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PSYCHIATRY

Do Well-Baby Clinics Lead To Adult Industrial War?

BABY clinics and pamphlets on infant care have reduced the toll in child lives.

Perhaps it has had another far-reaching effect never dreamed of by the physicians and nurses who have contributed so greatly to child health.

Personality is formed in the nursery. Feeding schedules, rocking, cleanliness and cuddling, all have their effects in the making of the future man.

The baby who is fed by the clock rather than in answer to his own hunger pangs, who is trained to be clean, to do without sucking his thumb, to go to sleep alone in his crib instead of in the comfort of mother's arms will turn out to be a very different individual from the baby who is never forced into a schedule, never nagged nor neglected.

Typical of the middle and upper classes is the careful book-training of infants, points out Lawrence K. Frank, of the Josiah Macy, Jr., Foundation in the journal, *Psychiatry*. Typical of the poor is the easy-going feed-him-when-he-cries, let-him-suck-his-thumb method.

Frustration leads to aggression. Children of the middle class, emerging from an infancy of nagging and "training", have conflicting emotions about authority. They have been taught to submit to rules, yet have learned to resent them. They are likely to grow up self-seeking, ambitious, perhaps rebellious.

Children of the easy-going parents are themselves likely to be submissive, content, unaggressive.

"It is significant," says Mr. Frank, "that the leaders of social life come so often from the middle group."

But now the middle class methods of child rearing are being rapidly extended to the poor through well-baby clinics, pamphlets, lectures and visiting nurses.

Lower class mothers are getting jobs and leaving their babies to professional care. Early weaning, less cuddling and mothering, fixed routines, and neurotic anxiety over baby's health are becoming the order of the day in all the homes.

Can this be a factor in the spread of industrial strife?

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A young woman 25 years old directs the Moscow Circuit railway.

Eagles repair and enlarge their nests from year to year.

Fruit of the hurricane plant ripens so slowly that eating a single fruit is a process of several days.

PHYSICS

Thunder and Lightning To Be Made at World's Fair

See Front Cover

THE APPARATUS illustrated on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER resembles some fantastic giant musical instrument, but thunder is the lusty music it roars forth. Towering upward for 34 feet, these are banks of capacitors for the 10,000,000-volt artificial lightning generator which will give New York World's Fair visitors their first experience of man-made thunder and lightning. The apparatus will be exhibited in Steinmetz Hall, shown by the General Electric Company.

Science News Letter, May 13, 1939

● Microfilm Documents

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