

offspring. The latter are deliberate, calm and serene. The point is that even at this tender age, the baby is acutely aware of differences in tactile 'security' and 'safety', on the one hand, and tactile 'insecurity' and 'alarm' on the other. An agitated mother cannot avoid signalling her agitation to her new-born infant. It signals back to her in the appropriate manner, demanding protection from the cause of the agitation. This only serves to increase the mother's distress, which in turn increases the baby's crying. Eventually the wretched infant cries itself sick and its physical =are then added to the sum total of its already  
erable misery. All that is necessary to break the vicious circle is for the mother to accept the situation and become calm herself. Even if she cannot manage this (and it is almost impossible to fool a baby on this score)  
the problem corrects itself, as I have said,  
in

the third or fourth month of life, because at that stage the baby becomes imprinted on the mother and instinctively begins to respond to her as the 'protector'.

She is no longer a disembodied series of agitating stimuli, but a familiar face. If she continues to give agitating stimuli, they are no longer so alarming because they are coming from a known source with a friendly identity. The baby's growing bond with its parent then calms the mother and automatically reduces her anxiety. The 'colic' disappears.

Up to this point I have omitted the question of smiling because it is an even- more specialised response than laughing. Just as laughing is a secondary form of crying, so smiling is a secondary form of laughing. At first sight it may indeed appear to be no more than a low-intensity version of laughing, but it is not as simple as that. It is true that in its mildest form a laugh is indistinguishable from a smile, and this is no doubt how smiling originated, but it is quite clear that during the course of evolution smiling has become emancipated and must now be considered as a separate entity. High-intensity smiling-the giving of a broad grin, a beaming smile-is completely different in function from high-intensity laughing. It has become specialised as a species greeting signal. If we greet someone by smiling at them, they know we are 106