

**CHILDHOOD**

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Childhood by Mrs. Theodore W. Birney & G. Stanley Hall

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**MRS. THEODORE W. BIRNEY & G. STANLEY HALL**

# **CHILDHOOD**



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BY

MRS. THEODORE W. BIRNEY

Founder of the National Congress of Mothers

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

G. STANLEY HALL, Ph.D., LL.D.

Author of "Adolescence," etc.

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## DEDICATION

*TO the memory of my husband, whose loving comprehension of my thought of the Mothers' Congress, and earnest co-operation in its early development, until his death in July, 1897, were, and still are, a source of inspiration to me. Also to my Mother, whose faithful ministrations in my home made possible my seven years of active service in the Mothers' Congress, and whose sympathy with this work for a more enlightened parenthood and happier childhood knows no diminution.*



## INTRODUCTION

The proof of this little book has been mostly read aloud in my family with growing pleasure and profit. It makes little pretense to erudition, and there are no learned footnotes or bibliographies; but the author must either have absorbed and quietly digested the best that the authorities have to offer, or else she writes with a head and heart so full of motherhood and so freighted with its lessons and with the new and higher sense of its meaning that she has found the right way by intuition. I regret that I have never seen the home or children of my friend, the author, but it cannot be the fault of her instincts or insights if they are not both ideal.

It is a book for fathers and especially for mothers, and I count it a pleasure and an honor to have an opportunity of heartily commending it to both. Its author is the founder and the first president of the Mothers' Congress, and the book admirably expresses in practical form the parental regimen which, as I understand it, it is the spirit of that beneficent organization to cultivate.

## INTRODUCTION

It leaves for the most part to other manuals suggestions for the physical care of early infancy, and is devoted chiefly to childhood and youth and to both boys and girls. It has a unique character and place and cannot fail to be heartily welcomed. It presents in unusually attractive, clear and forcible English the substance of what parents most need to know in order to make their influence more felt for good upon the rising generation.

G. STANLEY HALL.

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