

**PLAIN OBSERVATIONS ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN
DURING THE FIRST MONTH,
PARTICULARLY ADDRESSED TO
MOTHER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649278558

Plain observations on the management of children during the first month, particularly addressed to mother by Anonymous

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ANONYMOUS

**PLAIN OBSERVATIONS ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN
DURING THE FIRST MONTH,
PARTICULARLY
ADDRESSED TO MOTHER**

PLAIN

J. H. 28.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

Management of Children

DURING THE

FIRST MONTH,

PARTICULARLY ADDRESSED TO MOTHERS.

WITH AN APPENDIX, CONTAINING A FEW PRACTICAL HINTS FOR
THE FARTHER GUIDANCE OF THE NURSERY.

London:

SOLD BY UNDERWOOD, FLEET-STREET.

1828.

[Price One Shilling.]

169.

THE Author of the following little tract has seen much cause to regret that the valuable directions contained in medical works, respecting the early management of Infants, are not sufficiently known to those who are most interested in them, and most capable of applying them beneficially. Few young Mothers think of consulting medical treatises, and were they inclined to attempt it, they would probably be deterred from proceeding far, by finding much in them which they would not understand, and with which they have little or no concern. To remedy this evil, such remarks as are most likely to be generally useful have been selected from writers in great repute. One of the objects in view is to enable Mothers, particularly young ones, to be thoroughly acquainted, before their confinement,

with what is necessary to be done; and to be prepared to require of the nurses in attendance, a strict conformity to their orders. The author is also desirous to spare them much needless anxiety, by pointing out a safer and easier method of managing their Infants from their birth, than that which is adopted by most nurses, and also to enable and encourage them to judge and act for themselves, where the welfare of their children is concerned, rather than to sit down contentedly under the guidance of persons, *many* of whom have neither education, reflection, nor common sense to direct their proceedings.

PLAIN OBSERVATIONS, &c.

CAN a Mother forget her sucking child?— Yes, she may forget, and fearful is her responsibility for the evils her forgetfulness may occasion.

But where one solitary instance can be found of conduct so unnatural, there are thousands of mothers who permit an early accumulation of suffering and disease, while their feelings are anxiously alive to the important duties of maternal tenderness, but who for want of the information to which they think there is no easy access, are induced to rely upon the experience of others, no better informed, but more fatally prejudiced than themselves.

If a simple mode of proceeding can be pointed out, which may prevent unnecessary suffering to the Infant, and diminish the causes of intense and overwhelming anxiety to the affectionate Mother, the attempt may not be useless.

In support of the opinions advanced, the author can appeal not only to medical men of acknowledged good sense, and high reputation, but to personal observation and experience.

From the hour of birth, the greater number of Infants, in all classes of society, are subjected to inconveniences and injuries which are quite unnecessary.

Not one monthly nurse in a hundred, it may be said, in a thousand, knows how an Infant should be treated. In general they have had no opportunity for acquiring this knowledge, and those among them who really wish to do their duty, attempt abundantly too much, and measure their own good qualities by their powers of enduring the needless inconveniences and fatigues they create for themselves, by their officious mismanagement of their helpless charge.

Surely our great and benevolent Creator did not implant the powerful feelings of maternal tenderness and anxiety, that they should be held in controul by an ignorant mercenary woman, with whose plans the Mother is not to interfere, to whose opinion she is to submit, and whose directions she is to follow, though her own good sense and information should point out a safer and a better path! It is the duty of every Mother to gain all the information she can collect, on subjects connected with the welfare of her child. This may be done by reading, and by judicious enquiry of intelligent medical men. Her own good sense must assist her in the arrangement of her plans; and her undeviating firmness must

secure their being carried into execution. For this purpose, the person who is to take the first charge of her Infant must be one upon whose obedience she can insist and rely, and the directions she gives must be clear and explicit.

Most medical men declare that the opposition and counteraction their advice meets with from both nurses and mothers, wearies them of taking useless trouble, and as the greater number of Infants DO struggle through the bad management they receive, they are obliged to be content to give up the poor little victims, to the absurd and unnatural evils which ignorance brings upon them.

But who shall say exactly where are the limits of the evils incurred? The slightest needless derangement of the bodily organs produces a *correspondent needless* derangement of the temper, and consequently, of the moral powers. The child is rendered more prone to peevishness, and passion, than it would have been under judicious care, and there is more to overcome before it can attain the perfection of human character. This observation applies equally to the mental and bodily powers.

Every Mother should seriously direct her attention to the most convenient manner of clothing her infant. Happily in the last twenty years it has been discovered that the pincushion is not

essential to the baby's toilet, and the use of pins in the dress of Infants is very generally discontinued in the higher classes of society. They are in no case necessary, and it may be well to recommend those ladies who make, or direct the making of baby-linen, to give or lend to the poor, to adopt the greatly improved plan of fastening all the clothes by means of strings and buttons; the poor are generally unwilling to admit improvements in long-established customs, but when they find that in using the articles given to them, their children are free from the irritation occasioned by pricks and scratches, they may be more than reconciled to the alteration.

When the new-born babe is removed from its Mother, it should be wrapped in warm flannels, having the mouth and nose uncovered. It may be placed in a warm bed or basket near the fire, and should be suffered to remain perfectly still and quiet, a watchful eye being kept over it.

Where such an arrangement is practicable, it is desirable to prepare an adjoining apartment to that which the Mother occupies, in which *in case of necessity*, the Infant may be washed and dressed. If the Mother's health be delicate, or if she has been much exhausted, immediate undisturbed rest will be essential to her, and no bustle must be permitted in her apartment. If however she is well, and anxious to keep her Infant in her sight