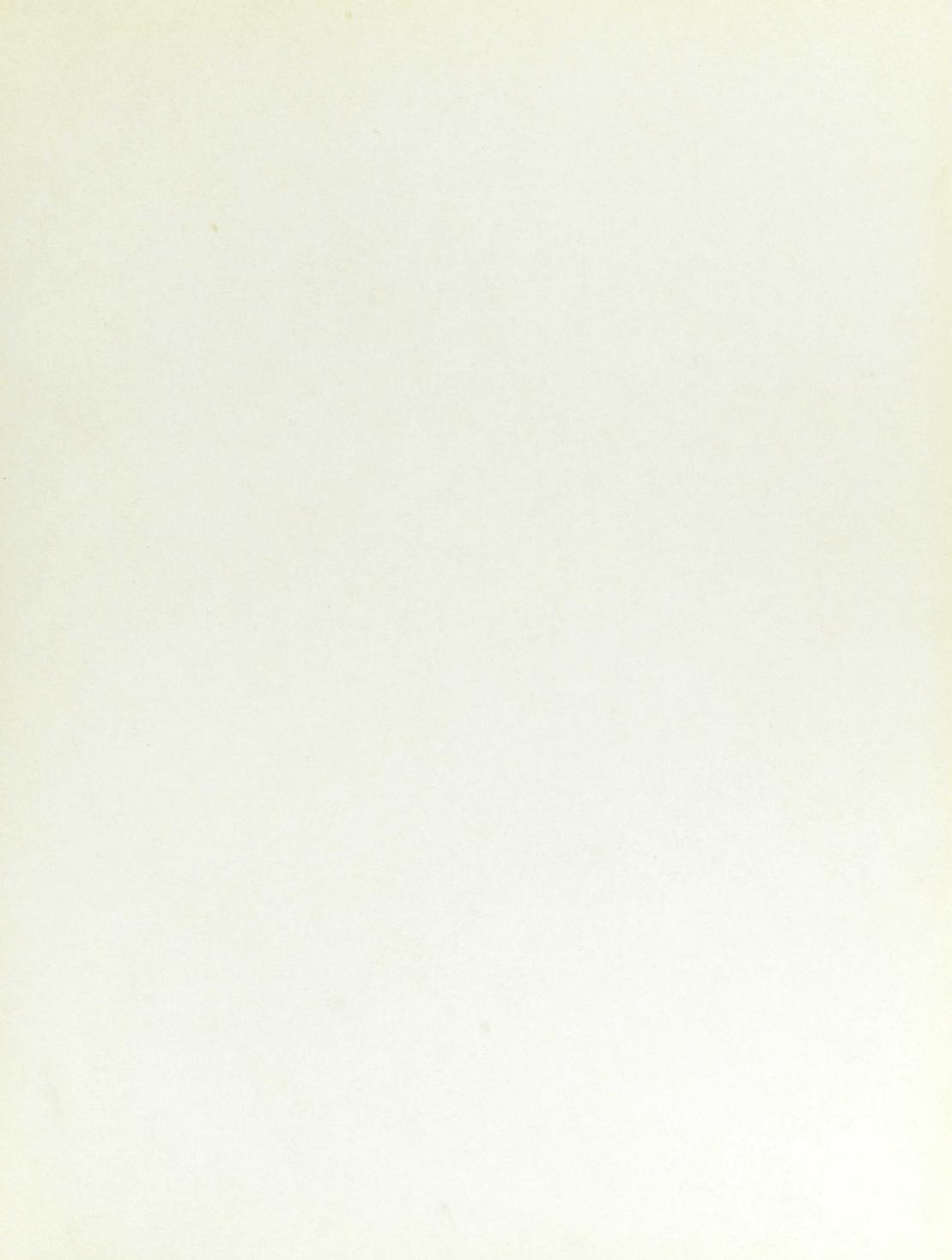


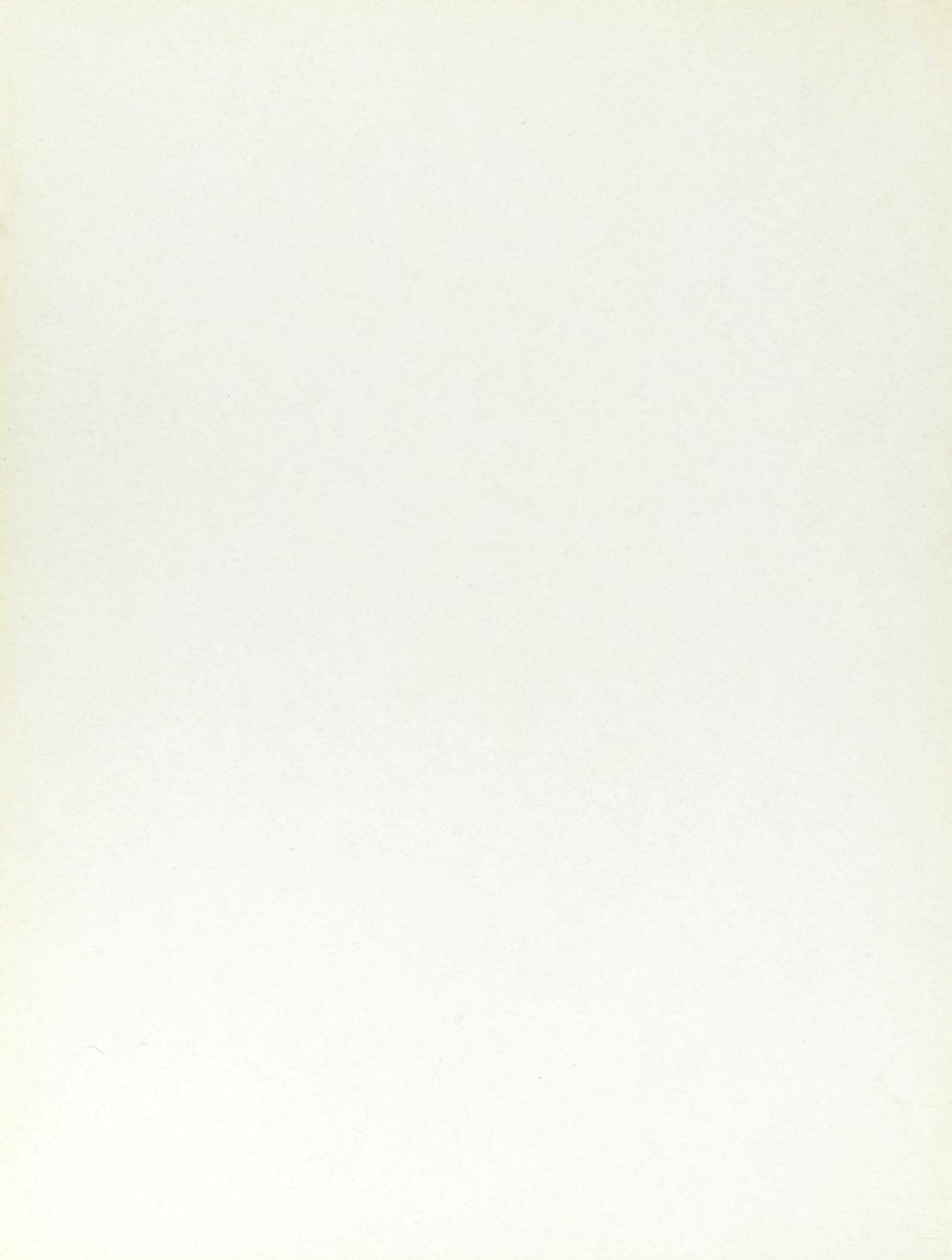


To dear Cebell & Madge With love from Aunt Evra.

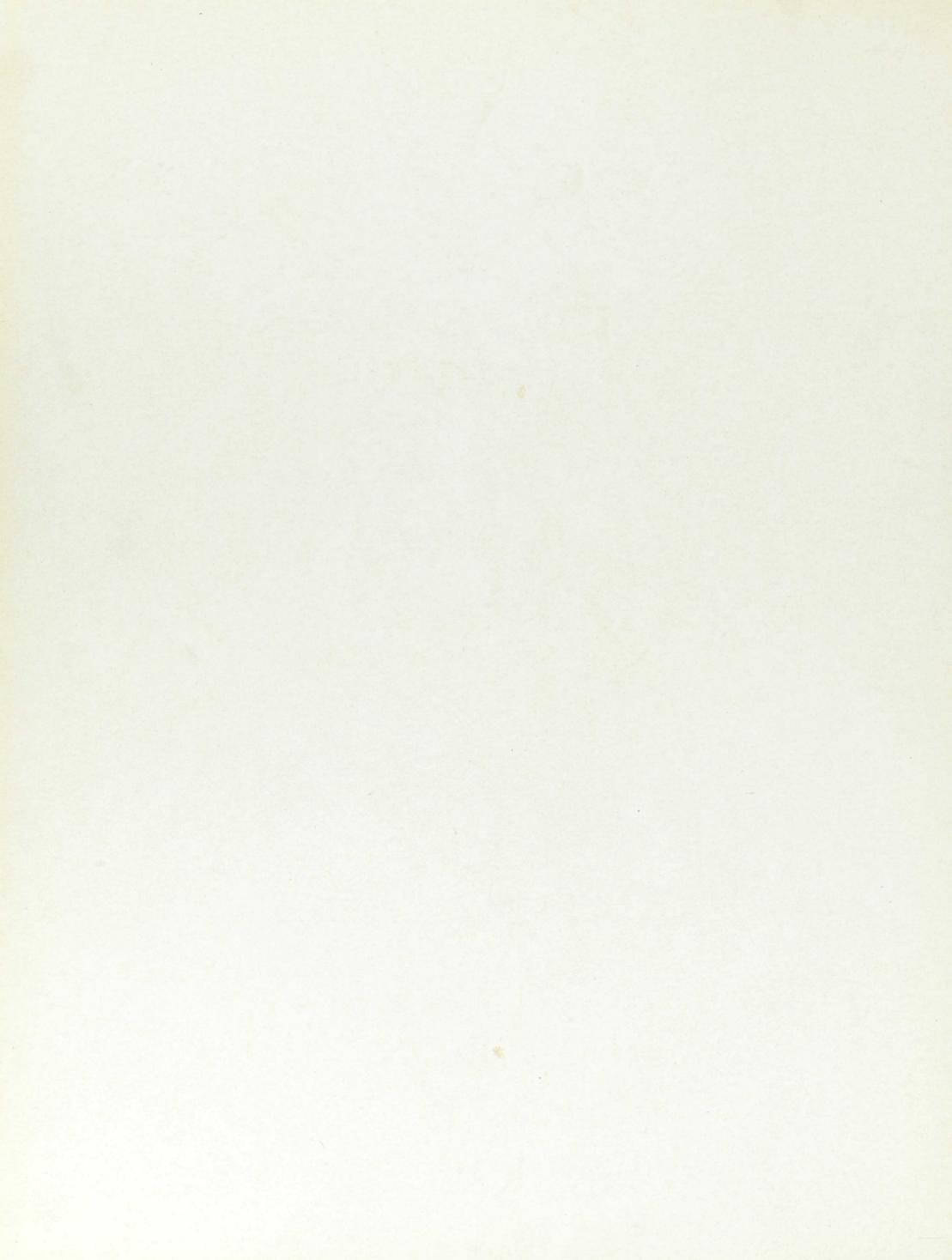
Lucas 1907.







NURSERY SONGS

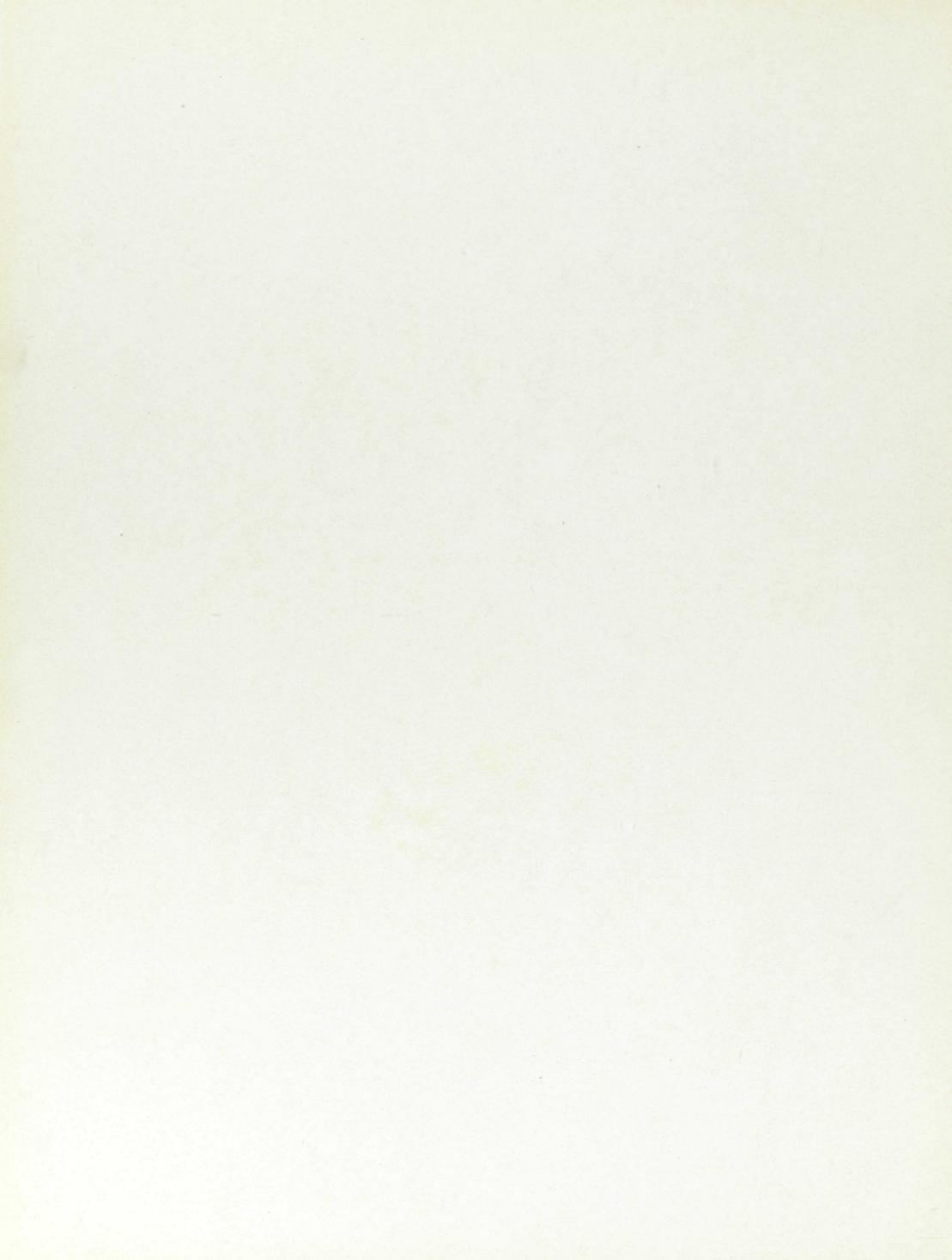


THIRTY OLD-TIME NURSERY SONGS

ARRANGED BY
JOSEPH MOORAT
& PICTURED BY
PAUL WOODROFFE

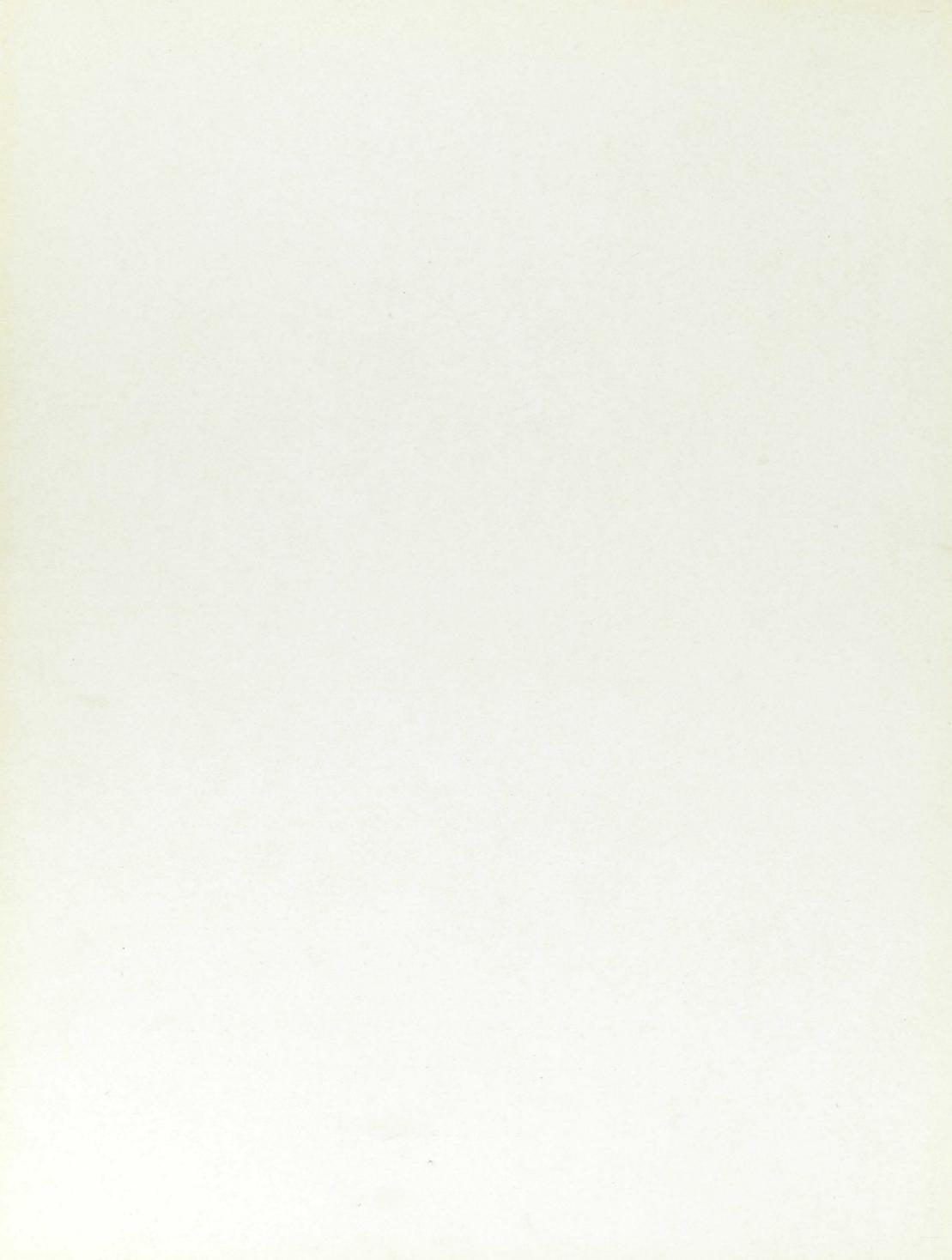


LONDON T.C.& E.C.JACK
NEW YORK
FREDERICK A. STOKES C9





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PREFACE

HE majority of English nursery rhymes are folk-songs which instead of remaining local have become national. But in spite of this wide popular usage, their origin remains obscure, and in hardly a single instance is it possible to show that any one of the numerous versions which have come down to us is the original and authentic form. And, as this is true of the words, so also is it true of the

music. In some cases, we find that antecedent versions of both music and words have been on record as far back as the beginning of the seventeenth century, but more often these have not found their way into print until comparatively recent times: nor does an early dated version give proof of being nearer the original than a form more lately recorded. In the case of the 'game-songs,' for instance, which are so large a feature of our nursery rhymes, as many as twenty versions of certain songs, obviously deriving from a common origin, have been found to exist, all bearing the racy mark of traditional usage.

Under these circumstances, it is useless to attempt to put forward those earlier and quainter variants which happen to have found their way into seven-teenth-century song-books as more authentic than those of present currency. It is an essential condition of folk-song that it takes its inflection from oral tradition; and the changes that have befallen during the last century (apart from the sophisticated polishing of modern editors) are as valuable a proof that the form is still living and indigenous as those which occurred three hundred years ago.

In the present work the editors have chosen freely those versions which seemed the best for conveying to our own day the blitheness and charm which gave their nucleus of life to the older forms. Below is given a list of the works upon reference to which the present selection is based.

In every case tunes containing some traditional element have been chosen, but where, in the case of 'Hey diddle-diddle,' no such material seemed to exist, it has seemed better to be frankly original than to give merely a new setting of melodies independently composed.

The editor's special thanks are due to Mr. C. Kennedy Scott for his scholarly research in this connection, and for the aid of his fine critical judgment on all musical points.

"Dictionary of British Folk-Lore": G. L. Gomme. "English Songs": Ritson (1783). "Nursery Rhymes of England": Halliwell (1846). "Popular Nursery Rhymes": Halliwell. "Nursery Rhymes": Rimbault. "The Dancing-Master": Playford (1718). "Wit and Humour": D'Urfey (1719). "Pills to Purge Melan-choly": D'Urfey. "Old English Popular Music": W. Chappell.





- 2 Dame, what makes your maidens lie? &c
- 3 Dame, what makes your ducks to die? &c
- Their wings are cut, they cannot fly, &c











- O my little fourpence, pretty little fourpence, I love fourpence better than my life; I spent a penny of it, I lent another, And I took twopence home to my wife.
- O my little tuppence, pretty little tuppence, I love tuppence better than my life; I spent a penny of it, and I lent the other, And I took nothing home to my wife.
- O my little nothing, my pretty little nothing,
 What will nothing buy for my wife?

 I have nothing, I spend nothing;
 I love nothing better than my wife.



"I've been to the ducks that are swimming in the pond, And they won't come no how to the killing, Mrs. Bond; I cried dilly, dilly, dilly, come"&c.

Mrs. Bond went down to the pond in a rage,
With plenty of onions and plenty of sage;
She cried, "Come, you little wretches, come, and be killed,
For you shall be stuffed, and my customers filled!"











The King was in his counting-house counting out his money;
The Queen was in the parlour eating bread and honey;
The maid was in the garden hanging out the clothes,
There came a little dicky-bird, and pecked off her nose.





- O! there is sweet Music on yonder green hill, O!
 And you shall be a dancer, a dancer in yellow,
 All in yellow, all in yellow." said the crow to the frog, & then O!
 "All in yellow, all in yellow." said the frog to the crow again, O!
- Farewell, ye little fishes, that in the river swim; O!

 I go to be a dancer, a dancer in yellow."

 "O beware! O beware!" said the fish to the frog, & then O!

 "I'll take care, I'll take care." said the frog to the fish again, O!
- The frog began a swimming, a swimming to land, O!

 The crow began a hopping to give him his hand, O!

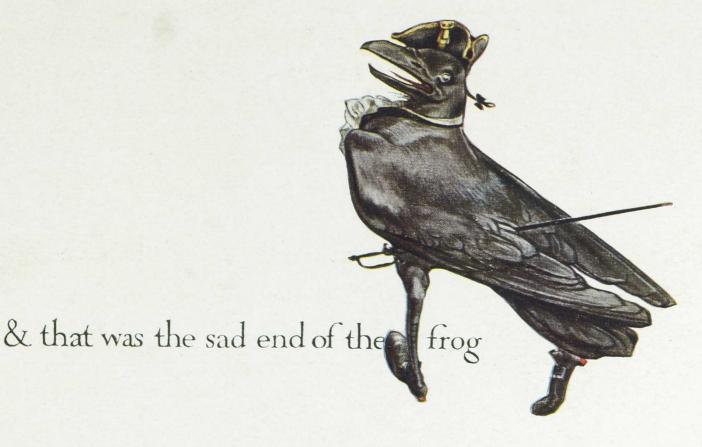
 "Sir, you're welcome, Sir, you're welcome." said the crow * frog. & then O!

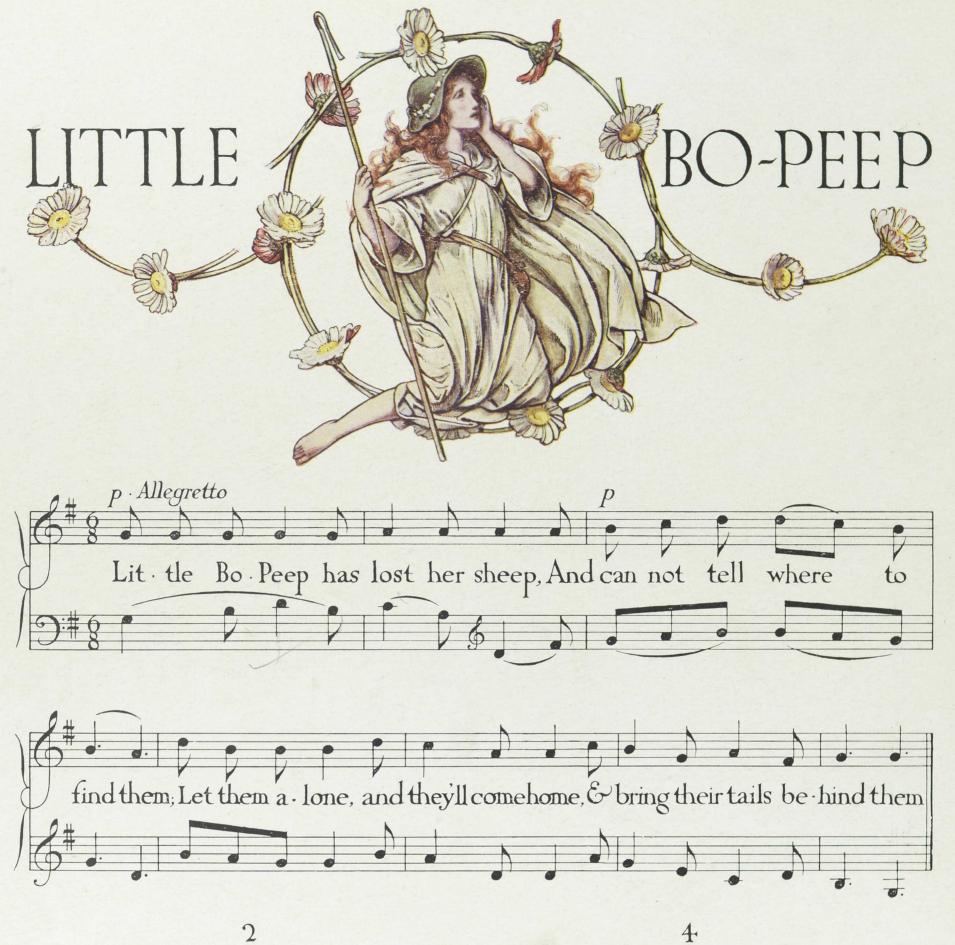
 "Sir, I thank you, Sir, I thank you, "said the frog to the crow again, O!
- But where is the music on yonder green hill, O?

 And where are all the dancers, the dancers in yellow?

 All in yellow, all in yellow? "said the frog to the crow, & then O!

 But he chuckled, O! he chuckled, & then O!! & then O!!!





Little BoPeep fell fast asleep, And dreamt she heard them bleating; Into a meadow hard by, But when she awoke, she found it a joke, There she espied their tails side by side, For they were still a-fleeting.

It happened one day, as Bo-Peep did stray

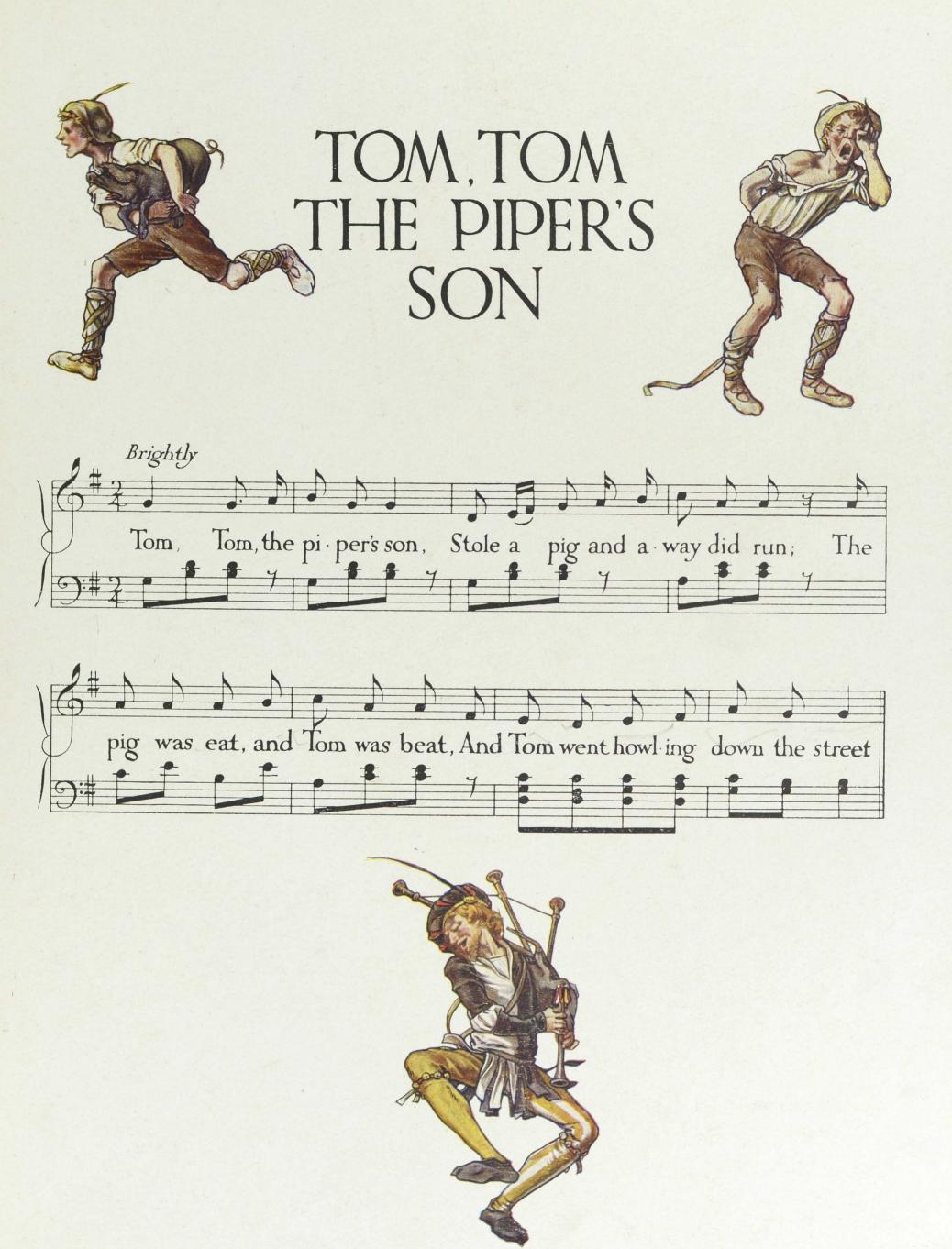
All hung on a tree to dry.

3

Then up she took her little crook, Determined for to find them, She found them indeed, but it made her heart bleed, For they'd left their tails behind 'em. She heaved a sigh and wiped her eye, Then went o'er hill and dale-o,

And did what she could, as a shepherdess should.

lo tack to each sheep its tail-o!









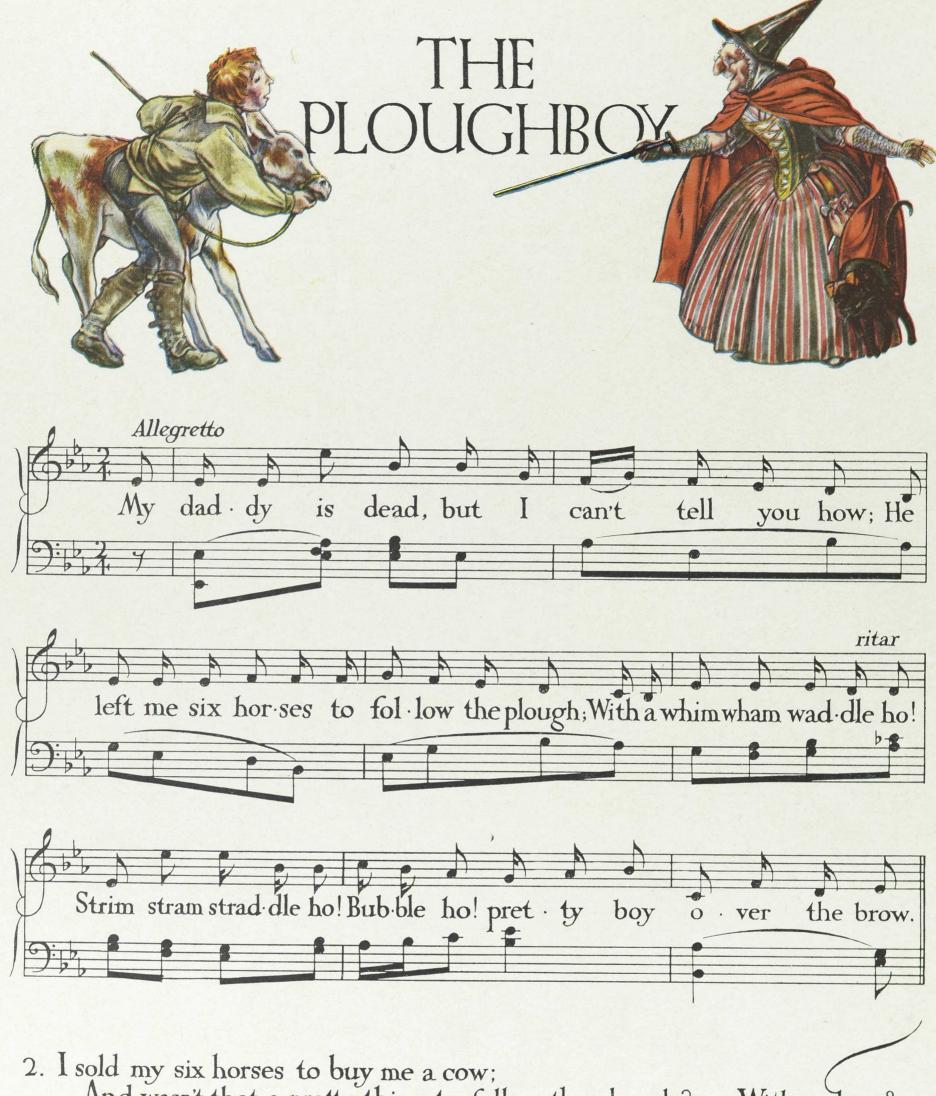
The four-and-twenty sailors
That stood between the decks,
Were four-and-twenty white mice
With rings about their necks.

The captain was a duck, a duck, With a jacket on his back, And when the fairy ship set sail, The captain he said, "Quack!"









And wasn't that a pretty thing to follow the plough? With a whim,&c.

3. I sold my cow to buy me a calf;

But I ne'er made a bargain but I lost the best half. With a whim, &c.

4. I sold my calf to buy me a cat,

To sit by my fire and warm her little back. With a whim wham, &c.

5. I sold my cat to buy me a mouse, She took fire in her tail, and so burnt down my house. With a whim,&c



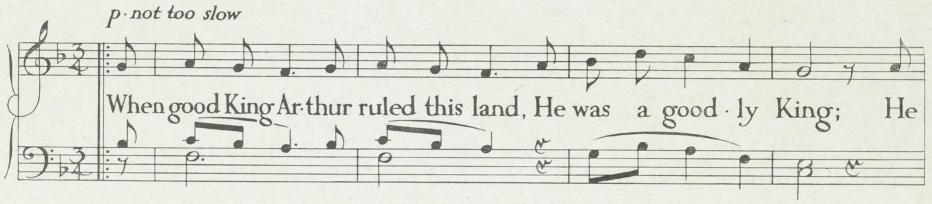
Pray Mary, what are you weeping for, A-weeping for, a-weeping for? — Pray—etc.

I'm weeping for a sweetheart, A sweetheart, a sweetheart. I'm weeping—etc.

Pray Mary, choose your lover, Your lover, your lover — Pray Mary, choose, etc.









A bag pudding the Queen did make,
And stuffed it well with plums,
And in it put great lumps of fat —
As big as my two thumbs.

The King and Queen did eat thereof,
And noblemen beside,
And what they could not eat that night
The Queen next morning fried.





- He came at last to a farmer's yard,

 Where the ducks and geese declared it hard,

 That their sleep should be broken & their rest be marr'd

 By a visit from Mr. Fox O!
- He took the grey goose by the sleeve;

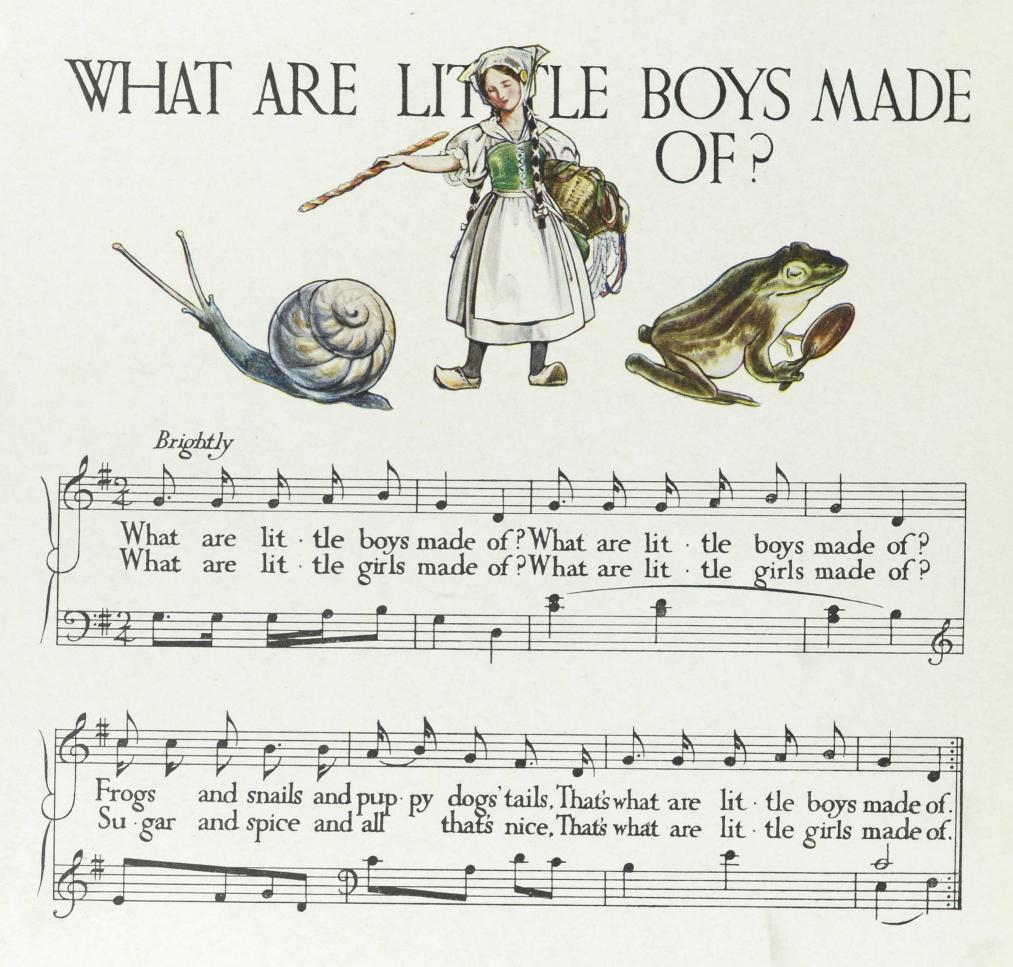
 Quoth he "Madam Goose, now, by your leave,
 I'll take you away without reprieve,

 And carry you off to my den O!
- Old Mother Slipper Sloppers jumped out of bed,
 And out of the window she popped her head,
 "Run, John, run! the grey goose has gone,
 And the fox is off to his den O!
- John ran up to the top o' the hill,

 And blew a blast both loud and shrill;

 Says the fox "That is very pretty music, still —

 I'd rather be home at my den O!
- At last he got home to his snug den,
 To his seven little foxes, eight, nine, ten;
 Says he. 'Just see, what I've brought with me,
 With its legs all dangling down O!
- He sat him down with his hungry wife;
 They did very well without fork or knife;
 They ne'er ate a better gooze in all their life,
 And the little ones picked the bones O!



- What are young men made of?
 What are young men made of?
 Sighs and leers, and crocodile tears
 That's what our young men are made of.
- What are young women made of?

 What are young women made of?

 Ribbons and laces, and sweet pretty faces,

 That's what are young women made of.





And what do you think was in them then, In them then, in them then, And what do you think was in them then, On Christmas Day in the morning?

Three pretty girls were in them then, In them then, in them then, Three pretty girls were in them then, On Christmas Day in the morning.

And one could whistle, & one could sing, The other play on the violin; Such joy was there at my wedding, On Christmas Day in the morning.







