

## BOOKS ON "THE INFANT."

The Baby has a large place in modern literature. The poets and "literati" have celebrated the charms and graces of childhood as much as their confreres—the artists. It appeals to all lovers of beauty, and the little girl who voted "our baby" as the most beautiful thing she had ever seen had good taste.

Among the many delightful poems it is not easy to make a selection, but we commend to all child lovers Victor Hugo's "L'art d'être Grand-père," some of Wordsworth's and Swinburne's lyrics, certain poems of Christina Rossetti and Eugene Field, and Robert Louis Stevenson's "Child's Garden of Verse." There is also a delightful anthology of "Babyhood," by Lady Mary Skrine.

Of books, dealing with the psychology, health, development, education and care of the baby, there are scores; the bibliography devoted to the Baby must be a hefty volume, for this century of the child has produced a flood of literature on the subject and new books appear weekly. There are magazines and medical journals in many languages, all dealing with "the important person," and even the daily press that was wont to ignore the subject have leaders and articles upon it.

It is a little bewildering for the nurse or midwife to choose her books on "the Baby," especially if her purse is not well-filled, as is usually the case. Perhaps, therefore, a short review of some fairly recent works may help her to choose wisely.

As an introductory study of the mental and physical development of the Child one could not do better than begin by "The Child, his Nature and Nurture," by W. B. Drummond, one of the Temple Primers. It is charmingly written, and helps one to see with Froebel that there is a divine idea for every child, which education must find and develop. In the first chapter on Nature and Nurture the author writes: "The extreme helplessness of the human infant is perhaps its most remarkable characteristic. . . . Another character, if less striking, is far more remarkable. This character may be designated educability. It is not absolutely peculiar to the infant, being found also in the young of many other animals, but it may also be said that while it is given to the brutes in measure, it is given to man without measure." The list of references at the end of the book will guide those who desire a deeper knowledge of the subject.

The text books and hand books on infant management and infants' diseases are many; these are good, bad and indifferent. But after having read one or two of the good ones, it is refreshing to turn to "The Infant: Nutrition and Management," by Dr. Eric Pritchard. We quote the Preface:—"If a full description of the method of feeding infants is expected, the reader will be disappointed, for each case is regarded as an

individual problem which is to be solved by the practical application of certain general principles."

We are all slaves to "rule of thumb" at times; it is a disastrous rule with babies. Dr. Eric Pritchard has done a good deed in making people *think* about the baby. He has views, which, in many cases, are still regarded as revolutionary and unorthodox, but his book is eminently one to broaden ideas; it is at once rational, scientific and practical. Of course, Dr. Eric Pritchard has his fads, and is a little intolerant of other peoples' ideas and treatment, but this is very forgivable.

All the above are inexpensive books. It sometimes, however, falls to the lot of a nurse or midwife to be asked to choose a book as a gift. Let her, if she is keen on babies, choose "The Nursling," by Pierre Budin, the illustrious pioneer of the campaign to prevent infantile mortality. It is true that it is ten years old, but we venture to predict it will outlive many more recent works. The lectures, illustrated by coloured graphs, read best in the original ("Le Nourisson"), but Dr. Maloney's translation is well done. The whole book is of thrilling interest; the vast experience of the writer makes it of great value, and every point is thrust home by illustrative cases. They are wonderful—these Budin babies—perhaps, still more wonderful are some of the wet nurses, who were able to provide milk for three, four or even five nurslings! The "weaking" in intelligent hands may become strong—that is Budin's keynote. It is encouraging for all those who have the heavy task of tending delicate, premature, or immature children. The world owes many a big debt to mothers and nurses who have cared for some small scrap of humanity that many have called "a hopeless specimen." It is said that Isaac Newton was so small at birth that he could have been put into a quart mug; we owe to him the discovery of the law of gravitation. There is many another who figures in the "Encyclopedia Britannica," who, at birth, was a weakling.

Michael Angelo, it is said, one day saw a great block of stone in a quarry. "Send that to me," said he, "I see an angel in it." In the weakling, let us see the strong man.

One last thought. The Master said: "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones." M. O. H.

## OUR DEAD.

They have not gone from us. O no! they are

The inmost essence of each thing that is  
Perfect for us; they flame in every star;

The trees are emerald with their presences.

They are not gone from us; they do not roam

The flaw and turmoil of the lower deep,  
But have now made the whole wide world their  
home,

And in its loveliness themselves they steep.

From "Ardours & Endurances,"

By ROBERT NICHOLS.

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