

The doctor seemed so earnest and kindly in his manner that Charlie readily responded and gave his promise.

Then for ten minutes the doctor read and explained the uses and functions of the male generative organs, and he had an attentive listener.

"Promise me now," as he concluded and replaced the book upon the table, "if you want to know anything about what I have been reading, you will ask your father about it?"

"I promise."

"And if a boy younger than yourself or of your own age asks you what you know about these matters, you will tell him the truth, so far as you know it?"

"I promise."

Then turning to William Roberts the hospital doctor thus addressed him:

"The law of the State enjoins you to take your boy to a doctor again at thirteen, then at fourteen, and again at fifteen. It is with this as with registering a birth, or issuing a death certificate—the same as reporting a case of diphtheria, scarlet fever, etc. It is compulsory. If during the year the boy asks you a simple question of a sexual nature, answer it in a straightforward way. Never lose an opportunity of preaching this gospel to your intimate friends. See that he participates in outdoor sports and exercises, and teach him temperance in all things. Remember that a clean mind in a clean body points to health. Let the teachers and the preachers inculcate morals and religion; but do you take the doctor's advice and guard your boy's health in all ways. That is all."

"May I ask what you do with that card?" queried William Roberts.

"Yes. I forward it to the State Board of Health at the Capital, where it is filed with his birth registration card. Next year, I, or some other doctor, will enlighten him and you further."

The first year has passed away and William Roberts, deeply interested in his boy's life, finds himself in somewhat better circumstances. He decides this year he can afford to take him to Dr. Browne, his regular family physician. Not once during the year had Charlie broached the subject of sex and reproduction to him; and he had never considered it advisable to question the boy as to any knowledge of the subject he had retained from his initial instruction. The doctor's book had warned against talks