

poned he should enter the room quietly, greet the caller, stand beside his mother's chair until a pause offers itself, excuse himself, say what he has to say, and depart.

Nothing will prevent a child's asking questions—good fortune for the human race that this is true—but careful training will prevent his asking personal ones. A visitor's peculiarities should not be remarked upon in her presence nor talked over critically after her departure. Everyone has the right to be judged by his or her best qualities, in the presence of children at least, though many people fail to recognize it.

Matters of a strictly private nature should never be introduced when there is a guest present. If she has any delicacy at all she will be very much embarrassed, and whatever grievances the members of a family have against each other they should thresh out among themselves. Family skeletons are hideous objects, and while there is a stranger within the gates they should be kept in the darkest corner of the closet.

THE CHILD'S RIGHTS

IT WAS Dickens who said that we never see an old head on young shoulders without feeling a desire to knock it off; and surely there ought to be a special place in purgatory reserved for those people who by discussing children in their presence destroy that divine innocence which is half the beauty of childhood and

make the youngsters grow old and worldly wise before their time. The first right of all children is the right to their childhood. Compliments make them vain and criticisms make them unhappy. They are more sensitive than their elders think and no one knows how many a bitter moment has been spent because of thoughtless comments on large noses, stringy hair, or unlovely complexions. Little girls develop frail constitutions because they hear so many times that they are delicate that they finally decide that it must be true, and little boys out of sheer perversity try to live up to the reputation which their parents have given them of being the worst children in the world.

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It is natural for a mother to want her friends to know and admire her children but she should, nay, she *must* resist the temptation of showing them off. It spoils the children and bores the visitor. Even when the child is not in the room the caller should not be regaled with a eulogy of his excellent qualities and his prospects for a brilliant future. Of course Johnny is the most wonderful boy in the world, but the fact ought to be so apparent as to need no proof.

BIG SISTER'S CALLERS

THERE is a strong element of coarseness in the character of a person who can make any of the sacred relationships of life the subjects for jesting; and indelicate comments or rude teasing about court-