

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

Why Should Babies Die?

By Woods Hutchinson, A. M., M. D.

Most of our ideas about babies are almost as infantile as their subject. If it wasn't for the fact that babies know more about themselves than we do, half of them would never grow up.

Just because babies are tiny and pink and fragile looking—and, indeed they break very easily if you drop them—we imagine that it is as natural for them to sicken and die as for flowers to fade, and remark, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away," or other idiotic drivel of that description, over every tiny coffin.

Forgetting that flowers fade only because the purpose for which they bloomed has been accomplished, while babies come to the world to live for fifty years, and if they fail to accomplish that destiny, it is usually our fault, either as individuals or as a community.

All they need is a fair field and no handicaps, and they will finish the course seven times out of ten. Yet we will listen with complacency to the self-confident claim of the mother of Israel, that she knows all about babies, "more" than any doctor, "cause she's had ten of them herself and buried six."

New Zealand, for instance, as has already been mentioned, has brought down the death rate for its entire population of over three-quarters of a million to one-third of the general average, and Canada and some of our Pacific coast states do not fall very far behind.

In fact, we have had practical demonstration of the feasibility of this life-saving under our very eyes right in New York City itself. Some three years ago the children's bureau of the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor decided to make a test of the actual incidence of flies upon the prevalence of children's diseases in summer.

For this purpose, they selected two neighborhoods of the same size and population, occupied principally by a foreign-born population, which were as nearly as possible identical in housing, sanitary conditions and average income. One of these was placed in charge of a corps of nurses and physicians, and made the subject of a thorough and persistent anti-fly and anti-dirt campaign, teaching the mothers, working with the fathers of the families, supplying mosquito bars for the windows of those who were too poor to pay for them, and furnishing it at cost to the others. Every baby in the district was visited by a nurse at least once every week, who endeavored to gain the confidence of the mother and teach her how to care for and protect the safety of her family in every way. The result was a distinct surprise to even the enthusiasts who had inaugurated the campaign.

Not only was the disease rate from what are usually regarded as fly-borne diseases cut down nearly one-half, but the death rate two-thirds, but the general death rate and disease rate of both infants and children from all causes was reduced far below the level of that of the adjoining neighborhoods, and, indeed, of the average of the entire city, including the upper residential and the suburban districts.

Even more striking and conclusive were the results of a somewhat similar campaign, only of neighborhood campaign, carried out by the health department at the suggestion of Dr. Goldwater during the last summer, report of which has just been made.

Partly to see what could be done toward saving children's lives by a thorough and adequate house to house visiting and follow-up campaign of nurses, inspectors and doctors, and partly for the purpose of inaugurating the neighborhood idea in health work; that is, a series of small districts, each of which should have its central health office with a small staff of nurses and inspectors, a number of districts were selected scattered all over the city.

In each district was placed a corps of nurses of sufficient size to insure each family containing young children a visit every week, with a supervising physician or physicians, and a sufficient number of health inspectors to promptly take steps to remedy any sanitary nuisances discovered.

Little or no milk or ice or food supplies of any description was given away or distributed, but the local milk dealers and food stores were given unusually rigorous and thorough supervision, and parents were told where they could secure pure milk and clean food at reasonable prices.

It was simply a matter of endeavoring to raise the intelligence of mothers and fathers and awaken the conscience and enlist all the forces of the community for the protection of the health of its children.

The results are gratifying as they are striking. Although the general health of New York City is good and its average infant mortality below that of most metropolitan centers, the districts given this intensive hygienic cultivation were cut down in a single season to something over a third of the general average of child mortality.

Regions on the lower East Side and in the crowded new slums of the upper West Side actually saved nearly twice as many of their babies as did well-to-do suburban districts in Harlem and Brooklyn and the Bronx.

Here is a way to check race suicide which nobody can take exception to.

Anita Stewart's Talks to Girls

No 3—'How to Dress Your Part'

By ANITA STEWART.

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One of the most important things in the world to a girl is clothes. Men say that we spend too much time and thought on them, and they laugh at us because we judge a woman by the way she dresses.

That's where men make a mistake. A woman gets her politics from her husband and her religion from her minister, but her clothes and the way she wears them are her own, and they show best how much intelligence, how much judgment and how much thrift she has. Also a woman changes her mood when she changes her clothes.

For the time being she's the kind of woman that her dress calls for, and she does and says things when she's got on a sloppy wrapper that she wouldn't dream of doing or saying when she had on a pink chiffon dress.

If I were a husband and I'd never tell my wife unpleasant things, this is that call for a lecture, unless she had on her best dress, that made her feel like a lady, and refined to get into a real corset. However, it's a good thing for us women that men are too good to understand the philosophy of clothes. They work us to a finish as it is.

The stage understands the importance of clothes and how we can lay emphasis on any quality by dressing it, so to speak. It would take a volume, for instance, to describe to an audience the artless innocence of a young girl which is belatedly conveyed by her being dressed in a simple white muslin, with a blue sash and a flower-wreath hat.

The adventures simply shrewdly wickedness by her red-spangled delectable gown, and we know the victim by her black dress and the poor relation by her gray alpaca with turned over collar and cuffs.

Nobody would drill over a cowboy who didn't have on chaps and a brand-brimmed sombrero, nor could you get any college spirit in a play unless all of the men had on "rah-rah" clothes.

It is because we are lulled by the clothes we wear that we girls should give the subject more intelligent thought than we do.

Too many women just blindly follow the fashion without any thought as to whether it suits them or not. That gives us the figures of fun we see all about us—old women with gray hair dressed up like their granddaughters, fat women in styles intended for the athletic, and lads of bones publicly exhibiting until they look like anatomical diagrams.

I want to say over again that girls are judged by the clothes they wear. If a girl is dressed in a nice, quiet, modest manner she can go from one end of the country to the other and be treated with perfect respect and deference. But if she tosses herself out in an exaggerated costume—something loud and flamboyant and an exaggeration of the fashion—she makes herself fair game for every street corner nasher. And you can hardly blame him.

I was in a police court once when such a man was brought in for having spoken to a girl who, it turned out, was eminently proper. "Your honor," said the man, by way of excusing himself, "if she is a good girl what did she get herself up in that rig for?"

And I have thought the same thing about many another girl.

I would especially urge on business girls the wisdom of dressing appropriately. If two girls should go to an office applying for a job, and one of them had on a neatly tailored suit with a substanc-



Anita Stewart, in an effective street costume, showing her belief in simplicity of dress.

And when we want to depict a woman who is driving her husband to drink we show her in a frowsy wrapper, with her hair up in curl papers. And the principle of the thing holds as good in real life as it does in reel life.

Of course, you love pretty clothes. So do I. But I try to dress my part off the stage as well as on it, and to be simply and inconspicuously attired, especially on the street. And I have never had a single piece of jewelry in all my life, not even a pin. The first piece of jewelry I am going to have is my engagement ring. What do you think of that, girls?

(The next article by Anita Stewart will be entitled, "Every Girl Should Learn a Trade." It will appear soon.)

Nose Most Puzzling of All Our Sense Organs—Dogs Have More Wonderful Noses than Men...

By GARRETT P. SERVISS.

"What about the mystery of smell? How does the nose act? The ear and the eye work with vibrations, but how does the nose work? Do minute particles of the odorous substance enter the nose, or are there scent vibrations or is there another power, on the lines of electricity, which we know nothing about?"

"I have read that a bit of dried musk will scent a room for years, and you the most delicate nose is not able to show that the musk has decreased in weight one particle in all that time."

"The nose seems to me the most delicate and wonderful of our sense organs. Then, look at the marvelous power of the hound, able to follow a scent through a labyrinth of tracks"—M. Chittenden.

The opinion of physiologists is that the nerve of smell, the olfactory nerve, are excited by extremely minute particles, either solid or vaporous, given off from odorous substances. What the size of these particles may be is unknown. Evidently they are far below the scale of ordinary measurements. Many of them may be of molecular dimensions, although sometimes, as in the case of flowers, a visible dust excites the sense of smell, but even then it is probable that the real agents which affect the olfactory nerves are particles below the range of the microscope.

In the case of the eye and the ear, mechanical arrangements exist whose action we can understand, such as lenses bringing the rays of light to a focus, and "hammer" and "anvil" bones transmitting sounds by concussion, but the nose has no machinery of that kind.

It has simply passages and clam leading directly to a sum of olfactory filaments constituting the olfactory lobes and the moment the terminals of these nerve filaments are touched by the odorous emanation the sense of smell is perceived in the brain.

But the most learned physiologists cannot tell why one set of olfactory filaments gives us sight, another hearing and another smell. He knows only the fact.

One of the best proofs that a particle which makes the impression of smell are of excessive tenacity has been mentioned by you when you refer to the astonishing persistence of the odor of musk.

Not only will a bit of musk or vanilla scent a room for an indefinite period of years with no apparent diminution, but rooms that in a former time were habituated by persons accustomed to a smoke, and in which no tangible or visible trace of the substance can be found, and which have been repeatedly swept and aired, continue to be filled with the recollection of it notwithstanding all attempts to get rid of it.

The emanations seem to cling to the walls and to give forth their essences at times of calm, like bubbles rising from an endlessly renewed glass of champagne. It would appear that odorous substances shed off these particles in a process resembling evaporation.

One is so reminded of the way in which radium gets continually shooting off immeasurably minute particles formed by its disintegration of its own atoms.

All substances whatever give off emissions of particles affecting the sense of smell, but only a few appear distinctly odorous to us, or how understanding the fact that it seems to you to be the most wonderful of our sense organs the human nose is really a very imperfect instrument of its kind.

In the dog the olfactory lobes are much larger than in man, and the super-human power which the hound possesses of detecting and following trails of scent, absolutely impossible to us is due to the keener sensitiveness of his nerves of smell.

On account of his more perfect olfactory perceptions the world must appear in some ways, quite a different place to the dog from what it appears to us. His ability to concentrate the attention of his nose upon some one particular scent, crossed by and intermingled with hundreds of others, is a very remarkable gift, like that of the musician who can follow a single strain or note of music through the blare of confused sounds.

There can hardly be the slightest doubt that the dog recognizes human beings by their individual odor. Even we are aware that certain animals, such as bears, lions, horses, cattle, etc., have characteristic odors by which we can distinguish between species, although not between individuals.

But to the higher olfactory sense of the dog individual men and women are often, if not always, distinguishable from each other. The dog knows the smell of his master as well as he knows his face, and perhaps better.

No one who has been much with an intelligent dog can avoid receiving, occasionally, from the glance and conduct of his canine companion the impression that the dog thinks his master is extremely stupid in not noticing the tell-tale odors that plainly reveal to the four-legged animal interesting things and situations of which the two-legged one is utterly oblivious.

Below the sense of smell, or above it, if you prefer, there probably exists in certain animals, such as insects, a still finer power of perception, which may really rest upon an electrical sense.

Watch the conduct of ants or of bees, or wasps, or beetles, and you will see many things which will be likely to lead you to think that those creatures know much of the surroundings by means which neither touch, sight, sound, smell nor taste could supply.

The most absurd error of which we can be guilty is the assumption that our five senses could give us complete knowledge of the world around us even if they were perfect in their kind. They are at best but five loop-holes in the walls of a prison.

Do You Know That

No other plant gives such a quantity of food to the acre as the banana. It yields by weight forty times more than the potato and 133 times more than wheat.

In Germany the prefix "von," as in Von Hindenburg, means "court worthy." It is granted by the sovereign, who alone can raise a man from the rank of a citizen to that of a gentleman.

The male heart weighs from ten to twelve ounces, the female from eight to ten ounces. Its average size is about five inches long, three and a half inches wide, and two inches in greatest depth.

It is said that the nose of the Venus of Milo, with the name of its sculptor upon it, was destroyed for the purpose of deceiving a king of France into the belief that it was more ancient than it really was.

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Ring Out, Wild Bells	Percy Hemus	35335	12	1.25
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White Shepherds Watched	Victor Oratorio Chorus	35412	12	1.25
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Stabat Mater—Inflammatus	Lucy Isabelle Marsh			
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Adagio Fideles	Evan Williams	74187	12	1.50
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