

ten is devoted to his development. In the first year he increases three times his birth weight. The brain and nervous system are only imperfectly formed at the time of birth. Scientists have conclusively shown that most of the child's earliest and many of his later movements are purely reflex, and not necessarily dependent upon the higher centres. This unripe condition of the nervous system is peculiarly sensitive to both internal and external influences. Children should not be looked upon as adults in miniature. They are distinctly and decidedly different, and every nurse and physician should bear this fact constantly in mind.

The early training and influences should be adapted for his unripe condition for they cannot be similar to that of the adult. For the same reasons, disease, although induced by the same cause, will follow a different course. There are a number of diseases occurring only in young children. Escherich has devised a division of the several periods of childhood which is based on certain distinctive physiologic and pathologic peculiarities of each period.

Never in the history of the world, certainly not in modern times, has so much intelligent and earnest effort been directed to the care and welfare of children as to-day. This has become a great national problem in several European countries for the birth rate is rapidly diminishing, and the infantile death rate is enormous. The study of mortality records in our own State shows what strides are being made to prevent the unnecessary slaughter of our babies. The number of deaths in New York City per 100,000 of population has fallen from 1,160 to 620 in the last decade. In Rochester it has fallen from 584 to 340, and in Yonkers from 880 to 660.

A calculation based on the present population shows an annual saving of the lives of 12,000 children under five years of age in New York City alone.

These striking results are due to many influences, but chiefly to an intelligent appreciation of the value of hygiene and preventive medicine in early childhood. The establishment of hospitals devoted to the special needs of children where nurses and physicians can receive practical training and instruction has had an important bearing in bringing about this result. The technical difficulties in the nursing of sick children have been demonstrated and overcome during your course of training, and this is not the place to enter into a discussion of how to nurse sick children or how to modify milk for infants' use.