"On the Management of Early Infancy"

by

James Home

So many able men have already devoted their attention to the subject of this memoir, that I fear it would be difficult for one to offer anything new to the attention of the Medical Faculty. Nowhere, however, I do not consider to be of so much importance as originality; for I submit that an idea once the perfectly original and yet by no means new. The same words are uttered from day to day by thousands of men, and it would indeed be a miracle, if the same notion in some form or other did not suggest itself to several men, in the same world within one twelve months.
Indeed it appears to me that the man who first gives a clear and intelligible expression to an idea, and engraves it on the mind of the profession by printing and circulating it, is generally looked upon as its sole originator; hence, the less hesitation in entering upon the treatment of this subject, since if I do not attempt to present one that which was formerly unknown I shall run the less risk of transgressing the bounds of truth and becoming a false guide to the unwary and credulous.

No man who has earnestly devoted his attention to the study of Medicine, has any right to consider his own ideas worthless, and as such to conceal them from the profession in general; for thoughts like these often look ridiculous as Majesties according to the way in which they are dressed; and even as break
Unrivalled now may suggest a flower
bloom of thought to the most fertile
genius.

On its own merits, I do not know
of any subject which is more deeply
interesting to the general community,
than the management of Infancy.
Certainly there is no one more so to
to the medical profession.

It is for the Physician to decide,
not only how the various diseases of
Infancy are to be remedied or averted,
but likewise under what circumstances
the organs of the body are likely to
attain their most perfect development.
Although the Physician who knows
the arrangements and functions of a
child is his proper Guardian, as the
Mother who loves him is his proper
Aim; yet every one must feel
interest in a child, and no
wonder if as surely the child
is the Father of the Man.

Infancy is the spring time of life.
And in proportion to his own helplessness does the child demand our tenderness and care. Yet it must be kept in mind that the influence which we possess over the fate of our younger brother may be for evil as well as for good; we all know that according to the quantity and quality of the nutriment supplied to growing plants they either strengthen and flourish or wither and die; so also it is with the human race. Such children, such ones; some indeed believe that a statement may grow from an ill-nurtured child, it may be so, but as a rule there are faults in every man.

Seeing then, that the mode in which human beings are treated during their age of preparation, has a most powerful influence upon the development of the body as well as the mind; I propose to consider the management of infancy.
during the progress of Dementia because the dangers which attend that process are both numerous and formidable. I am sure there is not any other time, during which an infant is so easily affected by the circumstances which surround him, and certainly none during which his true constitution becomes more developed than this.

Now in order to understand clearly the system of management, which ought to be pursued during Infant life, it is proper that we should have a just idea of the difficulties attending and inseparable from it. I intend, therefore, to devote a preliminary chapter to the consideration of the influences, to which the child is subjected, during his residence within the Intestinal cavity; as well as to the mode in which causes of diseases may be averted.
Chapter I.
The circumstances which influence the growth and development of the human being, during its extra-uterine life, are doubtless very far beyond our comprehension in more directions than one; but they may be, for the sake of convenience, arranged in the following way:

1. Those ones which the mother cannot possibly have any control, and for which therefore, she is not in any degree responsible.

2. Those ones which she undoubtedly has a certain degree of control and for which therefore she is justly looked upon as responsible—always providing that she has been taught to make her fully acquainted with her own influence on the fate of her child.

The whole process of generation is so mysterious and so I think too entirely beyond explanation, in any other than the most general way.
that I imagine it would be only waste of time to enter at length
upon its consideration. A few facts
however, may tend to place the matter
before us in a sufficiently simple
manner for most purposes.
There can be no doubt whatever
that sexual connection is the only
way by which generation can be
effected in Mammalia; and this fact
though known to every one is of great
consequence as indicating the high
importance of the male reproductive
secretion. The idea which one con-
stantly produces within the craniums
of the female and periodically
extended into the Fallopian tubes,
are quite small if themselves to
be considered as any tissue
whatever; they appear to be either
melted down and expelled by the
cilia, or washed away by the menstrual
blood, after remaining some time
in the uterine cavity.
But the fact of their inability to
commence the most elementary
change in form, without the application
of the Spermatie fluid, is not one what
more surprising than another, which
is equally well known although
much less attended to; namely that
withoutstanding the ovum at the
time it becomes fertilized, which
is generally in the Fallopian tube, has
no connection whatsoever with the
Uterine tissue further than through
means of a layer of Epithelium,
yet the event of its being fertilized
is always followed at once by the
development of the Uterine lining
membrane into a another called
Decidua. I mention this not because
of itself there is anything more extrava-
tionary than about many course
changes which occurs during development,
but because there is often much difficulty
made regarding the manner in which
the mother can be supposed to influence
her child during his stay within
the uterine cavity, on account of
the absence of nervous communication
through the umbilical cord. Now
I would submit, this change which
takes place in the uterine lining
membrane as one of the most
perfect proofs, that powerful
influences may be transmitted
through structures which are not
reputed to be nerves with as great
rapidity as through the nerves them-
self. However, to return to the
question of generation, it is still
a point which requires further research
to settle, whether the Spermatic filament
deposit, some matter within the
cavity of the reproductive cell, which
becomes in that case the containing
material for certain peculiar granules;
or whether the spermatic fluid either
in whole or in part acts as a mere
stimulant to the ovaries. Of course it
is almost useless to desist upon a
topic like this, since the theory which
enables the changes of reproduction
to certain properties of the materials,
may be just as suppositionary as
many of the reputed observations
certainly are.

If I may trust my own observation
upon individual instances which
the limits of this paper would scarcely
permit me to mention in detail,
the constitution of the child appears
to receive its characteristic peculiarities
from the male in a much higher
degree than from the female parent.

No one indeed who has really de-
noted his attention to this matter,
can doubt the truth of what I have
asserted, and although the manner
in which the female is not without some
effect upon the external characteristics
of the child, yet it is in some respects
not in the grand and ruling qualities
that her influence is seen.

What I have now stated does not
appears to me after all to give either the one or the other view of generation any decided preference. And really this giving a preference to some particular view, without any certainty that it is the right one, and so building up a theory without proper foundation, seems very far wrong. It would be just as easy to suppose that the influence of the semen might impress the contents of the ovum with peculiar qualities as to imagine that these are their presence to a nucleus deposited within the reproductive cell.

I cannot help remembering however upon the fact that although the ovum belongs to the mother originally, that although the fetus is developed from the material which it contains, and finally that although the little being is sustained, from the very dawn of its existence, until the close of its intrauterine life by the juices of the mother alone, yet that it quality
not only retain the characteristics of the Father, but the most imperious manner manifest these.

As far as I can make the matter out, it would appear that the Female parent under ordinary circumstances, act chiefly as a source and source of nurturance for the Embryo. And hence, in my mind the nature and extent of her power.

We ought never to forget, that although the constitutional peculiarities which are impressed upon the Embryo through the Worm by the Male parent can never be effaced by the most strongly opposed quality in the female, yet that so long as the child remains within the uterus only its tissue clutters their entire constitution from the Mothers blood and therefore must be affected by every change that takes place in the composition of that vital fluid.
I do not know whether home made any meaning sufficiently plain; but perhaps the following illustration, may serve to make it come so. If the Father of a child be gouty, but the mother vigorous, then upon the supposition that she remains healthy whilst she is pregnant, I believe that the child will be more highly impressed, with the goodness of the Father than with the Stimmons Diathesis, of the Mother; but the admixtures of disease affect the child what ever the constitutional taint with which it may be impressed.

We may see at once that it is no matter of indifference, whether or not the Mother of a child be in sound health during her pregnancy; for just as the Stimmons diathesis, the gouty or the rheumatic become more or less highly developed as the vitality of the blood becomes lowered; so do they tend to vanish as it vitality becomes perfected.
It need not excite astonishment that the characteristic features of health and disease, cannot be either changed or obliterated in any individual; for such change or obliteration would be subservient of the first great principle, which reigns through the entire system of Nature. To produce individuals most strongly resembling their parent is the object of reproduction and this object is the most part is effected in a manner not less complete than it is mysterious.

For the healthy peculiarities of her offspring then, the Mother is not responsible, either in many instances and she be so, for the constitutional taints which affect it. It has been said I fear with some degree of truth that the presence of the Syphilitic taint in the blood of the Father, has been the cause of Scorbuta in his child.
The disease so excited if it is not true syphilis, at all events very strongly resembles it, in the tendency which it gives to the ready establishment of morbid nutrition, especially in the pulmonic tissue. Like other acquired morbid conditions however, its tendency is to weaken and if circumstances be favorable, entirely to disappear through time.

But on the other hand, the most appalling results may flow from a case like this. Again, if sex be kept in view that the syphilitic poison being reproduced in the embryonic systems may finally affect the mother herself; she involuntarily becomes the unhappy means of transmitting the poisonous influence of which she herself is the unfortunate victim.

It is not the syphilitic cachexia alone in the male parent, which may be productive of irredeemable
Mischief to his offspring. Setting aside cancers in the present as a disease of comparatively rare occurrence, there are states of the system for which it would be difficult to find a fit name such as those induced by morbid indulgence in intoxicating fluids or opium eating! Which if present in the father at the time of conception would inevitably produce the most harmful effect on the child so begotten.

Bought me to consider it as strange thing, that the impression made upon the reproductive cell should be unhealthy when the Father is so? I think not; there is nothing more remarkable in this fact, than in the fact of generations itself.

Of the influence which we may suppose to be exerted by constitutional peculiarities in the Mother, very little has been hitherto ascertained...
with certainty. It is only by repeated and careful observat
That a certain modifying power, is exerted by every new constitutional quality with which the individuals of a race come successively in contact, is not at all doubtful; but the extent of this power must be at all times difficult to ascertain.

The wondrous mortality among children, to which I have hereafter refer, ought in many cases to be looked upon as the very safeguard and security tending as it does to breed out from time to time, immense numbers of weakly individuals, whose existence in this world would scarcely fail to be stretched for themselves and eminently for others.

It is perhaps worth while to recall to our memory, a fact with which every one must be quite familiar, namely, the disposition which the human race undoubtedly has to
the association of opposite characteristics not only in features but in mind, just as if peculiar dispositions might lose their strength or suffer in some other way by being transmitted through the same quality of constitution.

The whole of this subject however would be treated of very superficially if the limits of so much more extensive essay than the present, and therefore I hasten to the more important points regarding the Mothers influence.

For the effect of the Mothers mind upon the Poster, in Italy I imagine we have quite sufficient proof, although many cases which have been quoted in support of the idea rest upon the most insufficient foundation. I cannot help remarking in regard to this matter that as in the case of Incauerism, clairvoyance and other popular subjects of belief, we have had to depend
for chronicles of the effect of the
brothers' imaginings on the develop-
ment of her child, either upon defects
which have been handed down
from Father to Son, Grandfather
to GrandDaughter, or upon the
assumptions of individuals
hurled hurriedly, with much good
sense. I do not make this remark
with the view of denying the truth
of what has been said about imagi-
ation, but merely to show that little
reliance can be placed on observations
hitherto made, and consequently
that there is the greater necessity
for the subject being taken up by
scientific ones, whose minds
prepared for all sources of fallacy,
are the less likely to make any great
blunders in their conclusions.

In my own part I am very much
disposed to credit the power of imaginIng
but having no good proof to lead
me in its favour further than might
he supplied by a few instances among the lower criminals, resembling the well-known case of the Draggas. I content myself with respecting the meagreness of our knowledge.

Influence of a very few different kinds, however, must be considered in this place. I refer to the action of morbid conditions affecting the mother and sometimes producing the most serious results before her child. There are oral formations not infrequently observed in cases in which it would be difficult or impossible to ascertain any feasible cause whatever for their occurrence. Still, when these, if analyzed and compared carefully with the state of systems enjoyed by the mother during her pregnancy, would not be without profit to the enquirer; one point indeed I would be inclined to predict as likely to be established by a thorough investigation, namely...
that Fetal malformations by absence of particular textures exist in those organisms, whose time to receive increased sustenance happen to correspond to a period of bodily or mental lameness in the mother. Further than this however I will not now remark upon the subject as it would be prior to be entered into at much greater length to do it justice.

A fact much more within the sphere of our observation and inquiry, is one connected with the question of how the diseases of the Placenta are capable of deciding the fate of the child. - There is no doubt that the Placenta is subject to disease for the researches of Professor Linford have already decided that matter beyond the scope of question.

How such diseases can affect that organ may be injurious to the Fetus is not in my opinion by any means so readily determined.
Firstly, there is no doubt whatever that Inflammation may take place in the Placenta quite as easily as in any other structure; and of this in the present instance I find it much more easy to offer good reason than to furnish absolute proof. In some cases such proof as every one knows aseptical must look upon as impossible.

There is no other vascular tissue in the body with which we are acquainted, and which is not liable to inflammation; and when the nature of the inflammatory process is carefully considered this need not appear at all strange.

Inflammation consists essentially in spasm, relaxation, and loss of tone of the capillary vessels of any part followed by exudation of the Lymph and plasma through their delicate membranous walls; the lymph so exuded changing
In various ways according to its locality, here, becoming organized into Plac, there, into Plac. expulsed. Now since such is the nature of the inflammatory process it would be absurd to imagine that the Placenta should be entirely absolved from any liability to the same sort of danger which affect all other vascular parts.

It is certain that the Placenta is sometimes found adherent to the Uterus; and this fact of itself would be sufficient to favour the belief that inflammation had taken place during pregnancy. — Whether we call it by the name of inflammation or not involuid nutritions really takes place in the Placenta and not infrequently I believe is the cause of death of the Fetus. — The rapidity of its normal nutritions within the Uterine cavity just renders the more acutely felt any irregularity or intermission in the supply of nutriment.
from the mother; and so in the same proportion acts with evil effect upon the fetal system generally.

Any cartilaginous, calcaneous or vesicular deposit, which may take place in the Placenta, is no doubt followed by its corresponding evil effect; and not unlikely the interruption to growth, which seems from such causes will correspond to the stunted development of some upon another that should have obtained a much higher supply of nourishment at the particular time. — Perhaps fatty degeneration of the Placenta, may be reckoned as one of the most efficient causes on the part of the Placenta for death of the Fetus. Looking to the destructive influence of this affection when it attacks other glandular organs among which the Placenta after all may be considered one in point of functions, there appears
to be no reason, why we should doubt its effect, as the able investigations of Professor Bordair have shown, all the nutritive which enters the fetal systems must pass through at least two distinct layers of cells: and any cause which would render these unable for the due performance of their functions, would also act with the most destructive effect upon the Fetus. It would be a different case if any other means of absorption existed in addition to these cells, but as far as we know there is none. Fatty degeneration consists essentially in the deposition of oil granules within them, and their consequent inability for the performance of their functions.

However we know but little of the Pathology of Fatty Degeneration as it affects the Placenta, and can therefore form a very imperfect idea of the changes which actually
take place during its progress.
Do not the slightest doubt
myself that the fatty degeneration
consists essentially in the deposition
of oil from the aliment; and it would be quite contrary
to all observations hitherto made
in regard to fatty degeneration to
deny this. Moreover, when we con-
sider that the Placenta is not
merely a retarding organ for the placental
blood, but likewise a fountain of
nutriment from which all supplies
are drawn, the evidence seems
perfectly conclusive.
As to that state of the Placenta
mentioned by Prospero Strippeso
in which there is a strong tendency
to death of the child about the
deleth month, and which he
state, is so readily benefited by
the exhibition of Chlorate of Potash,
I do not feel by any means clear.
his statement about the mothers
blood being unable to wear out that of the child, as also about the values of chlorate of Potash as an oxidising agent, seems at first sight peculiarly attractive, and even satisfactory; but when we reflect that the amount of additional Oxygen which can be supplied to the Mother's blood, by even an entire draught of the Chlorate, does not amount to more than 1/20 of the quantity taken into her system under ordinary circumstances during twenty four hours, we cannot but feel some hesitation in concurring with Prof. Simpson. For my own part I am rather disposed to look upon the agency of the Chlorate as an oxidising one in its ultimate effect, but not in its immediate action, upon the Fetus; we know well enough that Alcohol is merely a combustible material, and no doubt as such is finally burnt off at the lungs and tissues.
to maintain the animal heat, but its immediate effect is not the less
powerful on that account — as I believe that it is with the Chlorate
of Potash: its action upon the system is primarily of a very stimulating and
inspiratory kind, just like that of Quinine in some cases.

Probably the Chloride of Potassium or anion of its electro positive constituent,
has a much higher degree of influence upon the life being of the child than
might at first sight be imagined. The recent researches of Liebig,
Lehmann and others have gone to prove that vital activity in
animal beings is very intimately connected with the presence of Potash
in abundance, and although it would not treat with disrespect
the small amount of Oxygen, contained in the Chlorate of Potash
seeing that it might be an auxiliary
much more from its peculiar state
of combination than from its absolute quantity yet I am disposed to attribute its action much more to the fact of it being a Potash salt than to the oxidising influence which it could exert.

Whatever view may be taken of disease of the Placenta there seems but little doubt that they may prove highly injurious to the viability of the Fetus. But certain disordered conditions affecting the Mother may be equally fatal: no one more so I believe than Bright’s disease when it occurs in a hard form during pregnancy; that Dispersal Convolutions are almost unanimously the result of the presence of blood in the blood scarcely appears to require any further proof since the observations of Dr. Simpson on this subject.

Intermittent Flus, Continued Flus and the Contagious Erythematous undoubtedly exert through the Mother
a considerable influence upon the
Fetus or Fetus. From the very nature
of such diseased conditions, however,
it is scarcely possible to ascertain
one fact regarding them. We know
well enough that abortion is much
more likely to occur during the process
of labor than under ordinary circumstances;
and there does not appear to be anything
very remarkable in this. The organs,
and the tissues which compose them,
in the Fetus, being but lately formed
have not the same high powers of
resisting injurious influences as those
of the adult body, and the only con-
sideration that would certainly
change one's opinions regarding the
effect of poison on the fetal
system is this, namely that perhaps
the Fetus possesses some inherent
powers of resisting such influence.
The effects of Small Pox are much
more obvious than those of many
other diseases, and it is not surprising
that this should have had the most prominent place assigned to it among intrauterine affections. Whether congenital Hydrocephalus actually is the result of enanthem-like disease in the Fetus or not, there can be no difficulty in believing that it might be so. After all the chief question to be resolved with regard to the action of Hypnotic diseases during intrauterine life resolves itself into this: do they or do they not act with greater energy when transmitted to the child through the Mother's blood, than if the poisons giving rise to them were absorbed directly from the Atmosphere? If it could be decided with certainty that the Fetus does possess some forces of protecting itself from the action of animal poisons then we might be in a position to discuss the question of how such forces can be expected. Whether perhaps
the cells of the Placenta may not exercise the function of an 'active' department, and so reject everything that might prove hurtful to the development of the system. In the present state of our knowledge, however, it would be of no avail to theorize: for baseless theories do but excite the inutility of the good-natured criticism of the censors.

Let us now review the various circumstances which may affect the Fetus in utero and which very often put at defiance all our efforts either to change them or diminish their effect. They appear to be susceptible of arrangement under three great heads: Placental Disease; Poisons elaborated within the system of the Mother; Poisons absorbed from without. The mode of action of Placental disease has been already mentioned; and I am now only to remark that there are or all likelihood other
positions at which the supply of nutrients essential to the function may be partially
stopped for a time. It appears to me that fatty degeneration of the fateful
lines might be a cause of such distinction; and, although these
not have been able as yet to detect its
existence still others may perhaps
be more fortunate.

As to the Poisons prepared within
the maternal system, it is undoubt-
edly the most efficient as has been
already noticed. Biliary fluid
as well as others are not without their
effect. So little attention has been
directed to this question that it would
be impossible as yet to offer any
useful statistics.

In regard to the Poisons absorbed
from without nature nothing further
to say.

I come now to the second question,
what are the influences which the
mother exerts upon her child? And
men which she certainly has control.

Having already hinted at this subject I believe there is not much
to be said that is not well enough
known to everyone. The worst thing
is that people will not act upon
the knowledge which they possess.

The mother influences her child
in utero may be estimated by that
which she holds over her own rigors
of body and health of mind: I say
that we may estimate her influence
in this way but certainly there will
be a chance of arriving at an under-
estimate of it. Some circumstances,
there are no doubt in which it is
impossible for another either to
obtain sufficient a wholesome food
or to take a sufficient amount of
exercise; but are there not many
who have every advantage that
wealth and desirable position can
give them, and who only make
use of these to their own injury,
and much more so to that of their progeny. Some women are not aware of the injury they inflict upon future generations by leniency and indulgence; and many who have been told of it, satisfy an accusing conscience by the reflection that at all events their own system does not suffer less than that of their child. According to the state of health enjoyed by the mother so will be that of the Fetus in utero.

Whatever circumstances may come to depreciate the quality of her blood will also depreciate that of the Fetal organs. I cannot enumerate every little circumstance which may produce these effects, for their number is by no means small.

Wholesome food in sufficient quantity is the first condition essential to health; but to decide upon what is and what is not wholesome often becomes exceedingly difficult.
I should decidedly prohibit distilleries and fermented liquids in general as being highly likely to injure the development of the Fetus. Alcohol which is the active part in all ordinary stimulating fluids is only a combustible material after all; and so of course may be said to act as an agent in the maintenance of criminal heat. 

\[ CO_2 + 6O_2 \rightarrow 6H_2O + 6CO_2 \text{ and the blood will be all the warmer for it and the Fetus nothing the worse.} \]

This argument however is as dangerous as its deductions are false. The Carbon, Hydrogen, Nitrogen and Oxygen of our food certainly do pass off at last as Carbonic Acid, Water and Carbonic dioxide compounds less ultimate, and doing so they are made available for maintaining the heat of the body which they have ceased to be able to furnish, but we must not forget that it is only the materials which are of no
use for a higher purpose and therefore cannot serve the body more efficiently which are burnt off as above stated.

It is no matter of indifference to the system in what form of combination the four or five essential elements of its constitution are presented for its nutrition. In one state of combination they are not only devoid of all nutritive power, but absolutely poisonous (e.g. GRAPHITE); in another which appears to be almost the same as that of the Divalent compounds (helium) they are utterly harmless, whilst in other still substances which are chemically identical do not by any means serve the purposes of the body with equal efficiency (e.g. Potato starch and Arrow root). The fact is that Alcohol although a combustible material of food possesses the property also of acting as an etonmal but a poison before it finally leaves the system.
As @uronic acid and water.
Whether or not fatty degeneration of the Placenta results from habit of intemperance in the mother I do not pretend to say, but there appears to be no reason why such disease should not supervene from such cause... In deciding upon the proper kind of food one should be taken to select that which is most easily digested and least liable to produce flatulence or other disagreeable effect.

Those women who have a muddy complexion and who are easily excited by a stimulating diet should not take freely of animal food, especially of red meat: whilst those who are naturally pale require a more easily assimilates quality of food... And here I would guard against the error of supposing that what will answer well as diet for one female will he ought to suit for another. There is the most marked difference
Among women in this respect; and whether we look upon peculiarities as the result of habits acquired or as the result of original constitution the utmost attention ought to be devoted to them.

For those with whom such diet will agree, porridge and milk for breakfast is an admirable element of diet; the oatmeal, especially Scotch oatmeal, is rich in alkaline and earthy phosphates as well as iron, and these are the mineral constituents of food; probably more important than any others with the exception of common salt. Indeed I cannot urge too strongly the necessity for attention being paid to the mineral constituents of food. Iron is a most important element in the economy of the human body; and whether we look upon it merely as a vehicle for oxygen or more generally as having much to do
with the maintenance of health and vigour it presents, in all efficient aliment, cannot never be disregarded.

Secrecy of less importance to the health being of the mother and therefore of her child is the constant and moderate exercise of the body during daylight; some might imagine that since exercise is actually required if enjoyed in a balcony, it would be quite as efficient as if taken in the open air. Such a vital mistake as this homemaker will soon suggest its own remedy; the mother can not very long maintain a system of behaviour calculated to ruin her health—and which moreover for obvious reasons becomes impossible at a very early period. The influence of the right air is to be by all means avoided, as it is certainly deleterious—efficient oxygenation of the blood is the grand purpose of prudent

...
Exercise; but by no means, the only one. The rule of Nature seems to be that according to the demand made upon the systems for nutriment, the requisite nutriment is supplied. According to the amount of waste to be repaired. Now if we are supplied with muscular, tendinous and vascular structures for locomotion it is intended that we should use them; moreover if we do not use them we do not remain in a healthy state. Health is to be properly maintained not less by continual waste than by continual supply of fresh nutriment. Moderate exercise then in the open air or if that be impossible, in a large well ventilated room, is the great agent for maintaining health not only because it serves to bring the blood in contact with the finest atmosphere that can be held for respiration, but because by wearing out the old tissue it aid,
the system of what might prove extremely injurious to the delicate organs of the Poetus.

Food and Air - Nutrition and Purification are the essentials to the maintenance of health in mother and child; but the prevention of mischief is of equal importance. Just as the weapon of an infant becomes more and more perfect with the purity and strength of the maternal supply, so is its vitality impaired by every cause of disease which may affect her. Good nutrition will produce its effect no matter upon what constitution it may be tried; and to the child of a weakly father may be an immeasurable debt to the mother within whom its delicate frame took its first start. Enough perhaps has been said upon this subject and therefore I turn on to my next chapter.
Chapter II.

I enter now on the management of infancy during the period which elapses between birth and the complete development of the milk teeth. Thence bleed as child; never give from Opium; and never done him with Calomel; these are rules which ought to be impressed on the mind of every nurse and occasionally thought over even by aged medical men. I do not pretend to limit the practice of medical men in general by any grand rule of conduct, but this I know, that bleeding and Opium do not agree with the infant constitution; whilst the propriety of exhibiting Calomel in the reckless manner so often observed is much more than merely questionable. It is difficult to satisfy the mind either of a mother or of her medical attendant that treatment is sufficiently definite.
without bleeding and calomel. Day after day judicious ones are graduated into the practice of methods of treatment which although allowed by time, are certainly not to be depended on any other ground but that of age; if one medical man will not use active remedies, he can soon be dismissed and another one called in.

The mortality among children is certainly frightful to say the least of it; and although it is not by any means so much as it once was, yet he ought to most seriously reflect whether a method of treatment might become still further diminished by a change in the mode of treatment at present pursued.

There is a very distinguished member of the profession who has most elegantly remarked that although Nature is supreme yet she is also obsequious, let us become of her
tendency to yield to our administrations; and reflect that upon the terms which we offer to her may bring the lives not of hundreds but of thousands of human beings. — Day after day as another came to the Druggist with the request for a white powder for a baby a year old "and please make it a little stronger than the last one, as the last did no good" (!) adds the self-constituted Physician, upon whose word the truth never damns that cautious resolution to disregard the efforts of the last white powder ought to warn her against a further attempt. Every one will agree to the truth of the principle, that medicine ought never to be given unless it be absolutely required; but who is the judge of when it really is required? In my opinion not the Mother by any means — After a child has been plunged into a
but looks (temperature) of time and therefore
closed with Calomel Powders according
to the discretion of the Mother, very
often she still refuses to get quite
well and the Doctor is called in
having requested to prescribe something
which will do good and that
quickly; and judging by the state
of extreme irritations which affect
the child that inflammation is
present, he sometimes orders Leeches
to be applied immediately or casts
it he wondered that in many instances
like this, the infant sinks under the
treatment and expires.

It appears to me that Mother
have the right knowledge of these
complaints and ought to be prevented
from being any thing whatsoever, until
they are so informed, I am sure that
no proper estimate of Infant Mortality
from the proper causes treatliness and
disease can be formed.
Medicine has been too long considered as a part of maternal education, which unlike any other accomplishment is supposed to come intuitively. It is really marvellous to see what mistakes people are constantly making. That almost every woman may become a mother cannot be for one moment doubted; that comparatively few thoroughly understands the upbringing of children is a fact which I am ready to maintain to the last. Pious futile praying does not come intuitively; why then should a knowledge of the Practice of Medicine? There is no use in dilating upon the question, for I am sure that a number of children are destroyed every year by brothel lust maternal wisdom.

With the view of arriving at some proper conclusions as to the mode in which infants ought to be treated upon their entrance into this world of sorrow, I shall take the liberty
of quoting a few lines, from one of the most recent and, I believe, best works, on the management of Infantery, I mean the works of Fleetwood Lechurhill, speaking of the treatment to be given it with regard to the Venus Caseosa, he says:

"Let the nurse apply the band, and afterwards, with a fine soft sponge, a flannel and soap and water, remove what she does in a reasonable time; the rest can easily be removed on the second washing after a few hours." After saying something more about the mode of cleansing the child's skin, he remarks:

"In this country it is customary to apply a little whiskey to the head after drying it, to prevent cold. Whether it has this effect or not, I cannot say! I do not think it necessary any, but neither do I think it injurious provided it be kept..."
from the eyes." It will be obvious from this that Dr. Churchill does not exactly recommend the application of the whiskey; that his advice is not quite made up as to its physiological action; that he does not consider it to be absolutely essential to the child's welfare; but that he does not like to come in the face of old usage and custom. Further on he says something more about the washing of the child and recommends that "the greatest care should be taken to cleanse not merely the general surface of the body but all the folds and creases of the skin" and "after drying them gently and thoroughly, all the parts where pustules of the surface appear another i: possible, should be well dusted with freely powdered Starch or Lapis calaminaris or hair powdered tied up in a little muslin bag."
So the infant is made to feel pretty early that its quiet intro-

terme life is entirely at an end;

and that it has commenced

existence in a world pregnant with

soap, whiskey and warm water.

But with the propriety of the above

mode of treatment for a new-born

infant I can by no means agree.

If nature has furnished the child

with the Remit Basilica, I believe

she has done so for a wise purpose.

But with the Skin is not prepared

for contact with the Atmosphere

because the Epithelium is not

ready for it, and therefore the

tender cutis has been carefully

protected by an investment which

the Bourbe takes the liberty of washing

off, sometimes with Brandy and

warm water, sometimes with

white soap and water, and

sometimes less with some brown

soap - some more tedious.
than others apply Butler's Land; and it would be well if they left it there. Some very sensible men and authority recommends no interference whatever with the Vermit, and I cannot but applaud his sentiments. I believe that nature supplies us with some excellent hints for our guidance, if we are only attentive enough to her suggestions. Indeed the application of the Whiskey is about the least objectionable part of the treatment mentioned by Dr. Churchill. It is applied upon the same principle upon which Barlière rubs the head with Lomendeswater (which is made with the strongest rectified spirit) after cutting the hair, and people use them halting as winter mornings. The cold produced by the rapid evaporation of the spirit acts like a shock which is more powerful than that which
result from contact with the cold air; and so of course when
reaction occurs and the capillaries become again filled with blood
the skin is quite able to resist the cold. — That the child ought to
be most carefully but loosely wrapped up in warm flannel is
extremely proper; and the same remark applies to Dr. Churchill's
statement about the end of
Speaking of the fruit digesta which
the child ought to receive and
rejecting the view which puts
but the colostrum as the exact
proper food, Dr. Churchill rather
in his opinion and finally deciding
upon as middle course between
Calomel on the one hand, Rhambo
and Magnesia on the other, he
pursued a teaspoonful of castor
oil in a little warm water and
dose. He says, 'I think the oil
a better medicine than either.
colonel Rhubarb a Magnesia."
But why should the child have any medicines? O.\" Churchill evidently considers that the
treachery of the child indicates
the necessity for removing the
infection; but I am not per-
suaded that the immediate
removal of the matter is to be
looked upon as at all desirable,
so that it presence is really hurtful.
That the child seems more easy
(that is to say more quiet) is scarcely
to be wondered at, for after being
pretty severely pricked it is scarcely
to be wondered at if the child be
a little exhausted and therefor
less susceptible of the causes
of irritation which surround him.
I do not assert that the child
is permanently injured by the
castor oil; but I am sure that
he might readily be so by the
action of Colonel, Rhubarb in
In apneas... Let Physicians pause before they arm the risk of inflicting a lasting injury upon a child by permitting his mother to use her own or the nurse's discretion in the use of medicines.

Many mothers who are too susceptible to permit the application of the child to the breast immediately after delivery, are in the habit of directing the nurse to give the child a little sugar and water (lemon) and this with some good reason, although they are ignorant of its working - Sugar is a respiratory material of food, and as such in its change and final combustion will serve to maintain annual heat. Moreover, considering appears to act slightly as a lassative and if any lassative be required is certainly about the most suitable that could be prescribed.
Writers on the management of infancy have laboured well to collect statistics of mortality during the various periods of child life; and certainly the results which they have obtained are very conclusive on one point, namely that a vast proportion of children die before the second year. Indeed, not unnecessarily extend the limits of the dissertation by copying these statistics as they are quite well known to the professions in general and besides might prove tiresome to the medical faculty. Indeed, as writers on the present subject (Wilkie, Blake, Collins, Granville, etc.) learn, Willan, Crambie, Hawtins, Anderson, Quetelet and others have pretty well agreed with, and as occasion required, copied from one another and extracted the Reports of the Registrar General, it would be little less than an annoyance to repeat their conclusions in this place.
Suffice it to say that the fearful annhle of 33 per cent of children die before the age of two years. Let us enquire how this mortality may be accounted for; at the same time taking into account the various circumstances which may tend to lessen its enormity.

It is a fact of very great significance that children brought up at Foundling Hospitals have died in greater numbers than any others. There is another fact likewise which may be put alongside of this one, namely that there is none of God's works of which human beings are more careless than of one another. This is of course provided there is some want of indifference.

Now of all human beings there one I am sure none who become more perfectly reckless of human suffering than slaves; slaves hired for money from among
the many scenes of society as Hospital Nurses generally are. I speak of them because I have watched them, and any one who has paid even a moderate amount of attention to their behaviours and general frame of mind must know very well what sort of persons Nurses in general are. I consider the mortality of children at Foundling Hospitals by no means a surprising thing; and I would be very much surprised if it were did he come small: although it has decreased wonderfully of late. In proportion as the feelings of a mother became warm and affectionate and long suffering towards her own offspring, so very often do they become cold and cheerless and pitiful towards the offspring of another. The duties of a mother are by no means agreeable. To us, the lords of the creation who see only the gentle and the beautiful in a
healthy child, it might seem a
dreadful thing for an infant to be
neglected by his mother; and so
no doubt would a mother also
think. But when we reflect that
it is the duty of a housewife to
care for a child in every imaginable
way, to act the complete mother to
him and that without knowing the
slightest reasons to do so farther
than one might be suggested by seeming
motives, she ought to pause before
condemning any part unless for
reflecting the child entrusted to
her care. A good mother is never
a sound sleeper, that I know
for certain. The slightest cry
will awaken her: and sure whilst
she is sleeping, her child's slightest
movement is at once responded to.
I well remember of travelling to
London in the same Railway
Carriage with a Lady, who had
a young child in her arms:
she was totally exhausted to all appearances and felt fast asleep, feeling no inclination to sleep myself. I was watching her in the thought that she might let the child fall; but no! As the Medallio watched over her respiration she watched over her child. To return to the formidings—everything is against them. Born of women who have lived under the most desperate circumstances, exposed at the most critical periods of their existence to cold and other injurious aftermaths; nursed (a rather immersed) by women of loose habits, it is rather wonderful if any escape their almost inevitable fate. They are ill-nourished before birth and born ill-nourished after it; so that they might appear to be but little chance of their heaving efficient Members of society knew should they escape all the perils which surround them.
Yet perhaps it might indicate their greater stamina if they were to escape.
To judge of infant mortality by Foundling Hospital, their would be my opinion he to form a very rash judgment upon insufficient evidence for the decreasing mortality it would be inclined to attribute to more careful ventilation, surveillance and nurses. But independently of such evidence altogether, there is an abundance of reason for many deaths—and these shall be considered in a very serious way, taking a general view of these which appear to one most deserving of our earnest attention.

It is impossible to lay down a law for the proper conduct of a mother, and perhaps in any instance, it is none easier to do so; for nature herself is the grand instincstress. Some women there are without doubt who are actually more solicitous about their own comfort
than that of their child; and it is to such cases that the following remarks apply. Let the child at least during his early life, sleep with his mother, and let her neverumble to rise with him and attend to his comforts at any hour of the night. It may be said that the mother's life would in that case be a miserable one: but to this I answer 1st. That no annoyance can be felt by a mother at any amount of trouble which her child gives her. I say nothing about what she ought to feel; only assert positively what a good mother does feel. and 2nd. after all if we reflect upon it we often take much more trouble in accomplishing one amusement than we do in the most earnest work of this life.

The most annoying little misery to a practitiously is "Scalding" of the child: and although this is merely
An esperation occurring at the
pleasure of the joints, yet it is often
troublesome to treat even after the
use of Starch, Oxide of Lime, etc.
What renders it the more annoying
is the fact that it is in most instances
the result of gross carelessness on
the Mothers part. The child de-

desires to pass water sometimes pretty
often, and as she has not taken
the trouble to train him in the
proper way, the child sometimes
cries during the night, to obviate
this she wraps him in flannel so
that the urine may be prevented
from escaping upon the bed clothes.
Of course the child becomes scalded
and she applies to her medical man
for aid. She being well aware of
the cause, of all this feels very much
disposed to censure her own, strongly
and no wonder.

I shall presently have occasion
to make mention of the importance
of cleanliness as a portion of infant management — but in the meantime we may consider the peculiarities of organization by which our treatment of their diseases should be guided.

It cannot be too strongly insisted upon, that the whole period of childhood is essentially a period of change: that constant change not only in the tissues and organs but also in the properties of these is the grand feature of infant existence. The organs are changing their original form: the tissues are acquiring new chemical properties: and the functions of Animal and organic life are becoming gradually more and more developed.

The organs of nutrition exhibit a remarkable development, and the establishment of a system of division of labours among them is every day more apparent.
Returning for a moment to the conditions of the Fetus within the
uterine cavity, we find it living by assimilation of contument from
without; in its earliest state composed entirely of cells, which per-
form all the functions of the being in that place of its existence.
At its first formation, the child lives entirely as a vegetative life;
and it is only when at the time approaches for a great change of
nature that the requisite organs begin to be developed.
In what respects are the organs so highly developed, which are
connected with nutrition?
This question can I believe be
most satisfactorily answered.
Up to the seventh month, when
the viscera first begin to expel
the child, has been living almost
exclusively upon contument taken
into the cavity of the Stomach.
much in the same state in which the alimentum had been absorbed from the Placenta during Foetal life. The milk is perfectly fluid alimentum, and although these may be reasons to imagine that the Caseine is evaporated as soon as it reaches the stomach, yet it is no doubt applied with much greater facility to the purposes of nutrition, than if it had been taken in as solid food requiring long digestion. Up to the seventh month then the alimentum is absorbed almost in the ready state and so introduced into the blood. That so high a quality of tissues cannot be developed from material of this kind, however, I think amply proved by the following considerations—

1st. That the tissues of the body are comparatively soft and not capable of sustaining much bread and tears either the chemical or functional.
2d. That a great rapidity of the circulation is requisite in order to maintain the tissues in a sufficiently active state.

3d. That there is a very large portion of the body devoted to the production of blood as is amply testified by the extremely large size of the blood vessels. And

4th. That notwithstanding the large amount of blood constantly in process of formation, a very small bleeding affects the infant system most powerfully.

But if by the supply of milk to the organs of absorption the blood cannot acquire the qualities which would be essential to the thoroughly efficient nourishment of the tissues, yet there can be no doubt that the material is admirably fitted for its purpose - if the tissues were not easily destructible, they would not be sufficiently plastic, and
would not therefore expand as they ought to do. It cannot be
obvious from what has just been
said that the tissues possess little
independent vitality and are
therefore the more influenced in
their development by the condition
of the blood by which they are
domains. I need hardly insist
again on this place upon the vast
influence which inferior in otherwise
modified sentiment must exert
upon the patent tissues; for everything
that I have just mentioned tends
to emphasize us in this belief.

It is perhaps severely to be ex-
pected that when ambition is
progressing with immense rapidity
the quality of tissue formed should
be very high; if it seems to be
as natural law that whateve
processes tissue is to remain long, is also
long in arriving at maturity.

Nothing indeed can be more
striking them the activity of the nutritive processes in early life. The infant spends its time between drinking, sleeping and "taking exercise from appetite." The heart action is very rapid and the circulation in general corresponds with it.

The Respiration goes as most vigorously. Defecation is not less active. If Nutrition be so rapid in the infant, can the wonder at the rapidity of disease also? Nearly all diseases originate in one and the same way, and that way is by loss of Nutrition. And so in proportion as the nutritive changes are rapid during health, so will they be rapid and rapidly destructive too, whenever they take an unhealthy direction.

Is what state is the nervous system during infant life? This is a question the solution
of which demands much careful inquiry. There can be no doubt that it is in a very rigorous state. Indeed, it is abundantly supplied with blood from a very early period, and even at birth has attained a high degree of development. Now the nervous system of human beings consists like that of all other animals of a central and peripheral part, the central, or medullary, being designed for the purpose of reflecting and originating stimuli, whilst the peripheral or tubular part may be looked upon simply as conducting the stimuli to and from the central. The tubular of itself has not the smallest power of originating any sensation whatever. Certain functions of the body arise especially those which are quite essential to life have been placed under the control of certain parts of the
Nervous system as if Nature intended the carelessness of human beings too weak to trust them in the performance of functions essential to the system. — Respiration, deglutition and various other normal functions are so placed under the surveillance of the medulla oblongata, etc. Although homœas during health these are always well performed yet there is much difference in the behaviour of the body whilst asleep and whilst awake. — When the mind is awake various movements are performed according to the dictates of the will; but when the mind is asleep, the irritability of the nervous system still remains perfect and accordingly as soon as any is applied to the surface of the body, spasmotic contraction of various systems of muscles instantly recurs. — As usual in reflex action the purpose
of the EMS as movements obviously is to remove the body from the source of irritation. Now these facts sufficiently well known to everyone, but they often the mode in which they come to explain the tendency to spasm in children is little attended to.

It is conceded in a general way that children are very irritable, easily excited, and therefore that the super-

vention of spasms ought not to be considered at all wonderful. But it is not prepared to agree that children are in reality more irritable than the peculiar irritation to which they are subjected would have led us to believe. The younger the child the greater the liability to spasm or convulsions — and whereas he reflect

that in proportion as muscular is in ability once the nonvoluntary movement come into play, the small amount of control exerted by a child of nine days old will afford ample
reason for his being readily attacked by convulsions. The separation of the cord is no trifling incident. As solicitude becomes effectually established with increasing age convulsive and epaumodic affections become more rare in their recurrence.

Some have attempted to prove that the nervous functions is entirely suspended, or rather, completely in abeyance during anterometeine life; this homogeneity is by no means easily decided, the evidence brought forward in favor of this view is chiefly of a negative character. That there may be no solution enjoyed by the Fetus is very possible, but that there is no sort of insubility existing even at a comparatively early age I cannot believe. As Dr. Simpson has justly remarked, the child appears to sit himself admirably to the uterine cavity; to place himself in the very position which of all others he could be happy with most comfort to himself.
At the seventh month is there about the child, finally taken up his position with the head down; and this assumption of a new position could be once home resulted from anything but reflected calculation.

A review of what has been said will show that the peculiarity of fetal organization may be summed up in the following way: that it is essentially a transitional organization from that of the simple cell to that of structure subdivided and organized according to function, that no one each tissue is gradually passing from a condition in which its forces of maintaining separate existence is small, to one in which it seems almost a separable vital organ; and finally that the rapidity of circulation, respiration and the changes which are inferred by this presence is to be looked upon rather as an necessity (a necessary condition)
for the existence of the body. —

Having now considered the chiefly
important matters connected with
the general organization of the infant,
I intend to say a few words in con-
elusion upon the mode of alleviating
or averting some of the evils which
may befall it.

The management of early infancy,
naturally suggest itself to the mind
having two grand objects, to accomplish.
1st. How ought the mothers care to
be directed with regard to herself.
And 2nd how with regard to her child?

During the time that a woman is
breast-feeding her child it is of vital im-
portance that she should maintain
her general health in the best possible
state. By neglect of every precaution
with regard to her own health a mother
places her child in danger. Evenly
strong exertion of body is detriment-
of mind, the secretion of milk may be
do much injured as to become unfit.
for nourishing the infant. I do not at present refer to those few instances of
crassate conduct on the part of a
mother proving fatal to his child,
which have been mentioned by Dr.
Carpenter and other authorities; it is
rather to the more systematic mis-
management of mind and body how
referred. The influence of passionate
dispositions over the function of digestion
is very well known, and it is also agreed
that unless digestions go on easily and
efficiently the blood cannot be nourished
in a proper manner. Now then is it
possible that healthy milk shall be
prepared from unhealthy blood.
The truth is that to be a good mother,
a woman must never consider her
own convenience; and fortunate
it is that good mothers never do.
The mind ought to be kept cheerful;
the body well exercised; food ought
to be supplied in moderate quantity,
and finally and lastly spirits should be
all means be avoided. — So it not
by neglecting the great rules which have
been laid down by nature for our guid-
ance: that such mortality has existed
among young children? We know
that every change in the mother's blood
must effect a most material change
in the constitution of the milk which
is to nourish her infant. We know
that the infant is more susceptible
of such change in its constitution than
we are ourselves; we know that the
delicate animal living of the intestinal
canal cannot feel the effect of various
matters: and yet there is an immense
deal of indifference about the whole
matter. — I mentioned on another place
that as properly kept child ought never
to require drenching with pows at beside
of lime in other matters more injurious
such as carbonate of lead (white lead)
which Shane Knows to be employed:
now again bring this matter forward
as I feel convinced that the mother
A person who could inflict such permanent injury on this defenseless child by means careless could not possibly injure him yet more by reckless and injurious living.

The skin and its continuation the mucous membranes lining the air passages and intestinal canal are copiously supplied with nerves and are indeed the grand means by which the central part of the nervous system is brought into communication with the external world. Nearly all the reflex actions which we are acquainted with are the result of irritations applied either to the external or the mucous surfaces. In fact the theory of reflex actions is now considered fundamental as the means by which the body may be preserved in the functions performed as the result of irritations applied to the surfaces. Now where the skin is the mucous membranes are brought into
a state of excitement as it has been called, the slightest additional irritation may produce severe spasmodic or circuline actions.

Our ideas of what ought to constitute an irritation are certainly to say the least of them vague; something capable of producing an appreciable effect in a general way. But when after long continued application of some food or some other excitant to the intestinal mucous membrane, the spinal cord has become familiar accustomed (just as we may suppose it to be in Petrous) any additional source of excitement may at once throw the whole body into commotion.

What conclusion ought to be derived from these facts? What but that every care should be taken to keep the mucous and cutaneous surfaces in as perfect a state of health as possible: clean and free from everything that might irritate.
to arouse the dormant energy of the spinal cord.

It has been said that the power of generating heat during infant life is very small, but I can scarcely agree with the truth of this assertion, which I believe is consistent with the rapidity of circulation and respiration. That a child is more easily affected by cold than an adult is certainly true, but this I believe to have the same reason that holds good with respect to the effect of loss of blood. The child absolutely requires for the maintenance of his vitality, all the heat and all the blood that can be produced within his system, and therefore the smallest vicissitudes produce the greatest amount of effect.

With regard to the kind of food that ought to be substituted for mothers' milk, there much difficulty in coming to any just conclusion.
Looking to the requirements of the infant system, more especially to the necessity for a full supply of phosphates and gelatinous matters, suitable to manufacture Bones in these constituent ought to enter largely into most materials employed for the nourishment of Infants.

For much attention however cannot be devoted to individual peculiarities of constitution as regard the diet which is most suitable.

Whatever mode of dietaing and nursing a child may be pursued, it immediate effect is by no means likely to prove very marked. The matter by a long continued system of self indulgence and by a more fatal system of mismanagement with her child, cannot fail to sap the foundation of even the best constitutions; but it is not at once that the full amount of mischief is seen.
Having said so much about the treatment of healthy children, indeed, it may be expected that it should
try something more in regard to the diseases which afflict them; but I am by no means disposed to
think these last of so much importance. In truth, the diseases of infants are
to any mind, in the great majority
of cases, remediable, as nearly so;
moreover, it appears to me that the
evil which they are capable of effect-
ing is nearly done when they once
make their attack. According to
the strength or weakness of constitution
so will the infant resist or sink under
the power of the disease which threatens
it. Group is an eminent example
of the futility of medical aid in
the treatment of children's disorders,
where there are really of so serious
kind; for indeed every mode of treatment
that has been proposed, mortality
of so fearful. Group has been the result.
It would this fact prevent one, from endeavoring to seek another, and a better remedy, than has yet been proposed; but at the same time it would make one doubly vigilant in any attempt to render the causes of the disease from taking hold on the system.

I mentioned casually in another place that the great mortality among infants might be the means of breeding out of any weak members of society, who could never have arrived at a useful maturity; but although this is no doubt true, yet, I believe it is also true, that on many excellent minds are also lost to the community at the same time. It is often in weak bodies that strong minds lie; and therefore one ought most jealously to care for every child, until he no longer is a living being.

Besides there is to a certainty an immense amount of really good
children annually destroyed by
senselessness or something truly
of a worse name.

I had intended to give a sketch
of some of the more rapidly fatal
diseases themselves, but I find
that within ordinary limits it would
be impossible for me to do so; I
content myself therefore with re-
donating in regard to them, that
they are to be looked upon in
the majority of instances, as trials
of strength between poisons on the
one hand and constitution on the
other. - It will always be found
that the style of treatment to which
an infant has been subjected in
time past, will exert the most
powerful influence on his fate in
time to come.

The period of Pertytion always
has been and probably always will
be as perilous one, it is like the
period of birth, surrounded with danger.
Then it is that b炸 nursing shows itself. Dentition is indeed a critical time, for it is one at which many changes occur in the infant frame. Of itself there is nothing Morbid in it, but it is surrounded with causes of disease—very often A concomitant talk of the irritation of teething as if the appearances of the teeth were the only change then in progress. Children are dosed with medicines on account of Diarrhea, which there is reason to think in many instances ought to be considered as a manifestation of activity of a new Kind throughout the Intestinal Canal. The Teeth cause irritation no doubt, but the whole system is passing into a new phase of existence—from living on fluid aliment the child has now to undertake so much more extensive preparation of his food: Hence perhaps the
I need not longer dwell upon this subject, for each moment I feel that it will be impossible to do it every justice, within double the space to which I have resolved to limit myself.

In a word, after the completion of this paper, I rise from the task more deeply convinced of the importance of the subject; more firmly impressed with my own insufficiency in its execution.

James Madison
Bloomfield Home