

Another baby instinct that loudly demands recognition, which is so universal as to imply its deeply-rooted origin, is the perpetual squalling and screeching in infants. This instinct, which makes the night a period of matrimonial penance, shows an expenditure of energy which nature never permits without purpose. The universal distribution of this infantile habit shows that it was certainly an effective means of securing the attainment of the primitive infant's desires. When parents neglected their babies they squalled, and those most persistent in their abjurations undoubtedly thrived the best, by bringing their progenitors to that state of servile obedience in which contemporary parenthood still lingers.

Children almost invariably exhibit fear of strangers. This is another ancestral trait. In days when merciless war was waged between tribes, the stranger was synonymous with the enemy. The dread of the stranger would become instinctive, and the peculiarity transmitted to the race.

The fear of being alone in the dark is a common failing of little children. Night is not less harmless than day to the modern infant. The fear of darkness is supremely unreasonable. Instinct, however, stronger than reason, proclaims itself through babes and sucklings. In ancient days, when the iguanodon might be prowling around the camp, the imagination of the child might most reasonably have invested objects dimly seen in the dark with gruesome and dangerous attributes. The fear children manifest for the dark is an indefinite one, suggesting a vague apprehension of danger rather than actual risk. It is a short-lived characteristic, as young men and women usually have no dread of going out at night.

Perhaps the most characteristic trait of childhood is the dread of wild animals. There is probably no child whose apprehension cannot be aroused by a reference to bears. Doctor Robinson finds he can frighten his children most effectually by appearing to them in a shaggy coat and acting the animal, and this even when the deception is practised in full view of them. There is little doubt that children retain an inherent dread of animals, just as adult man has an inherent terror of the snake. The germs of such instinct were doubtless amply implanted in days when the tiger and bear were formidable enemies of our race.

These and many not enumerated, are traits distinctly characteristic of child-life. They testify to impressions indelibly engraved upon bioplasm in the long era of savagery, a period longer than that of which we have any conception, founded upon objective analysis. They are voices of a far distant past, penetrating the innermost recesses of consciousness, proclaiming the virulence of a conflict that has left its undying record upon man's nature, and testifying to an ancestry man,

even yet, has barely outlived.—Ed. *Physician and Surgeon.*

MEDICAL NOTES.

In cases of *Aneurism*, no matter what its origin be due to, Prof. Hare says the iodide of potassium is the best drug, that can be administered, and in those cases in which it does not cure it will give great relief.

Prof. Parvin says, as a rule in cases of *Prolonged Pregnancy* the development of fœtal head is greater than when the pregnancy occurs at the regular time.

Prof. Keen says no matter how circumscribed and limited a *Scirrhus* may appear to be, it is one of the rarest pathological curiosities to find it encapsulated.

Prof. Keen says, in *Operations on the Stomach*, if no contraindications are present, chloroform is to be preferred to ether as an anæsthetic, since it is less liable to be followed by retching and vomiting.

Sulphonal, Prof. Hare says, is a somnifacient or hypnotic, valuable in functional nervous insomnia, but in such diseases as cardiac trouble it does not assert its hypnotic powers, but becomes responsible for the patient's wakefulness.

In cases of *Anal Fissure*, Prof. Hare says, a cure can often be brought about by applying a drop of strong carbolic acid to the fissure, and a wash also used, consisting of tannic acid, glycerine and water, if hæmorrhoids are present.

Prof. Parvin says *Spontaneous Abortions* occur usually during the first three months of pregnancy and as a rule at a time which would correspond to the time that in a non-pregnant condition a monthly flow would have occurred.

Prof. Keen says, when a patient has swallowed a *Foreign Body*, no purgative should be given, as it will increase the peristaltic movements of the intestines, and greater danger will arise from its impaction. The patient should be given a light diet of bread and milk for four or five days, and then a laxative may be administered. Or, instead of the bread and milk, the patient may be put on an absolute diet consisting of mashed potatoes.

Prof. Hare recommends the following prescription as a spray in cases of *Diphtheria*. After its use very often an expectoration of creamy mucus mixed with small pieces of false membrane takes place:—

R—Sodii bicarbonatis,

Sodii boratis, āā gr. xl.

Aquæ, f ʒ iv. M.

Sig.—Use in an atomizer.