

Mother's Section

DEVOTION

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;
I would be pure, for there are those who care;
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;
I would be brave, for there is much to dare.
I would be friend of all—the foe—the friendless;
I would be giving, and forget the gift;
I would be humble for I know my weakness;
I would look up—and laugh—and love—and lift.

—Howard Arnold Walter.

Caring for the Baby

I was given a lesson when baby was five weeks old which I have not forgotten. It was upon the first occasion when I had taken him out, and, notwithstanding the fact that it was a very warm day, I bundled him up "head and ears" and went to join some friends at an afternoon tea. Baby was sleeping when I arrived and I placed him upon the bed without removing his wraps. The room had no draught and was close. After a while he awakened and very feebly announced his presence. I carried him to the sitting room saying as I did so that I did not understand what made my baby so small and weak. Just then Grandma Walters came in with the tea things. She put them down and took the big bundle from my arms.

"My land!" she exclaimed as she began to scatter the wraps. "Who could wonder at its weakness! Nellie, I thought you had better judgment. Take off two or three of these bed quilts and this woollen cape, and a half dozen more or less hoods and give the darling a chance to breathe! See! His garments and even the wraps are wet with perspiration. Has a five-weeks-old baby any vitality to sweat away like that?" "But," I faltered, "I was afraid he might take cold. The change—you know."

Then Grandma gave me a look that almost withered me. "Cold! On a day like this! Why, child, this day was made for babies, little and big! But now that its clothing is all wet and steaming don't be foolish enough to sit with it between the open window and door. Bring it back to a comfortable condition gradually."

And she selected a light, knit baby shawl and draped it loosely around the little one lying upon my lap.

"Thank you, Grandma," I answered meekly. "I'm glad to learn these things from your experience."

"Well, just do not make the sad mistake, Nellie, of thinking your baby needs nothing but food and warmth. Remember these little bodies are sustained and grown in the same life-giving atmosphere in which big bodies are sustained. They not only want to breathe through their lungs, but through every part of their anatomy. If a baby's hands are warm it is generally warm otherwise. Never allow it to have cold hands. But it is wicked to make them break out with heat rashes when it can be prevented."

"Should I remove one of these woollen skirts?" I questioned.

"Two woollen skirts on that dear lamb the middle of July! You poor, wee, martyr!" And Grandma bent over the little helpless form. "Supposing you were suddenly dropped down from a beautiful nest where every condition was perfect into a climate changed every hour or two; and supposing that because of your new environment you were unable to make yourself understood in any way; suppose you had to care for you a great giant one hundred times as big and a thousand times as strong, and who had it in his power to do with you just as he chose; and so he swaddled you in wool—bands, skirts, shirts, napkins, pinning-blankets, socks, caps, hoods, veils, cloaks, coats, blankets and comforts; laid you upon a feather pillow and hugged and tucked you up close so you could neither move foot nor fist, toted you off somewhere and dumped you down among more feather pillows and left you there till you had sweat out every drop of vitality you had! Don't you think you would long to tell that giant why you felt too weak to cry very much?"

I was too full of tears to answer. "See how cunningly baby will curl its toes and kick its little feet now when we uncover it and let the warm, fresh air strike the skin. No, not in a draught, Nellie, be careful. Just let it enjoy itself."

And I did from that day. On cool days baby has worn a flannel shirt and skirt made princess style, and which covers the chest. When it is warm he wears a sleeveless woollen vest covering



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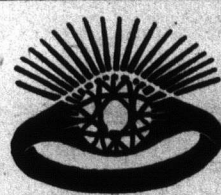
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Hush! She's nearly asleep!