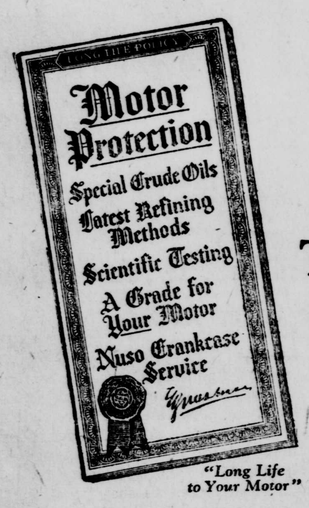
THOSE WHO KNOW



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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FROM MOTHERS

By ELIZABETH A. PERKINS

Sometimes we think that children are just interrogation points, and I know that mothers are interrogation points—and it is one of the great functions of mothers to study, to learn how to help the child in all that has to do with life, to learn all that can be learned about the great profession of motherhood.

The questions answered in this study are not divided into groups, physical, psychological and moral, but are just selected from the many questions asked by mothers.

1. It is difficult always to abide by what I have said to my child. Does it really do any harm if occasionally I change my mind?

Answer. Your child will respect you more if you abide by your decisions. When a mother has little firmness, when she makes decisions and does not abide by them, the child soon realizes that he might just as well do the forbidden thing; "mother will forget, or didn't mean it." If a mother abides by her decisions she will be more careful in making them. If at any time there seems a wise reason why your decisions should be changed, sit down with the child and clearly explain the reason.

2. Should children be permitted to eat between meals?

Answer. When the hours between meals are long, the child should be given a simple lunch, a slice of bread and butter and a glass of milk, but not candy or sweets. The child accustomed to these simple lunches enjoys them just as much as candy or sweets, and the lunch will not be a matter of spending money or of buying sweets, but of really satisfying hunger.

3. We read so much about the physical defects of our school children, and yet many communities are paying no attention to these matters. Why don't we stop talking and do more?

Answer. Do not be discouraged and do not stop talking. Only when communities really understand conditions, do they initiate corrective measures. Talking is really a forerunner of work. Go on securing vital statistics on these defects, go on urging the creation of machinery both for listing and for correcting defects. Go on urging the establishing of a dental clinc, the employment of a school physician, a rural nurse, and a city nurse. Lead out in these vitai matters.

4. I punish my little boy by putting him to bed without supper, instead of whipping him. Isn't that a good plan?

Answer. It is not a good plan to send a child to bed without supper. The child needs nourishment. Do not make the bed-time hour the hour for punishing a child. Would you like to have something very unpleasant happen just before you go to bed? Don't you think it would prevent you from falling into a quiet restful sleep? Don't you think too that whipping a child belongs to the

5. Is it well to have a good romp with my children just before their bed-time?

Answer. The child should be protected from unusual excitement just before bed-time. This does not mean that he cannot indulge in simple play, but that the play should not be an over-exciting kind. A child's nerves do not suddenly quiet down just because play is ended. So choose the middle way, and have simple play, and an interesting bed-time story.

6. How can I keep my little children amused?

Answer. The normal child does not need to be amused, but only to have his energies directed. Do not try to "amuse them." Give them for period known as the Dark Ages? playthings, things which will stimulate their imagination, and develop a constructive instinct. A set of blocks of different shapes and sizes, cut by a carpenter, will stimulate the creative instinct fully as much as a set of very expensive ones. A mechanical toy, which will run by simply winding a key will not hold the child's attention so long as something which he himself builds. A stick may be a horse or an automobile, or a steam-train, and will give the child as much pleasure as the toy engine or toy automobile.

7. What can I do with a very mischievous child?

Answer. Mischief frequently is simply a craving for activity—merely an evidence of wanting something to do. Therefore provide many forms of activity. A child (active) must be given many changes in occupation. He will not "stay by" one thing for a very long period. In furnishing these occupations, frequently furnish things which are a bit hard for the child to do, and wihch will tax his energy, and will divert him into using his power in doing something worth while.

8. Should a child have household duties to perform?

Answer. By all means. Every boy girl should have some household task to perform at a regular hour. Be sure that it is a task which really makes for the welfare of the household is not created simply to give the child something to do. The child has a very keen mind, and very soon will know whether he is really helping the family or not.

8. Where can I get a little book of songs for children?

Answer. Songs for Little People arranged by Frances W. Danielson and Grace Wilbur Conant, published by Presbyterian Board of Publication, 509 So. Wabash Ave. Chicago is very good. This little book contains hymns, greeting songs, wee songs, motion songs and motion music. Price $1.25

9. Should children eat candy?

Answer. Children should be given only the purest candy, and should eat it at the end of the meal. There is a physical reason for eating the sweet at the end of the meal and also a psyschological reason. Kirkpatrick in the Psychology of the Child emphasizes teaching the child to "wait for future good;" after the plainer part of the meal, the dessert is enjoyed.

10. How early in life may the child be given religious training?

Answer. The first lullabies may be some of the beautiful old hymns; many of the pictures in the child's rooom should be religious pictures.

11. I have no room which can be set apart for a nursery, or playroom? What shall I do?

Answer. Let the child have a large box for his toys near the window where you will often sit when sewing; or if much of your time is spent in the kitchen, give him one or two of the low shelves in the kitchen cupboard. His joy in having a place his very own will well compensate you for his toys will teach orderliness and care of his possessions.

12. Is it better for the children to have the so-called children's diseases before starting to school?

Answer. No. Little children should be protected from exposure to contagious diseases. These diseases, whooping-cough, measles, and like diseases, frequently cause death, and usually leave behind a trail of bad after-effects. If one child in the family contracts one of these diseases, quarantine that child in a separate room and make every effort to protect the other children from contracting the disease.

13. How early in life can the child be taught self-control?

Answer. When a tiny baby. When the baby finds that by crying or displaying temper he can secure what he desires, he has made a very bad start. Habit formation begins almost as soon as the child is born.

The closing message in this Child Study may well be, "Children have more need of models than critics;" and this responsibility of being a good model for children rests upon the adult in the home and also upon the adult in the community.

NEW POULTRY DISEASE VERY PREVALENT

The bacteriology and animal hygiene laboratories at the University of Delaware are receiving many young chicks suffering from a disease known as coccidiosis. The letters accompanying the shipment indicate the disease as unusually prevalent this year and the poultry raisers are suffering heavy losses.

The disease affects chicks most commonly from the age of four to ten weeks, but may effect chicks much younger. It is caused by an animal parasite known as eimeria or coccodium avium, which lives in the lining of the intestine of the chicken. The parasites are voided in the droppings and will remain alive in the ground for several years. Older birds become resistant to the parasite and serve as carriers or spreaders for the disease. Young chicks become infected by feeding on contaminated ground. The parasite gaining entrance with the food and drink, rapidly multiplies within the lining of the intestine, soon inducing sickness and death.

The chicks affected show the following symtoms: Disordered feathers, droopy wings, bunched appearance, general weakness and failure to grow. The droppings become fluid (diarrhea) and often of a whitish color. In extreme cases the droppings become bloody.

Like many infectious diseases, the best results are obtained in this disease by endeavoring to avoid the infection. In fact, in many diseases this is the only method by which the the disease may be controlled, as once the disease develops, it is practically impossible to cure it. Young birds should be placed on ground that has not been used by chickens for at least two years. Every poultry raiser in sections where this disease is prevalent should provide lots designed especially for raising young chicks. These lots should be fenced to prevent other chickens from using the lots. After the chicks have reached the age of eight weeks they are transferred to permanent range. The lots are covered with lime, and the ground turned under. The lots should remain idle, but if it is necessary to use them the next year the lime treatment may be repeated. In addition to proper care of the yard, the brooder houses should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with a good coal-tar spray of creolin, stock-dip, crude, carbolic acid, carbolineum, etc. After this, whitewash may be applied. All of this means a great deal of work, but if carried out thoroughly the disease may be prevented.

For flocks in which the disease has appeared, remove at once all sick chicks and treat them seperately. Burn all dead chicks. Clean thoroughly and disinfect the brooder house, yards and runs, feed and water utensils.

Remove, burn and replace the litter daily. Repeat the cleaning and disinfect frequently. Apply lime abundantly to the yards and floor of the brooder house. All of this involves an enormous amount of work, but if handled carefully and thoroughly, most of the chicks can be saved.

Remove at once all scratch grain from the chicks and give them a moist crumbly mash including Epsom salts at the rate of one-quarter pound to every hundred chicks. The Epsom salts are to be used only once. The dose may be repeated at weekly intervals until the chicks are entirely out of danger. A good wet mash for chicks of susceptible age may be made as follows:

Two pounds wheat bran, one pound wheat middlings, one pound cornmeal, one-half pound beef scrap. If milk is available, the beef scrap may be omitted from the mash and the mash itself mixed with sour wilk so that it is in a crumbly condition when fed to the chicks. Feed the chicks three times a day about what they will clean up in ten to fifteen minutes each feeding. Both water and sour milk or buttermilk should be available at all times. Place copper sulphate in the sour milk or buttermilk using a level teaspoon of the pure pulverized copper sulphate crystals to each gallon of sour milk or buttermilk.

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