

the cornea by suddenly bringing the fingers near it and observing whether the child winks before it is touched.

In examining the ears remember the shortness of the auditory meatus in a child, and the great obliquity of the drum membrane. The magnification of the view by means of the ophthalmoscopic lens is a useful aid in these cases. It is always a difficult matter to gauge the intellectual capacity of a young child. Early signs of idiotcy are—inability to support the head—which often rolls about helplessly, causeless screaming, not taking any notice of surrounding objects, or staring listlessly at them, backwardness in taking hold of objects. In older children this task is more easily performed; note its progress at school; get it to count and multiply. Books tell us that the position of a child at school is a rough guide to its intelligence; I admit it—it is a rough but not, in my opinion, a correct guide. Intellect will, I think, bear to be called a comparative quality. At certain ages it is precocious—a bad sign—for if pressed it is soon snuffed out and exists no more, its frail medium having passed to the great majority. On the contrary we find that those who learn slowly, learn wisely and live to evolve from their slowly developed brain, problems in business and finance which have made them masters in their world. We are, in a recent work, told that a child remains in the infant school until he is seven years of age, after which he enters the standards—eight different standards being arranged—extending from the seventh to the fourteenth year. In my opinion it is as outrageous to send a child to school before it is seven years as it is to put a child ten years of age to work in a manufactory. Again, gentlemen, let me proclaim and if, after thought, you endorse my views you also proclaim it—that a child's study should alone be embraced within the the school hours. I would not have a child open a book after it left the school-room—no home studies. The hours now devoted to them should be passed in play and reading of books of travel, thus developing the body and with continued health, the brain will be supplied with