

Modern sanitarians have been accused of merely substituting one terror for another in the mind of the child—bacilli instead of bogies. But even if this be true, there are profound and from a practical point of view most important differences between the two terrors, one is real, and the other imaginary. A child cannot avoid meeting many a bacillus, although he will never actually make the acquaintance of a bogie. We are not filling a vacuum when we put new ideas into a child's mind. We are simply substituting for strong and irrational fears, mild and reasonable apprehensions, whose moderate and intelligent regarding would save many a death and many a crippled or blighted life. Children, like savages and ignorant adults, believe and invent and retail among themselves the most extraordinary and grotesque theories and beliefs about the structure and functions of their bodies, the nature and causation of their illnesses and the mechanism of their aches and pains. A plain and straightforward statement of the actual facts about these things will neither shock, nor distress them, nor make them old before their time, but on the contrary will interest them greatly, relieve their minds of many unfounded dreads and save them from the commonest and most hurtful mistakes of humanity—those which are committed through ignorance.

—*Woods Hutchinson, A.M., M.D.*