PHYSIOLOGY AND HEALTH. BOOK ONE

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Physiology and Health. Book One by Herbert W. Conn

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PHYSIOLOGY AND HEALTH

BOOK ONE

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PREFACE

It is becoming more and more fully realized that ignorance and misinformation in regard to the laws of health on the part of children are responsible for the failure of so large a number to grow into healthy adults. Under the artificial conditions of modern life many unfortunate habits are acquired even by children which interfere with the development of a robust body. Even before the age of ten, the child has absorbed unconsciously lessons in methods of living. Sometimes these are useful and sometimes detrimental to health, but whatever they are they become so firmly fixed in the developing mind that it is very difficult subsequently to overcome them. No age is too young, therefore, at which to begin to teach the proper care of the body and the value While a study of technical physiology is hardly suited to the young child's mind, the study of a few principles of life upon which health is dependent cannot be begun too early.

The mother who properly brings up her children tries to inculcate lessons of proper and improper health habits, beginning even in the first three years of the child's life. But in many homes the child is left with practically no proper information upon very important health matters. It is manifestly one of the functions of the school to instill correct ideas of living into the child's mind in the formative years.

The aim of this book is to place in simple language, so that it will be intelligible even to the young scholar, the more important of the facts concerning his life, which will help him toward a more intelligent formation of his life habits.



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PHYSIOLOGY AND HEALTH

CHAPTER I

WHY WE NEED TO CARE FOR OUR BODIES

Have you ever seen in the woods, among the straight, tall trees, one tree that had grown crooked? The strength of ten men would not be sufficient to bend the tree back the way it should have grown. If you had watched this tree growing from a small sapling, very likely you would not have noticed for some time that anything was wrong. By and by you would have seen that it was just a little crooked, but you probably would not have dreamed that this crookedness would be so noticeable in a year or two that the tree's beauty would be completely marred.

Now if, when you had first discovered that the young tree was not growing as it should, you had driven a stake into the ground close to the tree and had tied the trunk firmly to it, it would have grown straight and tall like the other forest trees.