

be accomplished, for undoubtedly the greatest power in the moulding of character is the atmosphere of the home. But our inability to reach so far into the circumstances which make character only serves to render it more imperatively our duty to see that such of the nurture of the child as we can influence is of the best.

Self control is not only a necessary quality to success in life ; it is not only a very potent agent in the prevention of mental disturbance, but it is also a very important factor in determining recovery from an attack of mental disease. Therefore, to us as alienists, the question of the development of this trait is one of special and practical interest. For this reason we should not fail to exercise ourselves in behalf of any reform in present methods, which might possibly have an effect in bettering the development of the brain cells, and in thus rendering the individual less susceptible to disorder of the mental faculties. It is our plain duty to strive in every possible way to eliminate the causes of mental disorder. Here, it seems to me, is a legitimate field for the practical application of knowledge which our position as alienists presupposes us to possess. And at this present time, when the leaders in educational matters are, as I know them to be, striving very earnestly to make their methods meet the demands of rapidly changing circumstances, we have an unusual opportunity to use our influence in modifying requirements in accordance with our ideas of what those requirements should be.

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### Smallpox and Vaccination.

The number of the *British Medical Journal* for July 5, is devoted to the important subject of smallpox and vaccination. It is shown that smallpox appears to become epidemic in a small scale every four years ; and pandemic every thirty years, or so. A careful study of the methods of spreading the disease makes it clear that the chief governing factor is personal infection. It is also made clear that, to secure the full advantages of vaccination, re-vaccination should be made compulsory. Ample proof is advanced to show that where re-vaccination has been made compulsory, smallpox has been stamped out. Germany, Italy, Hungary, Roumania and Japan have compulsory re-vaccination, and Britain must fall in line. It is also urged that as vaccination is compulsory, the supply of vaccine should be under direct government control. This would ensure purity and would tend to give the public confidence. Further, it is shown that with proper care the complications can be reduced to a minimum.