

flesh, while, all unconsciously to them, the first insidious poison of a deadly disease may have already made its first attack upon the soul. The dearly loved child, the beautiful little creature, is, after all, but the casket of a priceless jewel. Surely the jewel must be of more consequence than the casket ! Indeed, how often is' the finest and loveliest physique marred by the unruliness of the spirit within ! Hence by far the most important duty which the parent or guardian has to perform is to guard the mental growth and spiritual welfare of the child.

The first question asked is how to provide good reading for the child. We should say, in order to pave the way for it at as early an age as possible, begin with a softly-breathed lullaby, for this is the age when impressions are possible, before there is any responsive intelligence. Let it be, then, spiritual as well as tender, so that the ear may gradually grow accustomed to the blending of sweet names with equally sweet strains, as :

" Our Father in heaven, we hallow Thy name,
May Thy kingdom holy on earth be the same,"
etc., sung to a suitable air. Unconscious impressions are thus made which are afterwards to influence the tastes and inclina-