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CHECK TOO EARLY MARRIAGES.

ONLY a few months ago we protested against early marriages. It is a subject, however, which is not considered and discussed as fully and as publicly as it should be. Early marriage means early maternity, with its great responsibilities and often troubles and trials, to the wife. This is, indeed, a very serious question, and one which all parents who have at heart the future well-being of daughters, should deeply consider. A vast amount of sickness and misery has resulted from too early marriages. As we have said, in more primitive times the early marriage of young women or even girls was less objectionable than it is now when marriage involves greater responsibilities and duties. A recent number of the *Lancet* says: "A variety of arguments, based on science, prudence, and economy, have often been urged against the headlong folly of very early marriage. Reasoning of this kind, however, has unfortunately but little influence with such as those who commit the folly in question, for, indeed, it is not reason in any recognizable degree, which guides their crude calculations. If it were, the probability of overstrain in childbirth, which is the natural counterpart of early

functional activity, of domestic discord and beggary, and their too common social accompaniments, would not be so freely and frequently encountered. These matters are part of the tribute which will always be paid while, for the want of native sense and sound home-training, fancy is allowed to guide one of the most important concerns of life. The one available means of cure for this prevalent evil consists in a just exercise of parental control, but this, we need hardly remind ourselves, is only too easy of evasion." The Holborn Board of Guardians have decided to notify the Registrar-General as to the wisdom of instructing an official to make personal inquiry, in suspected cases, respecting the wishes of the parents in regard to the matrimonial ventures of their children. "The proposal is certainly a sound one," says the *Lancet*, "and represents the minimum of justifiable interference."

What is the age to first marry? Complete maturity—completion of growth—womanhood and manhood. This period varies in different families, but is rarely reached in temperate climates in the female before the age of twenty, often of twenty-five years.

DIPHThERIA IN CATS AND COWS—IMPORTANT EXPERIMENTS.

THE following is an extract from a communication from the London Special Correspondent of the *Therapeutic Gazetteer*, in the last issue of that journal:—An interesting communication has been made to the Royal Society by Dr. Klein relating to the etiology of diphtheria. The research will appear in full in the Re-

port of the Local Government Board for 1889-90. From these separate and independent sources accurate information was obtained as to a disease of cats occurring at the same time as outbreaks of diphtheria. This disease killed the animals, and appeared to consist chiefly of an inflammation of the lungs, —a kind of broncho-pneu-