

## INTRODUCTION



HERE is scarcely any subject which is of greater importance or of greater interest to parents than this subject of teaching children the truth about life and birth

Every mother knows that some day her little boy or girl will have matured into the possessor of the powers of procreation yet she fails to teach the child how to care for or how to regard these powers it possesses

Biologically speaking these creative powers are the most important functions of the body but they are the only functions of the human body which are utterly ignored by both parents and teachers

In order to perpetuate the species nature has endowed all animals with sexual instinct and man is the only animal who is ashamed of this instinct Man is the only animal with the intelligence to exercise the privilege of limiting his offspring though he continues in his sexual relation

Man and man alone is the only animal who is subject to disease directly inimical to the integrity of the organs of reproduction Ignorance of this has led to a serious increase of gonorrhoea and syphilis and threatens disaster to the race

So with this last assertion before our eyes we parents cannot help but see that we have a danger to combat. It is there and shows itself in the death list in statistics in the hospitals where thousands of innocent girls and women are being operated upon. In fact the danger signal is everywhere about us if we could but understand what it really is.

In the public schools all over this country there is a general cry for help. Teachers are calling out for assistance to help them check the degrading and immoral atmosphere which is pervading the school rooms today. The words and language of the children (of all ages) found whispering together, the writings in the notes and on the walls of the buildings all tend to show children's thoughts. And in these actions the teacher sees the danger signal. She realizes this is the first step and not knowing how to cope with these conditions she calls for help.

The time comes to every mother when she first hears her child say "When I get big and have a little girl I'll etc." —showing that the natural average child takes it as a matter of course that at some future time he or she will have children too. Shortly after this questions are likely to begin as when the parents speak of things they did or places they went to either before marriage or early after and the child asks

What did I do father? Was I there too mother?

Then begins the mystery And the lies told by the parents in answer to these simple questions are shameful to hear Father and mother smile slyly at each other and reply

Oh no dearie you were not there

Where was I then? the child insists

Another sly look passes between the parents and the lies begin

You were in heaven or among the flowers etc

How did I get *here* then? continues the small questioner who is in quest of information concerning the most important subject in the child world the I

Then of course the reply comes that the stork or the angels or oftimes the doctor brought him However any answer will do which will delude the child's mind and keep him as the parents say innocent

Now let us see what happens This little child is beginning to think He has received brand new information something fully as wonderful and mysterious as Santa Claus and he loves to think about it and talk about it too

He goes again to mother (father is not always around) and besieges her with questions and she all in ignorance of the harm she is doing him becomes so entangled in this mesh of

lies that she grows cross or impatient and stops his eager questions by sending him out to play to divert his attention to some other subject. But his attention is not long diverted before he returns to this subject and if his walk is taken with an aunt or nurse he continues to ask questions and to his even greater surprise the aunt or nurse not knowing what the parent has told him tells him what she thinks. This will very likely be an entirely different story from what his parents told him and so he begins to realize that there is some secrecy which no one will explain and he becomes determined to find out the meaning of it all.

By the time this little fellow is one year in school he knows all about who brought him from heaven and how the stork came etc. He may have been most carefully reared in the little things which help to make him thoughtful and considerate of others he may have been trained in every way to make him upright honest and truthful but the vile words with which this information thus received by him is clothed the base and foul idea of love and marriage the distorted view of the creative power which he receives cannot help but stunt and deform his mind and leave his conception of the beauty of birth and love forever scarred.

If on the other hand the child had been

told the truth by his parents and had the reasons explained to him for not talking to other children on this subject if he had had impressed on him what a trust was his and how beautiful a gift to take care of he would have been satisfied and his curiosity would have ceased

There are excellent parents who pride themselves and boast of never promising their child anything from a toy to a spanking without keeping the promise but who find themselves most embarrassed and confused when it comes to speaking about the facts of birth

This attitude of mind comes from several reasons One is that there are parents good faithful and loving who do not know the dangers and results of street instruction who think they are keeping the child pure and innocent and prefer to give the child the impression of spiritual birth as implied in the answer The angels brought you from heaven

Again there are parents who know the value of home instruction but know not how to tell them and it is for these mothers that the following chapters are written

The best method is to begin to teach the little child when it is very young At 4 year of age the first lessons of the flowers could be begun Keep it up Then a little later say six months teach about the fish or frogs Then the next year the life of the birds should be taught

and by the sixth year the child will be ready for the mammals and humans. In case he asks questions before he has learned of the mammals refer him back to the flowers and you will find an answer.

Most children are safe from being polluted in thought after the study of the flowers but as the child's mind keeps growing and developing his questions in order to be answered truthfully demand that he be taught the higher stages of development.

Mothers keep in mind the beauty and wonder of it all and as you proceed in the study of the mechanism of the reproductive organs of human beings you cannot but impress upon the child the beauty and wonder of love. Help the child to realize the sacred trust of his organs the danger in misusing them. Help him to realize the physical and moral development which awaits him in parenthood but above all keep him close to you in confidence *through the truth*.

My object is to help all mothers who wish to give their children the right conception of the beautiful truths of reproduction and I shall begin the first lesson The Flowers—Mr and Mrs Buttercup their home and their family