M.J. Doyle, Oct. 14, 1900 [observing a 5-year-old]

R. was playing with a kitten. He took his picture book and showed it the picture of a dog and said “dog, dog” as if to frighten the kitten.

Nellie Egan, Oct. 28 [observing a 5-year-old]

Florence tried to assist a child of three years down some steps. First she tried to carry her and, and in failing in that she sat down on the steps and showed her how to push herself down by sitting on every step and sliding to the next one.

M.E. Finneran, Oct. 28 1902 [observing a 13-year-old]

W. used 7 different gestures in telling me about an accident he saw.

Katherine C. Flood, Dec. 9, 1902 [observing a 16-month-old]

When Alice was learning to creep she would not creep on the bare floor, but when in a room where there was a carpet on the floor she would creep as long as she was let. It was the same when walking, but for a few days after she learnt this she would walk on a strip of carpet in the kitchen. Now she walks on both.
E. G. Goecin, Feb. 12, 1902 [observing an almost-4-year-old]

Instead of sledding down a little hill in the yard, Richard goes to a level part of the yard, lies down flat on his sled with his feet dragging behind and walks his way all around the yard, by pushing his feet into the snow. He enjoys this very much, and is was his own idea as far as we know.

Mary Haire, Jan 30, 1903 [observing a 10-year-old]

Daniel has been taking library book almost all this school year, but has shown no interest in them. Last Monday he took “Robin Hood” from the library for the second time. The first time, he had all the boys in the neighborhood acting out Robin Hood, but read very little of it. This time he is reading it, and is so interested that he hates to give it up to eat or go to bed, etc. Since Monday, he seems to be living in an atmosphere of “Robin Hood.” He calls himself and wants us to call him “Robin Hood.” He likes to name, especially at table, the people present after people in this book. He calls his school mates in this way also; for example he knows a boy named Arthur, and so he calls him Arthur A [accent] Bland, etc.

Daniel is usually rather bashful when strangers are around but I had a girl friend stay over night at the house this week, and was surprised to see Daniel get his book of Robin Hood, show it to her and talk to her about it. I heard him telling her that he liked this book ever so much better than “Robinson Crusoe”. He seems to think of “Robin Hood [no end quotes] as a great hero. He says “he was a great fighter.”

K. A. Kelley, Oct 7, 1901 [observing a 9-year-old]

This child is nine years old and in the third grade, but is not really intelligent enough to be there. She is a very active child and a good talker but does not seem to make much progress in school. In her play around the house she is more like a five year old child.

She got up at eight o’clock and had her breakfast. At nine I began to observe her. She took her doll to play with. After undressing her doll, scold- it for going to bed with its clothes on, and again dressing it, she got tired of of it and turned her attention to to the cat. She teased it for a while and when it refused to put on one of her aprons for a dress she slapped it and shut it up in the entry. At 9.45 she went into one of the bedrooms and fifteen minutes later I heard her talking to herself. I went in and pretended to look for something, all the time taking particular notice of
what she did. She had a long skirt tucked around her and, with a ruler in her hand, was giving John Green a severe scolding for talking out loud.

“You childrens make me tired to death with your ‘boisrousness’” she said in a very great passion.

She got tired of this after severely punishing john and pushing him in a corner.

At 10.15 I saw her moving her fingers along the back of a chair as if playing on a piano. She sang stanzas of several different national songs and after this tried to teach someone the scale. She soon tired of singing and from 10.30 until 11.30, when I ended my observation, she was writing and drawing on small scraps of paper and putting them in different piles.

M. F. Smith, March 13, 1903 [observing an 11-year-old and a 12-year-old]

During the past year Jack had grown very fat. He has also grown strong especially in his arms. His hair grows very fast. He throws his body around when he moves. He wastes a lot of energy this way. He wears out his trousers fast; he has to have new ones about twice a month. He also wears out his shoes in about a month. He is said to be “lazy.” I think that this means that he forgets to do the “chores.” And rides in the cars instead of walking; that he seldom runs; that he lies sprawled out on the floor etc… He eats a great deal but does not care for a variety of things.

He wants to know exactly what a thing means. A short definition of a word does not suit him. He reads evenings; newspapers (advertisements) and stories of adventure interest him.

He generally has some silly phrase which he repeats at all times. It seems to run in his head. He often answers a direct question by this phrase which he has no bearing on the subject. He also sings songs that he knows well, out of tune.

He puts whatever money he earns in his pocket and generally carries it there until his mother advises him to put it into his bank. He seldom spends any of his money.

He looks up to his elder brother with great respect. He quarrels with this brother as often as a subject presents itself however. In the end he generally minds this brother.

Hilda E. Holmes, Oct 13, 1900 [reminiscence of the writer at 2.5 years old]

I remember sitting in a wheel barrow; somebody must have been giving me a ride. I think it was my uncle, for I asked him if I ever used to ride so, and he said I often did; I used to tell him to give me a ride. Well, I can’t remember any thing, hardly, only a grey board fence, and, as I was
being moved quickly along, I had a sudden tip over, and back again. I didn’t fall out; I just remember that side tip towards the grey board fence, and no more.

Sadie E. Luce, June 14, 1902 [reminiscence of the writer at 6 years old]

When I was small I used to enjoy walking with my toes turned in. I also liked to look cross-eyed and to stretch my mouth into odd shapes. My mother tried to scare me by telling me that I might always be that way if I looked cross-eyed. This made me stop walking and twisting my eyes and my mouth.

Mary E. Lahey, Dec 5 1902 [reminiscence of the writer at 8 or 9 years old]

I remember that when I was about eight or nine years old I used to often feel glad that I wasn’t born another girl that I knew instead of myself because that girl might die first.

N.M. Silk, April 16, 1903 [observing a 9- or 10-year-old]

It was between the ages of eight and ten years that I first heard the words, “guilty” or “not guilty.”

These words were used something to the effect, “He pleaded guilty [no end quote] or “The boy said he was not guilty.” I wondered at that time what was meant by “guilty” and “not guilty. [no end quotes]

I also wondered what I should do or say if I had occasion to use these words. I remember distinctly that after I once heard these words I kept saying over and over again sometimes to myself, sometimes aloud, “guilty” or “not guilty”.

J.C. Burdett, Jan 11, 1904 [no age given of observed child]

Last week I chanced to pass by the house in which I lived when I was five years old and I was surprised to see how small it looked. It seemed to me that it used to be three or four times as large as it is now.

Mrs. Power, October 5, 1900 [observing a 2-year-old]
L. can say only a few words. He fell on the floor and struck his head. When he got up he tried to say something to Mrs. P. She did not understand him and asked him what he was saying. Then L. pointed to the spot where he had fallen and got down and put his head on this spot.

Katherine E. Kerrigan

[it is written that the observer is “Mrs. Power,” but the entry us signed “Katherine E. Kerrigan”]

Mrs. P. Driscoll, March 7, 1903 [observing a 10-year-old]

G. has begun to take a great interest in keeping her teeth clean. Her mother says she brushes them about six times a day. She brushes them everytime she eats anything, no matter how small it may be.

S. Donaher

[it is written that the observer is “Mrs. P. Driscoll,” but the entry us signed “S. Donaher”]

Sadie E. Luce, March 26, 1902, [observing children ages 5-12]

I have noticed lately that children when they are alone and playing often talk to themselves. When my brother was four years old he used to play and talk so that we often thought he had some one with him, because he used a different tone of voice. I saw a girl playing and talking as though she had another girl with her, I have seen children along on the street and talking to themselves.

Ida L. Whalen, June 3, 1902 [observing a 4-year-old]

When H.W. is going to use the word “too” he always makes it the first word in the sentence. I heard him say, “Too, and I had some candy”. He always uses “too” in that way.

Mary E. Lahey, Sept 23, 1902 [observing a 3-year-old]

I noticed that when Alice was angry at any person or object she will find some word that rhymes with its names and repeat it over and over, for instance when she gets angry with the cat she will say, “you old cat bat, cat bat, cat bat”, saying it louder each time.
N.M. Silk, Nov. 1, 1902 [observing an 8-year-old]

For the past few weeks I have been interested in J. who seems to add a new word or phrase each week to her vocabulary. When she learns new words or phrases she uses them continually or until she acquires another new one. She uses them correctly however.

This week I noticed that she uses this phrase often, “that is to say”.

Last week she was fond of using the phrase “I couldn’t say for sure”. Lately I have noticed that she tries to use all the phrases she hears; that is to say she does not drop them according as she learns a new one.

L.M. Brooks, Sept 24, 1901 [observing E.C., about age 6]

Form. Medium size; small thin arms, neither stout or very thin.

Head and Face. Square head, very prominent forehead
upper forward part of head very large,
bright eyes,
very white skin

Movement and Postures. Quick, sharp movements, very nervous, seldom still,
hands and arms move in speech.

Health. Not well,
sickness with brain trouble,
very active in play
restless in sleep – apt to talk in sleep.

Intelligence. Bright in lessons especially “number” work, says it is “easier than reading. [no end quotes]
Makes very old saying,
Repeats what she he or others say.
Uses large words, usually correctly.

Disposition. A very good child almost morbidly so.
Very emotional.

Additional. She has no or almost no young playmates, having no brothers or sisters.
Her mother has a disposition very much like E’s – She is very nervous, and quick in her actions.
Her head is shaped like her father’s.
Margaret E. Lahey, Oct. 3, 1902 [observing I., age unknown]

*Form.* C is very large in stature. He cannot be over 15 years old, but is as tall as a full grown man. He is very thin, perhaps due, as people say, to insufficient food. He seems to be very strong, I have seen him dragging 5 or 6 children at once.

*Head and Face.* His head seems to be very long compared to its width and is bent forward. The most prominent feature of his face is his nose which is very long and red, His eyes are very small I hardly ever saw them fully opened, I think. His complexion is pressy clear, but his whole appearance is far from pleasant.

* Movements and Postures.* I noticed that C. rolled his eyes very much and whenever I saw him he always had his mouth open. I also noticed that when he walks he seems to move his head a great deal. Whenever I saw him he was always running; it seems as if he never got tired.

*Health.* C. seems to be very healthy. He is out-doors in both good and bad weather. His cheeks are very red, but the rest of his face is of a clear white. I noticed that he is very fond of candy, and when he has it he never share with his companions. I don’t think he can sleep very much for I have heard him shouting at 11 o’clock at night.

*Intelligence.* I have often asked C. questions but he don’t seem to understand them unless they are repeated a number of times and very slowly. He talks in a very queer way and seems to run his words together. He tries to imitate horses, trotting about and trying to neigh.

*Disposition.* He is very easy going if left to himself, but if anyone makes fun of him he seems to understand it. He then begins to throw stones at them and will tease them in every way he can. I have often seen him abused, but I never saw him cry no matter how badly he was hurt. He seems to value the opinion of his parents.

*Additional.* He loves to be seen upon an electric car. Sometimes the conductors allow him to ring the bell which privilege he greatly enjoys.

C. seems to love flowers. I have often seen him on a very hot day ploughing through the dusty streets with a bunch of flowers held tightly in his hand; he appears to be smiling down on them often.

Clara M. Healy, March 4-21 [observing Leo H., 7 years old]

Leo is seven years old and is in the third grade in school. Since i came to the Normal School I have watched him much more closely that i did before, and I feel as if I understand him a little better. He is the youngest of four children and I think he has been somewhat spoiled not only by being petted and made a great deal of but also by being “bossed” by the older ones.
He receives a great deal of attention from everyone at home and especially from his mother, who it seems to me is too lenient with him. He is an impulsive child, quick to answer, and when he gets angry no amount of scolding does any good. It is necessary then either to coax him into good humor or to let him alone until he gets over it himself. I have seen his older brother make him laugh when he was kicking the legs of the table in anger; as soon as he began to laugh he kicked harder saying “I was showing you how my horse kicks.”

His teacher has no trouble with him in school.

His mother says he never was hard to manage until his brother and sister began to boss him.

He likes to be at the head when playing and I notice that he prefers to play with younger boys than he.

I see him all the time except when at school.

I am the one to whom he usually comes when anything goes wrong.

Monday. March 3.

This morning Leo went to school crying because he had to wear rubbers. When he came him this noon his feet were wet and he said the water went over his rubbers, but I feel sure the water did not go over them accidentally.

He asked me before he went to school which was the worst swear, “Gee whiz” or “Son of a sea cook.” I told him I knew nothing about such words as those and he said, “You would if you were a boy.”

After supper tonight he asked his father to play marbles. They played four or five games in which he was very enthusiastic. I noticed when he hit a marble in the ring he was in great glee. He told his father to be careful and not hit out too many because that would be “gambling”.

The last thing he asked me tonight was if I’d have a game of marbles before school in the morning.

When he was going to sleep we were playing on the piano. He said to his mother, “I always liked the piano but I never liked the “kittar”.

Tuesday. March. 4.

Leo gets up in the morning the minute he hears anyone around. This morning he got up as soon as he heard his father and began to play marbles.
Tonight I heard him asking his mother if Russia was a city; When she told him it was a country he asked if it was in this city; then he wanted to know if it was in this world.

I am helping him this week with his number work. His teacher says he is very careless. I never saw him more restless than he was tonight. I couldn’t get him to sit down to do an example; he said he wanted to stand up so I let him. He won’t do anything unless I shut the door “so no one can hear.” He can’t seem to take his time doing an example but hurries and makes many mistakes. I noticed that four or five times tonight he skipped the sixties altogether and when adding a number less than ten to fifty something he called the answer seventy something. The first three examples he did were wrong. The fourth I helped him with but he hurried at the end and got it wrong. The fifth I did with him pretending not to be able to keep up to him and in that way got him to go slower. He got the fifth right, and immediately threw himself on the floor kicked up his legs and laughed. I thought he was tired so I told him we would do some more tomorrow. He said, “I guess I’ll be permoted [typo] after all, only I got ter [typo] go slow.” He usually likes to be rocked before he goes to sleep. To night he went to bed without saying anything about it. He took the old paper on which he had been doing the examples to bed with him and said he would show them to his teacher tomorrow. It seems to me to be nervousness that makes him hurry.

Wednesday. March 5.

Leo played marbles the first thing this morning. When he was washing his hands he said he wished they didn’t have to write with ink in school; I was surprised to hear him say this for three or four days ago he was delighted at the idea of using ink. He said the boy beside him was a horrid writer and made blots on the page and he added, “I was tickled to my wits when he made a blot.”

Tonight Leo played with his jack knife and I saw nothing of his marbles. He got his report and got a D in number; he told his mother not to tell his brother and sisters. When he saw she was feeling badly he said, “That’s the way they mark now, you get a D once and the next time you get A. [no end quotes] Tonight he did very poorly with his number; he didn’t seem to want to write down the example even.

Last night he told me that his teacher tang the bell for them to sit in order and just as she was ringing it the gong rang. I did not min him telling it, but tonight he repeated it asking if I didn’t think it was funny.

Leo did not play marbles until tonight, I noticed that he was very enthusiastic over the first two
games but in the third he was more careless in his playing and didn't seem to care where the
marbles went. He did not win one game and when his brother had “skun” all from him he said,
“There’s one boy in my schoolyard and he hasn’t won a game yet, I can beat him dead easy.”

He usually brings his examples home and I help him with them. Tonight I asked if he brought
them; he did not answer although I asked him three times. I thought I’d wait to see what he’d
say. I sat down in the rocking chair and he came over and asked me to rock him, then he said,
I’m too tired to do examples. I again asked if he brought them home and he began to tell me
about sliding after school. I think perhaps he’ll tell me tomorrow about the examples; I’m pretty
sure something went wrong with his examples in school.

Friday. March 8.

When I was coming home I met Leo and the children playing. I heard him screaming, “All right
if you won’t let me be the policeman I’ll go home”.

When I asked him if he brought home his examples he said, “I got a perfect paper today but I
thought I wouldn’t mind bringing it home.

Saturday. March 9

Leo told my mother that Carl must be rich because every day he had turkey.

He told me tonight that my suit came. I said “all right”. Because I didn’t go in at once to see it he
began to spell that word “suit”.

He has a habit of kicking. Tonight his father was scolding him for it. When he had finished Leo
began to dance around the table apparently unconscious of what had been said.

Monday. March 11.

Yesterday when Leo came home from church he was very cross. His mother said she guessed it
did him no good to go to church. He said, “Well what good does it do anyway, I didn’t see them
do anything to make you good.”

He had new rubbers and because they were dull rubber he didn’t like them; he said new rubbers
ought to be shiny.

He repeated the word “afternoon” four or five times, then he said, “that means after dinner”.

He saw me walking home with a girl whom he did not know, and he said “I thought she was the
girl upstairs”. Then he added, “don’t she?”

His cousin gave him a pack of cigarette cards. His father told him he had better throw them away
as they were dirty. He began to scream at the thought of losing them.

This morning he counted them and one was missing; he hunted every where for it and talked a
great deal about it all day.

The greater part of this afternoon Leo played with his express cart. Most of the time it was the
“Boston Store automobile” but I heard him call it “Modern Merchandise”.

Tuesday. March 12.

This morning I heard Leo say he wasn’t going to play marbles anymore because the boys steal
the marbles away.

At the supper table if anyone asks for water he asks.

Leo and Gertie were putting on their rubbers; Leo said, “I bet I’ll beat you getting ‘em on.”

Gertie got hers on first and Leo said, “I told you yours would be on first”. He was not laughing
but seemed to mean what he said.


Today I noticed Leo played with his marbles although he said he wasn’t going to play any more.

He told me this morning that he heard “echo”. I asked him where and he said in the woods. He
asked me if I ever heard him and if he always said the same thing ot me that I hollered at him.

Thursday. March 14.

Before Leo was dressed this morning he was counting his marbles. He keeps them in a bag and
counts them often. He told me he had twenty and when I said that was a good many he said, “Oh
no! Edwin has got most a hundred.”

He heard of a little boy who was almost drowned but was pulled out by a man. He said to me,
“Yes, Daniel is a hero, he fell in and was most drowned.”
There were some pussy willows on the table; Leo was alone in the room and as I looked in I saw him fondling the pussies, I heard him saying a few minutes afterwards “Pussy willow wake from your winter sleep” I think he is learning this poem in school.

Friday. March 15.

Today, Leo seemed cross all day. He wouldn’t eat any dinner because he didn’t like fish. He went to school rather sulky.

At four o’clock he came running in and said he was going to be arrested for snowballing and throwing mud at an old man. He was really frightened and I noticed he got over being cross.

Tonight he played marbles for twenty five minutes alone. He was talking to himself all the time, and by what I could hear I should think he won every game. He told me tonight if he only had five cents more he could get as many marbles as Edwin had.

Saturday. March 16.

Today Leo played marbles a good deal, he told me he was a better player than he used to be.


Leo was asked three or four times to keep his feet away from his father’s chair, he seemed to pay no attention to what was being said but continued to scrape his feet against the chair. When his father spoke quite sharply he took his feet off slowly and did not say a word; it would be much more like him to take his feet off the first time with a quick answer.

He was dancing tonight; when told to stop he kept on; his father got up and went towards him, then he stopped and sat down, with a very indifferent look.

This afternoon he found a check with which you can get a yeast cake at any grocers. He brought my mother a yeast cake saying, “I walked right in and said to the man, “[why quotes?] I’d like a yeast cake for this check.” All the evening he talked about it seeming very proud for having got it.

Tuesday. Mar. 20.

Tonight I watched Leo at the table with a paper and pencil. I could not see what he was doing but I heard him say, “I can’t make it look like him.” He kept turning over his paper. Later I found the
paper with the pictures of four men; on each one he had crossed out the legs after drawing them. I asked him whose picture he had drawn and he said a man he saw on the street who had no legs but walked on his knees; he said, “But I couldn't draw the man if I didn’t draw his legs first.”

Wednesday. March 20.

This morning Leo got an old top and was trying to spin it. He must have tried seven or eight times without succeeding. Finally he did spin it and when he saw that it was spinning he jumped up and down. He hollered to me to come out and see him spin the top; when I got there he was tugging away at the string but although he tried hard to spin it for me he couldn’t do it again.

He is saucy when reprimanded. Tonight his father told him to stop hollering and he said, rather softly at first, “Too bad ain’t it”; as his father did not appear to hear he said louder, “Too bad if I make a little noise in this house ain’t it.” His father immediately got up and asked if he knew who he was talking to and Leo said, for he was frightened, “I wasn’t talking to you”. When asked who he was talking to he said, “To myself”.

Thursday. March 21.

Leo has heard me going over my arithmetic lesson on cubic measure; tonight he told me they were having just that in their school.

[end of record]