

John Fiske dwells upon the prolongation of helpless infancy as a chief factor in the elevation of humanity. Says he: "In order to bring about that wonderful event, natural selection had to call in the aid of other agencies, and the chief of these agencies was the gradual lengthening of babyhood."*

But the fact is that the progress of culture has shortened the period of babyhood. From primitive times to the taming of milk-yielding animals the baby had only the mother to depend on, and there are numerous testimonies to the suckling of children until they were five years old. The savage or the primitive mother had the brunt to bear. The use of milk from animals made an earlier transfer to the food of adults possible. The last steps in this proceeding are the substitution of a foster mother, and, last of all, an absolutely artificial supply from birth. At the same time intellectual and moral bonds have been strengthened, and the mother's control of the child increased.

In the monogamian family the attachment of the father to the initial group is most complete and the structure of the family is perfected. Under the patriarchal system, this stable element, the mother and child is one of several possible groups attached to the same father. It loses its dignity and identity.

Under the clan system paternity is of less consequence. The mother's name was the name of the *gens*, and the child took its title from her. The stable element was a group consisting of a supposed ancestress and her descendants along the female line. It will be seen, however, that though this is a comprehensive group, the bond is loosened. The mother and her sisters are all mothers

* Harvard Lectures, 1871; *Cosmic Philosophy*, pt. ii, chaps. xvi, xxi, xxii; *Excursions of an Evolutionist*, chap. xii.