

ALICE

ACT ONE

SCENE I

ALICE'S HOME

(† 1, 2, and 3. * 1.) *

ALICE is discovered curled up in the great armchair by the fireplace, talking to the black kitten she holds upright on her knees. Beside her on the floor lies a tangled ball of worsted.

ALICE

Oh, you wicked, wicked little thing! Really, Dinah ought to have taught you better manners! Now, don't interrupt me! I'm going to tell you all your faults. Number one: you squeaked twice while Dinah was washing your face this morning. Now you can't deny it, Kitty; I heard you. Number two: you pulled Snowdrop away by the tail just as I had put down the saucer of milk before her. Now for number three: you unwound every bit of worsted while I wasn't looking! That's three faults, Kitty, and you've not been punished for any of them yet. You know I'm saving up all your punishments for Wednesday week. Suppose they had saved up all my punishments! What *would* they do at the end of a year? I should be sent to prison, I suppose, when the day came. Kitty, can you play chess? Now don't smile, my dear, I'm ask-

* († Refers to Illustration Reference List, page 150, * to Production Plan, page 138.)