

"GROWING PAINS."

A striking illustration of the evil which ill-considered words may do is furnished by the title in this article. Many a child who suffers repeatedly from pains in the muscles or joints, sometimes so severe as to cause a limp of actual lameness, allowed to suffer until permanent harm is done, simply because the mother believes the trouble is "growing pains," to which no attention should be paid lest the child be made a weakling.

There are no "growing pains." Growth is a normal process, and like other normal processes is carried on in health without pain or discomfort. Pain, no matter when or where it occurs, is always a danger-signal, a cry that something is wrong, and its warning must not be silenced by calling it names.

This is not to say that every little ache or pain, in child or adult, should be noted with apprehension and studied as to its origin or significance. That would be to create a race of "mollycoddles." The human machine is very nearly perfect, and if properly cared for should run without jolt or jar. But it is put to very hard usage, and cannot be kept under a glass case; so sometimes the bearings may need a little oil, or a speck of dust may get between the cogs, and then there is a jar or a scraping, in other words, a pain. But this is nothing; soon the temporary obstruction in the self-oilers gives way, the mote is shaken out of the wheels, and everything runs smoothly again. It is the persistent and recurring pain that calls for attention; and such are the so-called "growing pains."

There are two sorts of pain which are more commonly than others called "growing pains," often to the lasting injury of the child. The first of these is felt chiefly in the knee. The child is usually thin and pale, and is likely to be tall for his age. Perhaps he limps at times without being conscious of pain. The suffering is frequently worse at night. This trouble may be a beginning of hip-disease.

The other common variety of "growing pains" is seen in healthy looking, well-nourished, red-cheeked, active children. In such cases the pains are usually in the muscles of the arms or legs, although sometimes in a joint. These are very often, if not always, rheumatic.

A child should certainly not be encouraged to run to its mother with every little ache, but when it is evidently suffering from severe, persistent, or frequently recurring pains, it should be examined by the doctor.—*Youth's Companion*.

DID NOT CARE TO ARGUE.

"James Whitcomb!" exclaimed Mrs. Whitcomb, indignantly. "I should think you'd be ashamed to say such things about Arabella Carter!"

"I only said, 'At last,'" replied Mr. Whitcomb, mildly.

"But the way you said it! You know very well that is what I mean," returned Mrs. Whitcomb. "You as much as said that Arabella had chased and chased Deacon Reynolds till finally she'd caught him."

"I didn't say that," said Mr. Whitcomb, still speaking mildly. "I said, 'At last!'"

"Well, Arabella isn't a day over 37!" said Mrs. Whitcomb. "your 'At last!' was all thrown away. And he's got grandchildren, and everybody says his first wife would have lived if he'd treated her half-way decent. I think there's

something queer about your sticking up so for Deacon Irving Reynolds!"

"I wasn't aware I was 'sticking up' for him," said Mr. Whitcomb. "I guess I haven't made myself quite clear. What I said was, 'At last!' and I don't remember saying anything else."

"So you think every woman runs after a man till she gets him!"

"That wasn't what I said. But for the sake of the argument we'll suppose I said it."

"You know, James, that it is no such thing."

"The trap doesn't run after the mouse, but you will admit, Elmira, that it gets him all the same."

Mrs. Whitcomb took up her knitting. "If you are going into comparisons," she said, with dignity, "we may as well stop right where we are."—*Youth's Companion*.

LEATHERS.

Fish leathers are now going largely manufactured. The skins of some sharks are studded with horny protuberances which are so hard as to take a polish like stone. They are waterproof, and are used for covering jewel boxes and card-cases, as well as for a great variety of ornamental articles.

The hide of the "diamond shark" is employed for covering the sword-grips of German officers. A Paris manufacturer has made a reputation by tanning the skin of a species of Malabar shark into morocco, and the green leather called "shagreen," made from the skin of the angel-shark of the Mediterranean, has long been a familiar article of commerce.

Good leathers can be made from the skins of cod and salmon, and the hide of the wolf-fish is being largely used for card-cases and shopping bags. In Egypt fish skins from the Red Sea are utilized for shoe soles, and eel skins are extensively employed in Europe for binding books, while in Tartary dried and oiled skins serve as a substitute for glass in windows.

Sturgeon skin affords a handsome ornamental leather, and the hide of the armored starfish is much valued, being covered with horny plates, which may be polished to an ivorylike finish. Along the Yukon River, in Alaska, the skins of salmon and cod are utilized as clothing, the material resembling kid in appearance and softness, while almost as tough as parchment. Even the skins of frogs and toads are being employed to some extent, two or three factories in France paying much attention to tanning them for card-cases and other fancy articles.—*Illustrated Footwear Fashion*.

A NOBLE TESTIMONY.

Here is another extract from John Morley's biography of Mr. Gladstone, which indicates in a very forcible way the impression which that great statesman's character made upon his contemporaries:

"Lord Salisbury, the distinguished man who followed Mr. Gladstone in a longer tenure of power than his, called him 'a great Christian;' and nothing could be more true or better worth saying. He not only accepted the doctrines of that faith as he believed them to be held by his own communion; he sedulously strove to apply the noblest moralities of it to the affairs both of his own nation and of the commonwealth of nations. It was a supreme experiment.

People will perhaps some day wonder that many of those who derided the experiment and reproached its author failed to see that they were making in this a wholesale skepticism as to truths that they professed to prize, far deeper and more destructive than the doubts and disbeliefs of the Gentiles in the outer courts."

Moustaches as a Sign of Christianity.

Few people are aware of the origin of the custom of growing moustaches; but hundreds of years ago this adornment of the face was a sign that the owner was a Christian. The custom first originated in Spain, when the Moors were in possession of that country, prior to their being driven out by the Christians. The Moors were Mohammedans, and it was very difficult to tell the difference between a Mohammedan and a Christian.

The Christians, wishing to let their "light shine before men," decided to let their hair grow upon the upper lip and on the chin in the form of what is known as the imperial, thus producing the rough form of a cross. In this way the Christians were able to recognize one another at all times, and flock together when in trouble to make a combined defence.

ANNOUNCED IT IN HIS PRAYER.

An eccentric Scotch minister in a little kirk at Cumberland sometimes used his prayers for making his announcements.

The Rev. Dr. Buck, of the Barony Church, Glasgow, and another minister, once spent a vacation in Cumberland, and on the Sabbath attended this kirk, sitting in a remote corner, so that the minister should not notice them. But the eagle eye of the minister detected them, and in the intercessory prayer he so expressed himself as to make quite sure of some aid from them. The good man's words were these: "Lord, have mercy on Thy ministering servants who have popped in upon us so unexpectedly; one of them will preach in the afternoon and the other in the evening."

"Now, children," said the teacher, "let us see what you remember about the animal kingdom and the domestic animals that belong to it. You have named all the domestic animals but one. Who can tell me what that one is? It has bristly hair, likes dirt and is fond of getting into the mud." Miss Fanny looked expectantly around the room. "Can't you think, Tommy?" she asked, encouragingly. "Yes'm," was the shamefaced reply. "It's me."

A HALF A CENTURY RECORD.—Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry has now been in use for 50 years and there is nothing to equal it as a rapid and effective cure for Bowel Complaints of young or old.

"Lord of the living harvest,

That whitens o'er the plain,
Where angels soon shall gather
Their sheaves of golden grain;
Accept these hands to labor,
These hearts to trust and love,
And deign with them to hasten
Thy kingdom from above."

Without Him, the world is like the burnt-up pastures after drought, where starving sheep mumble some dry stalks that crumble to dust in their mouths; but with Him, it is like the same pastures after rain—green with juicy grass.—*Alex. Maclaren, D. D.*



For a fit of idleness.—Count the ticking of a clock; do this for one hour and you will be glad to pull off your coat the next and work like a beaver.

Corns Grow Between the Toes.

But can be cured without pain in one day by Putnam's Corn and Wart-Extractor. This standard remedy never burns the flesh—it is entirely vegetable in composition and does not destroy the flesh. Use only Putnam's it's the best.

For all fits of doubt, perplexity and fear.—Whether they respect the body or the mind, whether they are a load to the shoulders, head or heart, the following cure may be relied on, for I had it from the Great Physician: "Cast thy burden on the Lord, and he will sustain thee."

Sciatica:—That most intensely plainly of diseases that defies doctor's treatment, can be promptly relieved and thoroughly cured by Milburn's Rheumatic Pills.

For a fit of despondency.—Look on the good things God has given you in this world and to those he has promised to his followers in the next. He who goes into the garden to look for cobwebs and spiders, no doubt will find them; while he who looks for a flower may return into his house with one blooming in his bosom.

Pain Disappears Before It.—No one need suffer pain when they have available Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. If not in the house when required it can be procured at the nearest store, as all merchants keep it for sale. Rheumatism and all bodily pains disappear when it is applied and should they at any time return, experience teaches the user of the Oil how to deal with them.

Who makes his bed of brier and thorn,
Must be content to lie forlorn.

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is a reliable preparation for Purifying the Blood and thus cures permanently

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