## MORE ABOUT INFANT PRODIGIES IS WILLIAM SIDIS DECLINING? tions of music, and the bent of his genius was formed while he was so

The Boy Wonder at Harvard in Ill Health-Is Your Child's Brain Too Ripe-Why Prodigies Blossom Forth Too Often to an Early Decline.

William James Sidis, of Harvard, a subject so abstruse that only the isn't quite so well. He fell sick late in most profoundly learned among January, with what seemed to be very symptons of overwork, and the robust able to comprehend him at all. health which students of his age, if not his attainments, ought to possess has seemed to be impaired.

Who is William James Sidis? You needn't ask anybody in Cambridge, or even in Boston, that question. In fact, you needn't ask anyone who is directly or indirectly concernwho is directly or indirectly concernwho will be concernwho will be concernwho will be concernduced not a few all-round prodigies ready 18, and his productions are
the Admirable Crichrather of promise than performance. of him, for he is the latest-many say, the greatest—child prodigy the human

species has produced. And there are two classes of people ness, manifest not the least surprise, in Brunswick, Germany, of humble liam James Sidis, although all mediespecially those who have to do with children. The other class is that numerous section of the female sex who are mothers.

the spur instead of the check, if they the spur instead of the check, if they wanted to safeguard his sanity or his view the countless contributions, all of pansion.

The multifarous biographies of youthful prodigies leave plenty to said on the parents' side, for not all of them have died young or gone crazy. Some of them have simply abated the extraordinary activity of their brains and matured as quite commonplace mortals, while others have emerged from the risks of debilitated emerged from the risks of debilitated bodies and nerves strong enough, mentally and physically, to live acclaimed the highest importance, which Gauss made to magnetism, mathematics and Professor Spitzka's Theory.

Professor Sedward Anthony Spitzka, of anything of that sort, the one principle is the utilization of what are called delphia, whose pre-eminent study of brains has fixed upon him the attention of the world of medical science, has confessed himself after all his observations, unable to tell precisely what makes these children so precocurately a waste products. I was once told that of waste products are sometimes even more valuable that the primary products.

The most frequent, as well as the waste products are sometimes even more valuable that the primary products.

The most frequent, as well as the waste products are sometimes even more valuable that the primary products.

The most frequent is the valuable that the primary Yet the multifarous biographies of as geniuses

whenever her fond and proud eyes or ears perceive some fresh stage in the mental growth of her offspring. There are few women, indeed, who are en-

none of the intuition which is the as a Gauss made good in science. famous predecessor in the prodigy role first sang with that divine voice of tract? and the son of another Harvard pro- hers that stories are still told of how "Indeed, the early ripening of

as though there were something in the climate of America which, of a sudden is stimulating the older stock to an amazing brilliancy in its progeny. There are no fewer than four such

prodigies at Harvard alone. Besides the childish Sidis, there is a boy of 14, Norbert Weiner, who is already bachelor of arts. He is the youngest student known to have achieved that degree in academic learning.

Then there are a brother and sister, Adolph and Lina Berle, he 14 and she 15 years old, who are members, respectively, of the freshman classes at Harvard and Radeliffe. Where young Weiner graduated from Tufts College, the Berle children were taught almost entirely by their father, languages first and later mathematics.

Sidis, whose, specialty has always! been mathematics, is at once the wallace, has brought to light from good offices indicated; that he was youngest of the modern, astonishing the millions of documents filed in the so far successful that the marriage settlement was made and the wedding Could Write at Three.

In the instinctive seizure of principles underlying any branch of study moved and worked among men. ples underlying any branch of study moved and worked among men.

years, knew elemetary mathematics daunted by the seemingly endless prosizes, from little strips an inch wide to future years. No one can deny at seven, spoke five languages at eight, portions of the task ahead of him, he to great skins three feet wide and six that Sir Wilfrid's regime has been and entered Tufts College at ten.

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DRANDRAM-TIENDERSON,

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He explained, in the course of be so many revelations in the laws of violinist, Sevcik. mathematics previously undreamed of France is rather pluming itself on

learned mathematicians

have ever lived. of the caliber of the Admirable Crich- rather of promise than performance. who, when they learn of William's illSidis was Karl Friedrich Gauss, born omniscient genius possessed by Wil-

ile attainments have been preserved too tender an age. as are available regarding those of the Anatomical skill, Both, whenever they heard of the astounding learning already acquired by young Master Sidis. of Brooklyn.

Sidis boy, but his talents so appealed after death had left the useless body to the reigning duke of Brunswick to its hands, has studied the brain of that he was given the liberal educa- a Gauss, for example, and has found by young Master Sidis, of Brooklyn, that he was given the hours by young Master Sidis, of Brooklyn, tion of his time. He lived to become astonishing departures from the northe sun could be the inducement that one of the world's most famous mathe- mal in the structure of the brain. led his parents—especially his father, maticians. In 1833, years before the In that marvellous mathematician's Boris Sidis, who is professor of psychology in the university—to give him it is for the transmission of language was particularly notable in the frontal he demonstrated its practicability. region, while the sub-parietal regions

the highest importance, which Gauss

tally and physically, to live acclaimed though all the young musical prodi- and others rapidly," he says, The maternal anxiety, which can equal in number the condition of the relegated to the feel so sharply, albeit vicariously, for of child actors of a generation ago, man." the Sidis child is felt by every mother who porped up the minute Elsie Les- "In the precocious genius it must

are few women, indeed, who are en- managed to quash whole coteries of ical conditions which are less marked tirely free from the intuitive appre-them, where it could be proved that or less effectual in the ordinary child. hension that if they have mothered a the greed of parents was working the "It is fair to assume such chemical normal if inglorious life to that of others of that hothouse system period state so characteristic of sporadic creworld-wide fame and untimely de-hold more or less excellent positions tinism, cannot be regarded in this conon the American stage; but no Bern- nection. The physicians, gifted perhaps with hardtor Siddons has as yet made good, "We need not assume that the secre- By mother's distinctive attribute, never- In music, however, both vocal and essential; many other substances, as theless are inclined to regard with a instrumental, the prodigies are more yet undiscovered may be necessary. just suspicion every exceptional devel-frequently likely to read their titles. Who knows whether there may not be opment of abnormal faculties, for too clear to fame. The unsurpassed Ade- some substance which stimulates brain many examples have occurred to par- lina Patti still lives, although age has development just as the adrenal secrethe immurement in an insane sternly barred her from her former tion stimulates the unstriped muscle asylum, recently, of young Sidis' most triumphs. She was so little when she cells of the arterial system to con-

of the body the very essence of the body the

little short of genius. The Amazing Mozart. That was the characteristic of the which he concludes his comment:

the whole atmosphere of his home flung about him the sublime fascinaoung that few, if any, ever suspected the existence of an inclination to the

Portraits are extant showing him, at esa gave to her little sorcerer of mel-

In this generation, with Josef Hofmann too old to pass longer as the "boy pianist," and with no record of which, when demonstrated, proved to pupil of the distinguished Hungarian

Italy's most evil duke during a cause- yet sufficed to trace certainly the oriless jealously, the only approach in gins of such precocious talent as many

cine bids rarents go slowly lest their No such precise record of his juven- offspring grow ripe with learning at

Professor Spitzka's Theory.

tions of the thyroid gland alone are

she had to be stood on a table to let brain sometimes seems to be an ex-

In the present generation the race of prodigies has proved most numerous, discernment and facility of learning the heart of every mother and the causes of in
as though there were something in the little short of genius.

In the present generation the race of ing, at her earliest age, qualities of fant prodigies, an appeal is made to has won for him the respect of all devoted to books, and one of our leading educationalists says of this type of and the honor of most Canadians. tious judgment of every physician by

amazing Mozart, who labored in the "It is suggestive that some infant population has increased from under possible." highest field of the musician, the crea- prodigies fail to uphold themselves be- 5,000,000 to 7,500,000, or 50 per cent; theory that mathematics underlie all fall prey to the ravages of tuberculosis

#### human achievement, it is known that or other constitutional diseases." NEW LIGHT ON SHAKESPEARE;

AN AMERICAN'S DISCOVERY From the New York Sun.

|<del>|</del> A young American, Charles William to say that Shakespeare undertook the deepened and widened and harbors work for busy fingers, in all of which public record office in London a series solemnized. A few years later Mount-Up to this time the Sidis boy has of official papers, mainly depositions in Joy and his son-in-law found they presented no trace whatever of deteri- a suit at law, by means of which the could no longer agree. They had con-

and in his unparalleled quickness of Mr. Wallace, who is associate properception he was abnormal only by fessor of Fredly literature and moral power matters followed which perhaps as Finne annually and writing, but also the might have been avoided had not Maperception, he was abnormal only by fessor of English literature in the Uni- dam Mountjoy died some time precomparison with the average of hu- versity of Nebraska, learned that the vious. In 1612 Stephen, considering manity at his age. His overwhelming public record office of London is stored himself ill used, went into the court of years of Sir John Macdonald's last Men and women will need to give abnormality has always seemed nor- from top to bottom with countless doc- requests to secure fulfillment of prommal to him as though the acquisition uments on skins, parchments, and pa- ises that he asserted had been made of knowledge were as much his natupers of various size, which constitute to him. All this seems trivial enough, four times, but his longest term of community is as satisfactorily balanceusition of a watermelon by moon-angle-seems down to the pression of the chief records of all England from and it is, but for the fact that Shake-office was but six years, and al-anced as was the old farm life.

went to work, aided by his wife. To- long, or large rolls composed of parch- wonderful and glorious, and it will Rosy cheeked, the picture of the or- gether they searched and searched un- ments sewed end to end. a hundred to surely be remembered with goodwill linary, well fed, healthy boy, he ap- til they were finally rewarded by dis- three hundred feet in length. They and thankfulness so long as the his-composition on the fourth dimension, which Shakespeare lived for years neighbors, his associates. Because of been failures; it has not been all ap-

while in London. The Mountjoys were French, possibly Huguenot refugees; the head of the house, "Christopher in the full radiance of his creative from the paid clacqueurs. But, tak-Monioy," was a maker of fashionable neaddresses and wigs. He had as aprentice the stepson of an old friend n France, a lad named Stephen Belliott, and house and shop being under employer's family.

"the modest maiden of the household," the corner of Muggell and Silver only child of Mountjoy; and at the end streets, and dates mentioned in the phen had proved himself so good a tain that there Shakespeare wrote workman and so lovable a youth that some of his greatest plays, among Madam Mountjoy at any rate seemed them "Henry V.." "Much Ado." "As Madam Mountjoy at any rate seemed them "Henry V." "Much Ado," "As well pleased with the idea that the two young people should be falling in let," "Julius Caesar," "Macbeth," love. Toward the close of 1604, how- "Othello." Not far away lived Ben ever. Stephen longed for foreign travel, and made a short sojourn in Spain, but soon returned to the house and Not long after that Madam Mountjoy, informing Shakespeare that Mary and young Bellott evidently cared much for each other, asked his good offices in making two hearts happy. She told the poet that if he could bring the young man to a formal proposal of marriage a dower fitting to their station should be settled upon them at their wedding. One may imagine the willingness with which the creater of "Romea and Juliet" listened to Madam Mountjoy's request that he assist in the unfolding of a love story

in real life. It is unnecessary here to relate the details of the delicate situation, Suffice

money matters followed which perhaps

light would be normal and natural to ent. He reasoned that there if anythe average boy living near a farm,
He could write at the age of three

material affecting the great poet. Unskins and parchments and are of all

we hope may extend indefinitely inthem we now know far more about plause—that has been disapproba-Shakespeare in London, while he was tion from the patriotic as well as

> even at Stratford. Depositions in the lawsuit referred had the good fortune to have her to have enabled Mr. Wallace to locate destinies presided over by a great the exact house where Shakespeare man." one roof young Stephen lived with his lived during his great days in London. Maps and other documents satisfy Mr. Side by side with him worked Mary, Wallace that Mountjoy's home was at "Macbeth,"

> > A Friend in Need to the Poor, Sick Stomach, Tired Nerves and Torpid Liver, is



SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Jonson, Nathaniel Field, Thomas Dek- fey months. The mystery which here-ker, Anthony Munday, William John- tofore has surrounded the personality son, the actor; in another direction of Shakespeare is largely dissipated. lived John Hemings and Henry Con-dell—Shakespeare's friends, his asso-Mountjoy-Bellott lawsuit have lain in ciates in the Globe and Blackfriars, the public record office, unknown, un-

eight. years. It has long been a pleas- hear before long that a battalion of the age of 6 years, attired in the court ing fancy of lovers of these two great critics and historians was at work on suit which the Empress Maria Ther- poets to think that perhaps the elder those millions of skins and parchments may some time have seen, even caressed in passing, the precocious lad equal importance. That a literary who later was to call him "My Shake-"find" of larger appeal will be found speare." Milton was born and grew to therein is not likely. full youth in Bread street, Cheapside. surpassing original composition to By referring to Aggas' map, made Charles William Wallace, of Nebraska, differentiate the newer musical prodi- about 1560, Mr. Wallace deduces the have securely linked their names with gies, the most remarkable example of probability that in going along Bread the very few whose success in Shakemusical precocity is probably Marie street, between the Mountjoy home spearian research is of real and lasting lecture, sevral theories of his own Hall, who, at 16, was the favorite and the Globe, Shakespeare must have value. Their brilliant thought of go

ton, treacherously assassinated by No abstruse range of science has been able to prepare a paper which is achievement is published at length in not unlikely to command worldwide the March number of Harper's Monthattention in the course of the next ly Magazine.

and the first editors of his plays.

At the time of Shakespeare's death, dents of Shakespeare's works suspected by the thousands of stuin 1616, John Milton was a child of times. It would not be surprising to hoping to come upon other material of

At a single stroke Mr. and Mrs. passed many a time, perhaps, the ing through the public records of the house wherein Milton was spending his Elizabethan era and their remarkable childhood; and that more than once he patience and perseverance in searching by the greatest mathematicians who the early maturing of the literary skill saw and noticed the unusual face of for a possible tiny needle hidden in the the boy is by no means impossible. | monumental haystack compel admira-Because of the many interesting as- tion. To them the world of literature sociations thus woven into the story will accord full recognition for the imof that old lawsuit Mr. Wallace has portant service. Their account of their

> THE CYANIDE PROCESS APPLIED

> > TO CHILDREN The Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway

disease, and pointed out that no nation covered, and those "tailings" are now that had been affected by it had ever re- all passed through the filter and the

[By the Lord Bishop of Glasgow.] \_ cept humanity. Everything, according to The great work connected with Dr. that book, is utilized, except the man who stands behind the machine, and who as Barnardo's name is a warning to us of soon as he becomes old and worn out is a very big fault in our civilization. In cast aside. But in dealing with humanity having to do with iron and steel, or coal we never arrive at a time when it does or anything of that sort, the one princi- not pay to utilize what men regard as the

covered, except China, and he instanced residual gold obtained. This, I think, China as the exception which proved the was the case with Dr. Barnardo. He rule. To most people the moral of Sin- utilized the "tailings" of the streetsmoral appears to be that in all scientific cyanide" process, he regained for the operations there is no waste material ex-

# ture too brilliant to survive. And moderate study and plenty of play, of function of the thyroid gland, which where is the mother who doesn't prefer her child's destiny to be one of ress of sterling worth, and some of the failure and retention of the infantile are a child at an age when health required factor, for the absence or impairment for the child's destiny to be one of ress of sterling worth, and some of the failure and retention of the infantile are a child at an age when health required factor, for the absence or impairment with more infantile of the child's destiny to be one of the failure and retention of the infantile of the child's destiny to be one of that hothouse system period state so characteristics. SIR WILFRID LAURIER

What He Has Done For the Country.

The recent illness of Sir Wilfrid the firm." Laurier from which he has happily did the housework, the spinning, the necove.ed has prompted the Mon- weaving, the dyeing, the sewing, the treal Witness, a candid friends of the boys and the girls made their own Premier's to pay one of the finest playthings as well as many things for In their eyes, these preternaturally brilliant young intelligencies are prone to be like exhausting flames, burning out of the body the very essence of other apparent in the work of famous strength."

The family and the education thus given by his worth as a public man. During the fourteen years of his premiership, the fourteen years of his premiership, the fourteen years of his premiership, the witness points out, Sir Wilfrid has been almost continually in harmonic present the fourteen years of his premiership, the witness points out, Sir Wilfrid has been almost continually in harmonic present the fourteen years of his premiership, the witness points out, Sir Wilfrid has been almost continually in harmonic present the fourteen years of his premiership, the family and the education thus given in the home lacked in but one particular.

The family and the education thus given by his worth as a public man. During the fourteen years of his premiership, the fourteen years of his premiership in the home lacked in but one particular that of books. The school must always supplement the home, consequently he short time at school was always and one of our lead-

> older ones; industries have sprung fails to give. younger Pitt, though the thirteen means to a great end. about twelve years, as compared with

work, than we know about his life ing it for all in all, the reriod has been 'an age of gold.' Canada has

Presumably the Witness did not intend to include the provinces in its references to records of Prime Ministers, as Sir Oliver Mowat was Prime Minister of Ontario from Ocof his six years apprenticeship Ste- various records make it almost cer- tober, 1872, till July, 1896, a period of almost twenty-four years. Sir Wilfrid's record is remarkable notwithstanding and it has been as

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the Montreal Witness— thing, the provision of shelter. The boy was a valuable "member of the firm." The farmer and his boys were the sowers and the reapers, the blacksmiths, the cabinet-makers and the cobblers. The girls were "members of The mother and the girls "Under him Canada has made "Under him Canada has made" the brief words of warning with amazing strides in material prosper- itv and political importance. The call a system of education is no longer

Today we look for the work centertive. Strangely reminiscent of the youd the age of juberty and usually the total overseas trade has increased ing around the preparing of the three from about \$240,000,000 to \$650,000,- great needs (food, clothing, shelter) 000, or more than 2½ times; the bank which provided so liberal an education notes in circulation have increased from about \$30,000,000 to \$70,000,000 to to the children, and find little, either odd, or more than double; the total in the home or school. The raw madeposits of the people in the banks terial is now handled in factories, and have increased from \$193,000,000 odd reading, writing and arithmetic are no to \$711,000,000 odd, or between three longer the most precious things that and four times; two new flourishing can be given in the school in order to provinces have been added to the supply the education that the home

up on all sides, and some of them. The fresh, happy kindergarten with are now of international importance; its spontaneous play, its growing river channels and canals have been plants, its stories and music and hand fitted for the exigencies of modern the kindergartners give the inspirainted for the exigencies of modern the kindergartners give the inspira-commerce; public utilities have tion of a leader, best meets the need reached a high state of efficiency in of the kindergarten child. Playgrounds the cities, and thousands of miles of manual training, domestic science, railway have been built or are pro- technical schools, are an attempt to jected all over the country. All this give the older children that balanced -in the case of Walrole and the which makes a knowledge of books a

stone was Prime Minister of England work of our home, our school and our



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