

Miscellaneous.

Abnormal Self-Consciousness in Children.

When the child's appetite is good and his temperature normal, most physicians are apt to think him safe in his mother's care and no longer dependent upon medical advice. Yet, if we counsel correct habits of diet, exercise, and sleep, we ought not to be considered as transgressing very far the legitimate bounds of medical practice if we essay occasionally a warning word about so bad a mental habit as self-consciousness. Such advice, when given to a reasonable mother may be in the best sense prophylactic. Few parents can be got to believe, for example, that "forwardness," disobedience, and rude conduct in a young child are sometimes a grave sign of mental deficiency. Gowers has noted them as one of the earliest indications of abnormal cerebral function. Instead of the youngster being prompted to rudeness and impertinence and laughed at for his supposed precocity, such performance should be viewed with anxiety, and should be gently but promptly suppressed. That small children should be "seen and not heard" is a maxim based on an enlightened psychology. The abnormal self-consciousness that prompts such outbreaks may easily develop into an incurable egomania, the growing brain tissue is, as Horace so well said long ago, *cereus in vitium flecti*. Even where it is not congenital, a morbid feeling of self can be awakened and nourished with alarming ease and speed. No child should be encouraged to repeat poetry before his mother's guests, or praised for his "pretty curls," or even have his first trousers made too much of. The less he thinks of himself the better. He may be judiciously commended for good conduct or for diligence in study, but never flattered for his cleverness or good looks, or for anything which he has not come by through self-forgetting endeavor. Both boys and girls should be taught to endure; to neglect trifling aches and pains, and to seek for a remedy rather than to cry over the trouble. Self-command and self-control are the noblest things a man can strive for, and he will never gain them unless he begins learning in infancy to fix his thought and will upon objects outside of himself. If such principles of education were more closely followed, hysteria and the "artistic temperament" might gradually disappear and the hosts of insane people now walking at large, because their disorders of consciousness are directly menacing to society, might be much diminished.—*Ex.*

The Broader View.

Sir James Paget was of penetrating mind, often expressing his convictions in quaint observations, showing his intimate acquaintance not only with his profession, but with human nature. "All habits are bad, even good ones," said he, the