

my surprise a short time after when a poor mother brought to me her sick child. "Tell me what I can do to save my baby?" was the question. I answered: "I am no doctor. Why do you come to me?" "You American man. You know," was the answer. Then I began to ask the symptoms of the disease. I found that this child for weeks had been suffering from a violent and acute form of cholera complaint. The mother, finding that the child could not digest anything, gradually ceased feeding him until at last she gave him nothing but raw fruit, the very worst food she could give under the circumstances. And as I looked at that skeleton of a boy I said to myself, "How many mothers and fathers there are in my own country just as incompetent to raise children as is that eastern mother?"

As intelligent parents you have no right to blind your eyes to the physical necessities of your offspring. Is it well with the child? Is it well with the food he eats and the clothing he wears and the room in which he sleeps? Is it well with him in the exercise he takes and in the games he plays? Are you developing good health in the nursery and in the playground? Remember, the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Are you building the right kind of physical cathedrals? If your children are not strong physically, what is the reason? Are you to blame? Are you like Ralph Waldo Emerson's mother, who thought so much of his brain that she forgot that a brain without a stomach is just as useless as a St. Mark's campanile with walls tottering on account of the loosened cement which should hold its stones together. "Is it well with the child?"

What, I say, can it be that you have no interest in your children's mental growth? Can it be that you have more interest in the overseer of your ranch or in the foreman of your factory or in the coachman of your horses than you have in the schoolteachers who are placing the stamp of their intellectuality upon your boy's mind? As you look into the past you fully realize that all you are, in a mental way, is due to the training you received from certain school or college teachers now in glory. And can it be that you have