

WHAT IS A PERFECT BABY?



Parents May Differ as to the Points That Make for Perfection, But Here's a Safe Guide by a Recognized Expert

The Baby Phenomenal—This Husky Infant Weighed More Than 40 Pounds at Nine Months, When the Photograph was Taken.

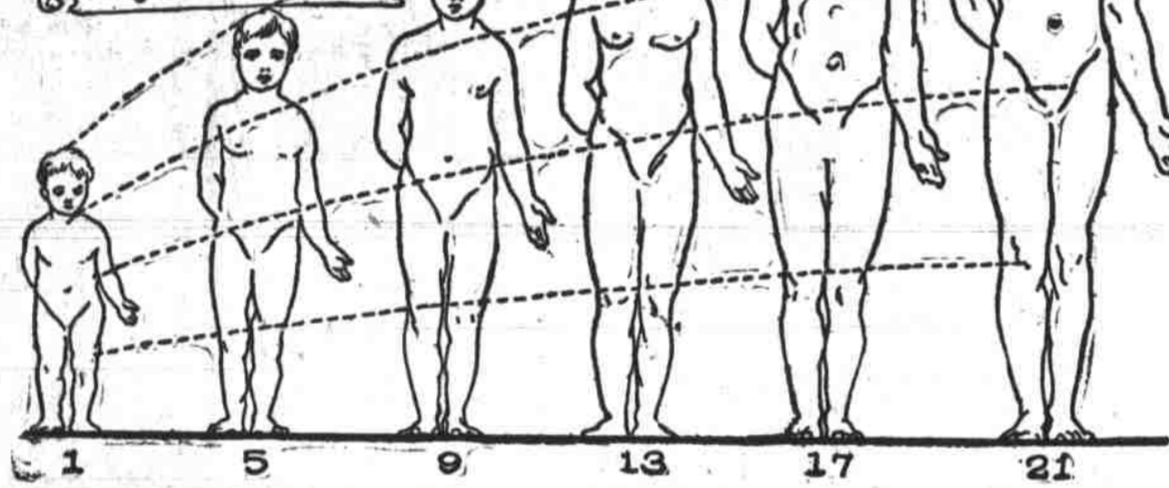
soundness in the future, always counting on good heredity and conditions favorable to complete development. It will take at least a year to eliminate doubt in all these essential factors; and perfectly sound babies—often those destined to exceptional merits in maturity—do not always exhibit evidence of normal progress within the first year after birth. As for the senses and such features as teeth and hair, the experienced physician will show indulgence and patience that would surprise many a worried and overzealous mother.

"One may say that the sense of touch is almost born with the child. The lips manifest, with little or no delay, the tactile responsibility which insure the taking of the natural food. Consciousness of pain, of heat, of cold, becomes immediately apparent. Smell and hearing develop rapidly. The baby is usually responsive to sound within a week; any loud noise will startle it. But the nature and the direction of sound are not recognized for three months; and musical notes are sometimes distinguished between 1 and 2 years of age, although occasionally earlier than that."

Then there is the sight. Some weeks elapse before the infant really sees, beyond the mere perception of light. It is usually a month and a half old before it fixes its gaze on any object and shuts its eyes if a quick motion toward them be made. These evidences of sight may be given earlier, and the child be not exceptional; or a little later, and not be at all defective. The sight is, however, commonly active at two months, although the baby's control of its eyes is so far from perfect that it is liable to look cross-eyed without any provocation at all.

Walking is another indeterminate phase. Some babies may walk when they are a year old; others when they are 18 months. If the child be 2 years of

How The Baby Grows—From One to Twenty-one Years



The Baby Ideal as Portrayed by William Shewell Ellis

age before it walks, no mother need be anxious; her baby may be in perfect health and condition.

The hair and the teeth are very irregular in their development. A child should begin to get its teeth at 7 months; yet some do not do so until they are a year old. If no teeth appear then, there is a suspicion of rickets, which must be promptly taken into consideration.

There is a popular test in the age at which the child begins to talk. But there is nothing less definite. A normal baby should begin to make sounds with some definite intent when it is between 9 and 12 months old; yet it is not abnormal if it remain inarticulate until 15 months. Then, indeed, if not earlier, it ought to be able to say "papa" and "mamma" and one or two other words and mean them. The average age at which children begin to talk is one year.

"So it is a matter of very wide choice to determine the correct age at which to judge the baby," deduced Professor Griffith. "The minimum should probably be

a year; and even then the senses do not merit any preponderant weight in the appraisal. You see, the baby that is slowest in the development of its senses often matures into the brightest man or woman."

So long as the child gives no sign of imbecility or feeble-mindedness and has its health and strength, any judicious physician will be content with its progress. The child that is content with its own pace, gaining its weight properly, sitting up when it is months or so of age, taking notice in the ordinary ways, should be called a perfect baby.

"Such a baby," added Doctor Griffith, "need not smile to impress us with its excellent condition. Its life is largely vegetative until it is a month old; and when, in the first month of life, or even for a term after that, baby smiles, it is no evidence of pleasure, but merely a reflex action. If any smile in its sleep, purely because it has a pain in its stomach, due to some slight digestive disturbance. Later in infancy, a baby that smiles and laughs too much is very likely to be one whose nervous system is being ruined by unwise attempts to divert it from the simple life, the vegetative life, which it thrives on. The stolid baby is just as likely to be the perfect baby as the smiling one."

Probably one of the best tests of any baby's general condition of health is that of growth in height and weight. That is the safeguard to which one may turn, at any time during the child's life, to make sure that it is meeting all the requirements of normal nature. On the other hand, the big, husky infant may surpass the average all around; but if he does not conform to the general requirements proportionately, he cannot be called perfect. It is important to remember that both height and weight usually reach the level of those who are nourished as nature planned.

Taking the average baby as weighing 7 1/2 pounds at birth, we find that its height is 19 inches. It loses some of its weight during the first week; but at the end of the second week its weight exceeds the birth weight a trifle; and it gains an ounce a day until it is a couple of months old. Its height, meanwhile, increases by two inches by the age of 5 months; the baby weighs twice as much as it did at birth and is 4 1/2 inches taller. It goes on gaining about 1 pound in weight and 1/2 inch in height per month until it is a year old, when its original weight has been trebled and its height has increased to 27 inches. For the next few years, one can note an increase in height of some 4 inches. At 3 years of age the child should be 32 inches high and should weigh 32 pounds. At 4 years, it is about double its original height and weighs 36 pounds. At 5 years the number of pounds and inches is the same—40. In the sixth and seventh years it gains 2 inches and 2 pounds per year; in the eighth and ninth years, 2 inches and 2 pounds; in the tenth and eleventh, 2 inches and 6 pounds. From the age of 12 to 18 the gain is 2 inches and about 9 pounds annually, and you then have a child who is feet 3 inches in height and weighs 117 pounds.

One can find, in the proportions of the body, changes that appear as the child progresses in years. Dr. the chest increases, how the child grows in all its proportions, the half of the figures represent the ages of 1 year, 5, 9, 13, 17 and 21 years. The division is into four-year periods. The proportions change steadily.

Thus the head of the child of 1 year measures about 1/4 of the height; the trunk is not much more, and the legs form 1/4 of the height. Doctor Yale's comment is that the baby's head is "four heads high." But in the adult of 21 years the legs have lengthened and amount to 1/2 of the height, while the head is only 1/12 of the height. It is after the age of 10 years that the legs make their appearance.

An important phase of the child's development is the chest growth. At birth it may be only 13 inches in circumference, while the head measures 13 1/2 inches. At 1 year the chest has increased to 16 inches and still retains the advantage of the 1/2 inch. That advantage is held at 2 years of age; at 3 the chest girth passes measurement by the 1/2 inch, as against 1 1/2. Thereafter the chest gains steadily, being 22 inches at 5 years of age, with the head measuring 21 inches; and more than 30 inches at 11, while the head has quit expanding at 2 1/2 inches.

"The task of determining the perfect baby," Professor Griffith said, "is one that has engaged the attention of the physicians and the statisticians, who have even made algebraic formulae of growth stages—which, by the way, are quite as needless as they are ridiculous. In the practical raising of babies, of hundreds of babies, will keep a watchful eye on the progress in weight and height and will note any departure from normal sense responsiveness. He will make it a point to note the departure from the common standards at the various ages, and will then pronounce that baby perfect whose progress is good in growth, whose nutrition appears sound, whose proportions are not lacking in any respect, and whose progress is good in all respects."

There are a good many more babies born and raised who are perfect than the hypercritical imagine. But the movement to assure perfectly clear that the while it may lead to some extraneous opinions, must in the main tend to improve the care on which the growing child so vitally depends for present condition and future development.

QUESTION: What is the Perfect Baby?

Into so many American households there come, every year, so many little strangers that the mere counting of them constitutes one of the biggest tasks which engage the nation's census bureau. And so many of those households seem, of late, to have become concerned with the quality rather than the quantity of these little strangers that a dozen census bureaus, working night and day, wouldn't be able to define accurately the merits of the annual brood.

But that question of quality, however difficult the task of knowing may be, continues to engage the whole soul of the mothers and a steadily increasing share of the fathers' interest. Perhaps it is only the innate parental instinct; perhaps it is the saving grace that goes with race suicide. Either way, there isn't any doubt that the whole nation is awakening to the importance of securing perfect babies, as if, under all its apparent reluctance to bear the burdens of large families, under its insistence on having less of the care and more of the pleasure of life, under its intense concentration on the acquisition of material wealth, there was a shrewd purpose to make sure that the children who are born, while fewer, shall have a better time in their turn and be fit to enjoy it.

Twenty years ago Europe began to remark, critically, that the American child was being given almost royal honors and importance. A few years hence and Europe may be finding the same fault with our treatment of the baby. We have made the start already by electing baby to be temporary king or queen at competitions all over the United States; and there are only some crabbed bachelors among us to make mock of the monarch.

WHAT is the perfect baby?

They're trying to answer that question in Boston, where they just naturally try to go inside baby's dome of thought and find out. Boston, you see. They're trying in hearty Iowa, where they have baby shows that rival the cattle shows, and stir up far more enthusiasm. In Pennsylvania, at the New Jersey shore resorts, and wherever else a bunch of proud mothers can get together and start something, they have baby beauty contests—the primitive standard as applied to infancy.

That's where most of the trouble lies. So many communities, so many different standards; and until you have the scientifically true standard, you may be trying to raise babies along lines that are liable to produce infantile phenomena who are human freaks. We've got to go mighty slow on this baby question. For the whole, great United States depends on it. That's where Iowa is displaying the discretion that is the highest wisdom. In most baby shows, it's just a case of the committee agreeing on the baby that comes nearest to looking like a brand-new angel, reaching for its first harp. But Iowa has already systematized its judging and its exhibits, so that the babies from all over the state meet in rivalry, and the good points are gone over one by one, of every eligible competitor. But Iowa recognizes even that stage of progress as crude.

WANT MORE THAN PRETTINESS

The Federation of Women's Clubs is planning to give scientific instruction in motherhood to mothers living in the country districts. Local prizes will be awarded in every district, and the winners will meet in a grand contest afterward. Margaret Vassar Clark, of Waterloo, N. Y., is detailed on a study tour in Europe to collect data at the important medical centers there; and the knowledge she gains is to be put at the disposal of all the mothers in Iowa. The primitive idea of having the prettiest baby has disappeared under this ambition for the eugenics of infancy, and Iowa, with an abiding trust in the future, awaits the perfection of its standard for the perfect baby ere it claims pre-eminence over nurseries from the Golden Gate to the Back Bay.

Boston has read, with the dignified content it displays so well, a scale of points drawn up by one of its pastors, the Rev. Thomas Van Ness. He starts right off with all five senses, and appraises them at half the 100 per cent value equal proportions. His counts physique, condition, health and appearance at 10 per cent each, and allots 5 per cent apiece to hair and teeth. It looks rather skimpy for baby's arms and legs and tummy and little tummy, and rather meticulous—means nervously over-anxious, as you'll remember if you've ever been in Boston—regarding baby's perceptible finer points. But then, you can't be too particular about finer points—in Boston.

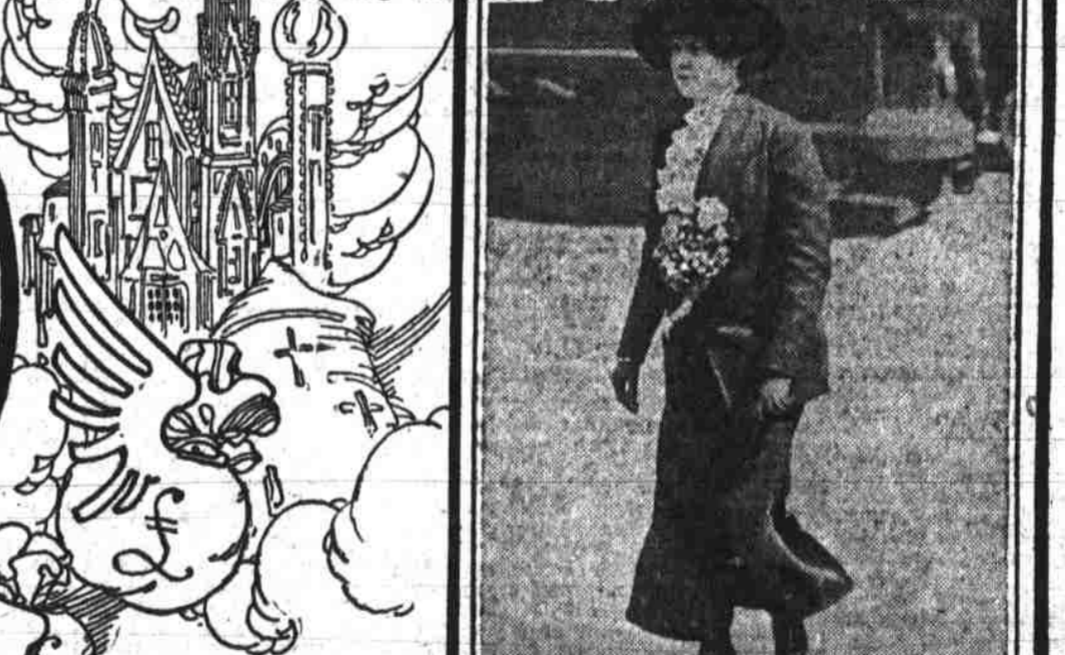
Yet there are authorities who would make bold to differ with Boston and take a stand in advance of Iowa. The famous specialists on children and children's diseases may not be agreed as to what precisely constitutes the perfect baby; but they are inclined to think that the profession has already come pretty near to an established standard.

One of the most practical as well as learned of these authorities is Dr. J. P. Crozer Griffith, clinical professor of diseases of children in the hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and author of the well-known manual for mothers and nurses, "The Care of the Baby."

FORTUNES SPENT ON CHILDREN OF THE RICH



Gwendoline Field, one of the world's most lavishly nurtured children.



Miss Katherine Hammersley, who has been raised on \$15,000 a year.

TAKE a little shaver and give him the clothes he was born in, and how much will it cost to make a man of him?

The millions of families that have been struggling with the question in the United States aren't any nearer solving it on a hard-and-fast basis than they were when the first of these

shavers was born. But they have been learning whole encyclopedias about the different answers that tell how many ways it may be answered.

A dollar a week would be riches to many a mother with a brood that rise in regular steps from infancy toward their teens; there have been men who climbed to eminence on supplies of food

and clothing which cost in their childhood even less than that. And a million dollars a week has not seemed unreasonable to at least one mother for the expenses of her three children and herself on one special occasion when she wanted to show off to best advantage. It all depends on how much cash is available.

THE \$1-a-week class of children are so numerous, and so much alike in their needs—enough to eat and warm clothes to wear—that we know them by heart, so much by heart that half the tears that are shed fall because the \$1 a week they need is so uncertain.

But the million-dollar brood present the puzzle as to what they could possibly do with it. How in the world could dainty little Gwendoline Field and her brothers, Marshall and Harry, ever succeed in spending \$10,000,000 in a week, no matter how extravagantly they tried to live?

Their mother, the widow of the Chicago merchant's son, having married Malcolm Drummond, joined forces with her sister, the wife of Admiral David Beattie, for a campaign of conquest in English society—for the future interest and welfare of her beloved children, of course. When the coronation ceremonies were being planned last year over there, Mrs. Drummond took ship and hastened from London to Chicago to wrestle with the trustees of the estate of Marshall Field, a hundred or so of whose millions were willed to his namesake, with the rest of his vast fortune apportioned to make Gwendoline a desirable heiress and relieve Harry from the necessity of asking his more fortunate brother for a nickel or a million when they should grow up.

If all three of those children actually were to use up \$10,000,000 of that million during the whole year for their immediate personal needs, even with the finest faces for Gwendoline and the most expensive tutors for Marshall and Harry, the task of spending it sensibly

would not be an easy job. But when costly house rent, retinue of servants, investments in vehicles, were borne as running charges, and when to them was added the expense of dinners, balls, house parties and hunts on a scale designed to overawe the wealthiest and most exclusive of British society, with coronation week figuring as the one where the campaign should reach its climax, why, a million dollars looked positively modest, almost stingy.

Incidentally, it may be remarked that the trustees were so little enterprising that they are believed to have pared down Mrs. Drummond's estimate cruelly. But the fact remains that she thought the million wasn't too much for one special week, with the trimmings that should go around it.

of fortune, as frequently defined in the courts, are far below that; but there are plenty of them who have claimed, and got, annual allowances big enough, if invested, to pay an interest equal to the support of the average American family.

The romance of Katherine Hammersley and her brother, Louis, was for years one of those which provided New York society with a perennial topic for argument. Andrew Gordon Hammersley left a fortune in New York real estate, variously estimated at from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000, to go to his first male heir, who proved to be Louis, his grandnephew. But Louis did not become the fortune's owner until his cousin by marriage, Lady Beresford, died. He and his sister lived on the income of \$750,000 left by their father, in absolute ignorance of the wealth that was coming to the boy and of the smaller fortune inherited by the girl. It took \$30,000 a year to maintain them, with their servants, in the great Hammersley residence on Fifth avenue, at the corner of Eighty-fourth street. And at that their wants were only "suitably" supplied.

It was \$20,000 that was needed for a 16-year-old girl every year in the application of Mrs. Emily Ladenburg to the county courts in Long Island for her daughter, Eugenia. Mrs. Ladenburg, prominent socially, explained sadly to Judge Jackson that all she had for her own income was \$8000 a year, barely enough for life's necessities. Eugenia, however, is 16 years of age, and her mother told the judge that she certainly needed a maid at \$20 a month; a governess at \$60; clothing at \$1800 a year; an auto at \$2000 a year; a couple of horses at \$34 monthly; a grocer \$50 a month; dancing lessons and other tuition at \$1200 a year; dental treatment at \$1000 a year; theaters and other amusements, \$250 a year; a European trip at \$240; a country place, maintained at \$5000 a year; an apartment for two months, after ten months in Europe, \$720; and extra horses, grooms, music and incidentals, bringing her yearly living charges up to \$20,000.

Mrs. Ladenburg was moderate with her 16-year-old heiress as compared with the widow of J. Arthur Hinckley, of New York, whose boy, only 5 years old, was worth \$1,000,000, and out of her income of \$40,000, she certainly required \$20,000 a year—for a maid, \$1200; music lessons, \$400; apartments for one month at \$200; hotel, \$240; horses, motor car chauffeur, \$700; social functions, \$3000 to \$5000; clothing, \$5000; and for vacations from the awful strain of being alive, \$10,000. She got the \$20,000 she asked for.

Miss Carolyn Dorset whose grandmother left her \$40,000 a year, was 14 years old when her father went into the New York courts with affidavits proving that it cost precisely \$11,720 a year to keep her; and the trustees agreed that Mr. Dorset was very economical. Hunt Tilford Dickinson, grandnephew of the Standard Oil's treasurer, Wesley Hunt Dickinson, has \$4,000,000 coming to him, bringing in \$30,000 annually. He is only 10 years old, but his father was sure he needed \$25,000 a year to scratch along on. The surrogate must have been addicted to the simple life, for he wouldn't let poor little Hunt Tilford have more than \$8000 out of the \$30,000.

Sometimes these pampered children of fortune do bring up against some mean old judge or other who can't see why they need half as much as the president of the United States to buy their bread and butter.