

A child should be taught that it is not the results of work, but doing our best that matters.

Boys have been known to run away from school or to even commit suicide for fear of not coming up to their father's standards.

SELF AND HERD.

The self-important self-loving child has difficulty in fitting into the group or playing team games.

Eighty per cent. will thoroughly enjoy team games, but 20 per cent. cannot forfeit or sacrifice their egotism and prefer to play individual games, such as tennis, golf or billiards.

Some children feel very inferior and swank for compensation.

Swank may take the form of—

Smoking, rudeness, sex, etc.

For example, small men are often very pompous, and a man who has not done too well will develop a marvellous "Oxford Manner."

If you scold a child abruptly, and make him feel a fool, he will stick his hands in his pockets and whistle. Grown-ups should not patronise children, their age gives them no right to be superior.

SEX.

An adolescent who has been kept in the dark and not told the truth invariably makes a muddle of his sex life.

A child should always be told as much as he asks and no more. Girls after the age of eight should find it only natural to go to their mothers and get an unblushing, sensible reply to their questions, and boys should go to their fathers.

RENÉ LAËNNEC

THE INVENTOR OF THE STETHOSCOPE.

By W. J. HATCHER.

Now regarded as an essential part of the modern doctor's equipment, the comparatively recent introduction of the stethoscope is apt to be forgotten; its invention was due to the ingenuity and resource of a very famous French physician, Laënnec, who lived and worked in the early part of the nineteenth century. René Théophile Hyacinthe Laënnec while still a young man established himself as one of the foremost physicians of his time and, in addition, his teachings have now proved him to have been a very skilled pathologist, far in advance of his contemporaries.

Early Training.

He was born on February 17th in the year 1781, in the little village of Quemfer in the province of Brittany. As a young man he was sent to the town of Nantes to study medicine under the care of his uncle, the renowned Corvisart, and it is to Corvisart that the honour is mainly due of introducing the art of percussion in diagnosis. Though Corvisart was not the first to employ this method he was, however, primarily responsible for its general introduction; as a matter of interest the original discovery is now usually credited to Avenbrugger.

It is very easy to see the influence of Corvisart's teaching in the later work of the young Laënnec, and it was almost certainly due to his early master that he afterwards made the study of diseases of the chest his great work, becoming the most noted and much sought after specialist of his period in these conditions.

Service in the Army.

Like nearly all the young doctors of that time, Laënnec in due course became an army surgeon and saw service in the field, though there seems to be very little record of his activities as an army surgeon. However, in 1816 we find him back in civil life and appointed chief physician

to the Hospital Necker, and it was while here that he published his great discovery of the use of the stethoscope in the diagnosis of disease of the lungs and heart. Posterity remembers him principally for his invention of the medical stethoscope, but nevertheless he was a very great authority on all diseases of the chest and patients came long distances to obtain his advice and treatment. To him belongs the credit of first differentiating between cancer of the lungs and pulmonary tuberculosis. Previous to Laënnec's work these two totally different conditions had almost always been described and presumably treated as consumption.

In his practice Laënnec saw many cases of pulmonary cancer, and he seems to have been one of the early investigators of this disease, his work doing much to advance the knowledge of the times.

Laënnec's Early Death.

It is certainly very sad to relate that Laënnec himself fell a victim to and afterwards died of the very disease he had set himself to combat. His health failing while still a comparatively young man, he was forced to retire to his native province, where he died of consumption at the very early age of 45, an undoubted loss to his profession. It is highly probably that he contracted the disease through close contact with phthisis patients; and in those early days, with no knowledge of the highly infectious nature or even existence of the dreaded tubercle bacillus, earnest workers in this department of medicine must have run very grave risks of taking the disease. Laënnec, by his premature death, was prevented from completing a book on pathological anatomy he was preparing.

Laënnec's stethoscope was probably of a very simple pattern, quite different from the modern type of binaural with all its advantages of flexibility and sensitiveness which is now employed, though until recent years the single wooden tube type was in common use, and a somewhat obvious item of every medical consulting room.

It is interesting to note that as recently as September of last year Laënnec's remains were exhumed and placed in a leaden coffin in the vaults of the church at Ploaré, Brittany, an excellent object of devout pilgrimage for those visiting that part of France.

DEATH OF MISS GRACE ELLISON.

It is with deep regret that we heard of the death in Berlin of Miss Grace Ellison, who is well known to many British Nurses for the service she rendered to French soldiers during the Great War in initiating and acting as Hon. Secretary to the French Flag Nursing Corps, a group of three years certificated nurses some 250 strong, at first maintained as a gesture of friendship to the wounded soldiers of our French Allies, who were later under the care and control of the French War Office.

Miss Ellison was not a trained nurse, and did not attempt to undertake any nursing duties, but having been educated in France and in touch with highly-placed French officials, her services were of the utmost value, both in obtaining recognition for the Corps and also to the British nurses. As Hon. Superintendent of the Corps, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick had the opportunity of observing the value of Miss Ellison's work when together they inspected the numerous hospitals behind the lines. At the conclusion of the War the French Minister of War informed Miss Ellison that the nurses of the F.F.N.C. were the best who had come forward to nurse the French soldiers from Great Britain.

A woman of great versatility she was a picturesque journalist and wrote several books, the last, which was published last year, being the "Life Story of Princess Marina," to whose family she was greatly attached.

A Requiem Mass takes place at the Brompton Oratory on October 9th.

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