

The Carpenters' Union

CHARACTERS:

Lily White (a thin little girl)
Rosie Maid (a plump little girl)
Carpenters in Overalls
 -*Protein*
 -*Lime*
 -*Fat*
 -*Sugar*
 -*The Vitamin Triplets*
 -*Iron*
Chorus
 -*1st Little Girl*
 -*2nd Little Girl*
 -*3rd Little Girl*

Scene

(Little girls of the chorus are playing a carousel game.)

1ST LITTLE GIRL:

Ha, ha, ha! Happy are we!
Strong and well, as you can see!
Ha, ha, ha! Happy are we!
Strong and well, as we can be!

(Enter Lily White)

2ND LITTLE GIRL: Here comes Lily White. How pale she looks! Come on, and play with us, Lily.

CHORUS: Come on, Lily. Come and play!

LILY WHITE:

You know I'd love to sing and play,
But I feel tired out today.
Why after school, it seems to me,
I'm just as weary as can be.
The other children all have fun,
And skip and jump and dance and run,
But mother says she thinks it best
For pale, thin girls like me, to rest.

(Enter Rosie Maid.)

3RD LITTLE GIRL: Oh, here comes Rosie Maid, she looks so well and strong!

CHORUS: *(To tune of Water Wild Flower.)*

Doctor, doctor, can you tell
What will make poor Lily well?
She looks sick, 'most ready to die,
And that would make her friends all cry.

ROSIE: She doesn't need the doctor. She just needs the—

CHORUS: *(Amazed.)* The carpenters!

ROSIE: Why, yes, the carpenters. You know the kind that builds us up.

Of course you know a good strong frame
Is needed in life's busy game.
A firm foundation of good health
Is better far than fame or wealth;
And iron blood and nerves of steel—
How well they make a person feel!
These mansions that we call "ourselves"
Are just the work of a band of elves.

LILY: Oh, dear, oh, dear, I'd love to see
The band of elves. Where can they be?

(Enter the Carpenters)

CARPENTERS:

We're glad to come when children call
We're at your service, one and all.
We're Nature's workmen. We've a guild
Whose work it is good health to build.

PROTEIN: I'm Protein. You've heard my name,
And muscle-building is my game.

LIME: My name is Lime. The dentist knows
Where all my expert building goes;
I build strong teeth that never ache
And bones too firm to bend or break.

FAT:

I'm Fat, as you can plainly see,

I provide warmth and energy.

SUGAR:

I'm Sugar. Don't you think I'm sweet?
I, too, give energy and heat.

IRON:

I'm Iron, and from head to toe
My good strong work is felt you know.
I build a wall against disease,
I won't let toes or fingers freeze.

VITAMIN TRIPLETS:

We are the brothers Vitamins,
We're very merry lively triplets;
We do our work with magic stealth
And lay the cornerstone of health.

LILY: Oh, won't you come and work for me?
I need you very much, you see.

CARPENTERS:

We cannot do you any good,
Unless you eat substantial food.

SUGAR: I'm found in candy, cake, and pie,
But *I* can't make you well—not I!

PROTEIN: I'm found in meat and eggs and fish,
But *I* can't do all that you wish.

VITAMIN TRIPLETS: We're found in lettuce and many other foods; but then we alone cannot build up fat.

FAT: I'll make you fat, but muscle, bone, and blood I cannot build alone.

CARPENTERS:

But if you want us all to build,
Why then, my dear, we have a guild.
We've formed a union strange to say,
That works for you all night and day.
Dear child, if you'd be well and strong,
Why, to the dairy run along!
There's something pure, and sweet, and white
Will make you rosy, plump and bright.
Our union's name we need not say,

You'll know it when we stand this way!
(Children stand in the form of the letters "M", "I", "L", "K".)

ROSIE: Yes, Lily, drink at least a pint a day,
Then you'll be strong and well and gay.
(She skips off as she exits the stage skipping, and the Chorus sings, "Ha, Ha, Ha! Happy are we," etc.)

The End