

Prevention of Child Ills

THE world is learning very thoroly the lesson that it is better to keep children from being ill, or becoming deformed, than to try to cure them after pathological incidents have happened. The two books before us are very fair samples of the body of literature that has arisen for popular education as to the care of children, before they have become ill or developed deformity, and it is especially the portions of the books which treat of

prophylaxis that are popularly interesting. The fact that the book on the care of children¹ comes to us almost directly from the clinic of Professor Heubner at Berlin, who is recognized to be one of the best living authorities on children's diseases, is of itself sufficient to demonstrate at once its thoroughness and its up-to-dateness. The chapter of the book that is most valuable is that on respiratory diseases, in which the author makes it very clear, that there is very much more danger of children contracting respiratory diseases, whenever they stay for any length of time in crowded ill-ventilated places than there is for adults.

Dr. Lovett has now for many years been considered one of our best American authorities on the subject of spinal diseases and spinal deformities in children.² His views on the subject deserve to be in the hands of all those who, as educators and charity workers, are interested in the prevention of child deformity. He emphasizes the fact that curvatures of the spine are due to defective position in the schoolroom, but also and especially to various sensory defects. Unequal hearing, for instance, by causing a tilting or twisting of the head may result in lateral curvature. Unequal vision may act in similar fashion. Defective vision may also have such a result. Inequality in the length of the limb or the occurrence of flat foot in one foot may have a similar consequence. All these are practical details with which educators and those who have charge of children in institutions should be familiar.

¹THE MOTHER'S NURSERY GUIDE FOR THE CARE OF THE BABY IN HEALTH AND IN SICKNESS. By Setrak G. Eghian, A.B., M.D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.00.

²INTERNAL CURVATURE OF THE SPINE AND ROUND SHOULDERS. By Robert W. Lovett, M.D. Philadelphia: Blakiston's Son & Co. \$1.75.