

see, perhaps, as a little boy in petticoats, having been until lately the spoilt darling of an over-tender mother. Presently this beloved mother plays him false; she too has a baby, who absorbs all her time and attention, or that of his nurse, the little boy's "second mother, his first wife," according to R. L. Stevenson, and he is bound to stand aside, feeling badly neglected, or he clamours for his old place, only to be told he is no longer the baby. Did he sulk, did he storm, did he fret, he will do the selfsame thing when the little drama is repeated in his own household, because a man always looks for his mother's image to be re-animated in the person of his wife, and expects to find again from her what he had in childhood, be it caresses or management. Women who are wise know that this is so, although the man often is unaware of it himself.

And what of the little girl? Did she play with her dolls and her doll's house, washing and dressing, curling and combing those first babies so unendingly, so untiringly, to the exclusion of any other interest, any invitation from brothers or schoolmates to play ball or romp, then shall we not be surprised to find the devoted mother who is not to be lured from the cradle and her household cares in the years to come.

But what of the third corner of this triangle—what of the baby who accepts both unwearied devotion or grudged with equal nonchalance and much vociferous complaint be it not forthcoming. But it is not to his advantage. Sooner or later the little sovereign must be to some extent dethroned by some of the eventualities of life which loosen the tie between a child and its mother. The blow falls hardly, and being unprepared for this new state of things, he recoils, and often becomes nervous, difficult to manage, and out of tune with the rest of his fellows.

Again, the child who is always with its elders suffers in many ways: it finds it difficult to get on with other children, often looks down upon these little contemporaries with a lofty disdain, tries to ape the manners and conversation of its elders, and prefers their company, yet sometimes has to bear the mortification of feeling that they do not want him or her, although one is sometimes left wondering if the typical modern child ever suffers from a feeling of self-insufficiency. The normal child perhaps does not, but one sometimes gains a little insight into the mind and thoughts of the neurotic child in the attempt to help it to regain a normal state. One finds then that there, for some reason frequently hard to dis-

cover, the little Psyche has not been equal to grappling with its environment and has broken down before the task, developing some definite nervous system, becoming physically ill, or making itself thoroughly disliked by being tiresome or unlike the average.

An individual different from type is seldom popular. The average parent is at once non-plussed when confronted by such a child. Of course, the difference is that it behaves unexpectedly; it fails to enjoy what is meant to be a treat, and rejoices when the rest of the household is in the dumps. Parents are annoyed and scold the child, or, worried, give it everything it appears to want, perhaps try to reason with it, wonder which side of the family it is taking after, and finally wash their hands of it as a calamity, wondering what they have done to deserve such an affliction. Few realise that it is the consequence of their own actions, their over-solicitude and exaggerated devotion, the result of being always with the child, getting fretted and worried by its perpetual presence and the strain it causes, the final adoption of the course of least resistance to go on being a slave to the child because it is less trouble to give in to it than to set oneself the arduous task of "training up the child in the way he should go," by disciplining it and oneself, and limiting the manifestation of one's love and devotion to the helpless little one, whose very helplessness cries so strongly to our strength.

MARY CHADWICK.

DISEASE CARRIER.

How important it is that milk should be delivered in sealed bottles instead of cans, the following case emphasises:

Dr. E. G. Annis, Medical Officer of Health for Greenwich, S.E., describes in his annual report how an outbreak of diphtheria was traced to a boy who delivered milk.

There were 14 cases in one district, and Dr. Annis states that all the families were supplied with milk from one dairy and that the cases were chiefly on one milk round.

The boy who left the cans on this round was found to be suffering from diphtheria and was taken to hospital, after which no further cases occurred.

A PUBLIC DUTY.

Smallpox has again made its appearance in London. It corresponds closely in point of time with the appearance of the disease last year. Our influence should be used to persuade every unvaccinated person to be inoculated. It is a public duty.

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