

that can affect the youthful imagination or injure the tender mind.

As a natural starting point, we will begin with the birth of the young soul sent fresh from the realms of creation, and confided to the care of virtuous parentage. God has entrusted the little creature entirely to the father and mother, as if saying, "Here is one of the most precious of all gifts committed to your care—a priceless human soul, to be trained for eternity." The little creature is very helpless; it rests upon its mother's bosom. Soothing tones address it, warm love protects it, and every one is fully alive to the importance of guarding and caring for it physically. But do they as often realize the importance of guarding the opening intelligence of the immortal soul, which begins as early as, and keeps pace with, the development of the body? The whole being is like a piece of plastic wax, or the snowy pages of an unwritten book, and the mother or nurse in charge is leaving indelible impressions which are to last forever, for good or evil, for weal or woe. How the little body is guarded from all danger of contagion! How alarmed and distressed would they be if fever or skin disease should fasten itself upon the tender