

dangerous to give to children the pleasures of adults as to require of them the labors of the mature. That there is a physical basis for all intellectual processes seems sometimes to be forgotten. Successive groups of brain cells and fibres come into existence with the successive years, and before the birth of these tissues certain psychic functions may not naturally exist. To force mature functions from an immature organism is to violate the virginity of Nature, a crime daily committed in the home and in the school, to be expiated in the sick-room, sanitarium, or asylum. In the beginning the fault generally lies in a mixture of vanity and ignorance on the part of parents. They wish their children to excel in attainment, and they like to see them indulging in all the pleasures and excitements of our complex social existence. Later, the young person whips himself on to ruin. To instance only one disaster: the annual casualties following graduation from hot-house schools and colleges easily outnumber those of the whole disastrous camp life and battles of our late Spanish war. As regards the second error just mentioned, it has seemed to me that if deliberately planned and scrupulously executed, the bringing up of some children could not better promote what I venture to call centripetal development—development centreing in self. The child is not only made to be, but is made to know that he is, the focus of all domestic doings, the hub of the family wheel. Every sensation, perception, conception, and emotion is an event. The unlucky youngster develops with a distorted view of the relation of things. He sees enormously enlarged images of his tastes, his clothes, his pains, his likes, his aversions, and his talents. These proportions do not fit the facts of existence, and the unfortunate individual is as sure to be caught in some form of nervousness as is one to go astray in a labyrinth of grotesque mirrors. I must note one more point on prophylaxis of the neuroses in children, a point already lightly touched, and then we shall leave the little people, much as I should like to linger. In one form or another fear enters into the make-up of nearly every sort of nervousness. It paralyzes judgment, ambition, and the higher emotions. Childhood should be absolutely fearless; fearless for self and for the future. That the young should have no fear of man or God, no thought for the morrow, is natural and proper. It is natural and wholesome that the child should have no regard for his organs, no knowledge of hygienic rules, no conception of the significance of pain. When the parent makes the child a party to his apprehensions, confides his prescience of ills and communicates the ominous augury of bodily symptoms, he is assiduously rearing a