

HOW TO MANAGE PRECOCIOUS CHILDREN.

Many of the most prominent children are sacrificed to a desire to bring them forward in advance of other children, and this desire is stimulated by natural instincts. Every living creature rejoices in the use of the faculties which God has given it. The boy whose muscle is well developed will never keep still, but is ready for anything, good or bad, in which he can participate. To such a one study is a punishment.

But the boy whose muscles are feeble and whose brain is largely developed, sits still and reads, and the appetite of course, conforms to the kind and amount of exercise. If he wastes the phosphorus of the brain by study, he will desire phosphoric food to restore it. While the fat and stupid boy, who has neither muscle or brain, will crave carbonaceous articles to feed his stupidity, and indulgence in these appetites will, of course, increase the peculiarity.

I have seen the little kindling, after an hour of extraordinary exertions in driving from the neighborhood an intruding hawk, devote the next hour to catching bees and hornets, which abound both in nitrates and phosphates, as a means of restoring his muscular and vital energy. The bird is safe in following his natural inclinations, living as it does according to natural laws, and having no abnormal development of faculties, and no abnormal appetites, it can eat what it desires, and as much, with impunity.

But the child, changed in its condition as it may be by the ignorance and folly of its parents, even before its birth, is abnormally developed, and of course has abnormal appetites.

Indulging these appetites in case of precocity of the brain, of course increases the excitement of the brain, and the result is inflammation and premature death.

A child with a precocious brain, or who is very forward, to use the common expression, is of course more liable to dangerous diseases of the brain than other children, but if parents follow the subject thought, and use their reason in this, as in other less important matters, these diseases might be generally ward off.

If our eyes have been overworked, or are weak or liable to inflammation, we avoid over using them, especially in the strong light, and if so inflamed that too much light, and all use of them gives pain, we shut out light altogether, and give them rest till they recover. Both light and exercise are pleasant to the eyes in health, and absolutely necessary to give them health and strength, but when diseased, are both alike injurious, and we avoid the influence of both till they recover. And when only weak, and not absolutely diseased, we are careful to have the light or use the eye only moderately and carefully. So of any other organ or faculty—that which is necessary to it in health must be carefully used in tendency to disease.

Apply this principle to a precocious brain. The brain is as dependent on appropriate exercise and a supply of phosphorus in health, as is the eye on exercise and light; and as we withdraw the exercise and light in weakness and disease, so should we withdraw the brain from exercise and phosphoric food in case of diseased or precocious development. Daily (Indianapolis) Evening Commercial.

CHARLOTTE CORDAY.

If assassination may be under any circumstances justified, then the deed which brought the beautiful Girondist of Normandy to the scaffold, places her in the true rank of a heroine, for she boldly rid the world of a man whose name is only another word for a monster in human shape. Marie Anne Charlotte Corday, a descendant of a noble family—among whom were Cornelielle, the celebrated tragic writer, father of the French drama—was born at St. Saturnin, near Evreux, Normandy, in 1768. The republican principles of the French revolutionists struck deep root into her enthusiastic mind, and her zeal for their establishment increased after the Jacobine club had overthrown the Girondists in 1793, and the chiefs of the latter had fled into Normandy in hope of arousing the people in their favor. Resolved to advance their cause by some extraordinary action, she proceeded to Paris, and selected Marat as her victim, one of the most violent and blood-thirsty of the Jacobins. After two unsuccessful attempts to gain an interview with him, she mailed a letter on July 15th, 1793, to the club in which he was confined by a slight indisposition, and stabbed him to the heart. Being instantly arrested, and carried before the Tribunal Revolutionnaire, she avowed and justified the act. She heard with perfect calmness the sentence of death pronounced upon her, and maintained her composure to the last hour. Two days after Marat's assassination, she heard with a strong attack on by the guillotine, which she had only just reached the age of twenty-five.

Lamartine, in his "Histoire des Girondins," states that Charlotte Corday was induced, before proceeding to her death, to sit for her portrait to a painter by the name of Hauer. He had seen her in court, and began her sketch with her knowledge and approval afterwards she consented to sit to him in her prison, and at her request he made a small copy, which was presented to her father, after her death. The incident and its attendant circumstances, have furnished the artist with a subject which he has rendered with terrible fidelity and power. Hauer has completed his task—and, while gathering together his pigments, he watches the face of the young Norman girl, who sits with clasped hands, and calm, earnest gaze on the portrait, as the executioner remorselessly applies his scissars to the edge of the guillotine. The action and the attitude of the heroine show what are her feelings at this dread moment, rather than the expression of her countenance; and in this negation of obtrusive mental agony, the artist has made a stronger appeal to our sympathy than if he had represented the victim convulsed with horror. — Demore's Monthly.

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