

titude toward the divine function of reproduction. Ignorance and irreverence are the dragons to be overthrown. Knowledge and the love of good are the only heroes than can slay them. What shall we do, then : teach the boys and girls the things we have been fondly hoping they would not learn ? Yes. A little learning is a dangerous thing, not because it is learning but because it is little. And little is a relative term. One who knows up to his full capacity for understanding, is really learned. He knows little who might know more. What would be a great deal for the boy of ten, might be dangerously little for the same boy at twelve.

That children are not properly taught the difference and relations of the sexes is a terrible mistake. False delicacy on the part of parents, and an underestimate of the child's capacity and desire for knowledge have been the causes of incalculable evil. If you do not teach your children right others will teach them wrong. You cannot begin too early. As soon as a child goes out to play with other children, it hears whispers of things it never heard of at home, and it begins to think. If the child questions its mother or father it is put off with evasions—sometimes with absolute falsehood—and charged not to talk about such things. As soon as a child is old enough to ask questions he is old enough to be told the truth. And it is far better to tell him more than he can understand than to lie to him. In the one case there will be intimacy and trust between parent and child ; in the other reserve, and distrust and curiosity will lead the boy or girl to other sources of information. You cannot keep him from them if you live in the city ; you cannot keep him from them if you live in the country ; if you live on a desert isle and do your own work you may succeed. So often the very effort to keep a child from knowing a thing drives him to seek the forbidden knowledge from improper sources, or to give free rein to his

imagination, which may be far worse.

But knowledge alone is not enough. Convince a man that whisky is injurious to his digestive apparatus : will he abstain ? Not if he believe the immediate pleasure to be gained to be greater than the remoter evil effects. You know very well that you do injurious things when you want to do them. If the knowledge of the danger attending an act deters you, you are a coward ; but if you believe it to be wrong to inflict an injury upon yourself and forego a pleasure because it is wrong, you are a hero.

Now what are you going to do with that child ? Depend upon it he will not be left in utter ignorance. There are schools always open where he will learn some truth, much error and a fatal contempt for beauty and goodness. The only thing to do, it seems to me, is to keep on very intimate terms with him. Answer his questions frankly. Don't even wait to be questioned. Let him see that there is no subject that need be avoided, and nothing that need be concealed. Let him share your reverence for the human body, and your wonder and awe in the presence of the miracle of growth and reproduction. And above all, give him plenty to do and to think about. Idleness is as bad as ignorance. Satan provides as well for idle brains as for idle hands.

Perhaps you think I don't know much about bringing up children, but I do, for I have been a child and have been brought up, and I have known other children. I have known children who have passed into manhood fatally handicapped by habits of mind they need not have formed ; I have known children whose early deaths have been directly traceable to practices their over-modest and confiding parents never suspected. I know, and you know, that mystery and secrecy have charms that only knowledge and openness can dispel ; and that the partial knowledge that all boys and some girls pick up, is far more dangerous