

# Mothers Reassured by Dr. Brady's Exposure of "Marking" Superstition

By Dr. William Brady

To the physician human life is an inscrutable mystery only in its beginning. The ending of life does not impress him as much, provided it comes to a natural end. No one in the fulness of years envisages death more calmly and philosophically than the physician who has in countless cases witnessed and aided the launching of new lives. Birth and death; the beginning and the end. Has there a sermon so deeply stirred the soul, the awe or the inner reverence of the man as this miracle of the coming into the world of a new human life?

It may be true in the statesman's sense that all men are created equal. It is not true in the broader sense. Too many children are born defective, physically defective, terribly and sometimes hopelessly handicapped. An inborn defect, congenital defect, as physicians call them. Congenital means simply that the condition is present when the child is born and has no other significance. They are familiar enough to everybody and we need not name them here. They happen in every family. Nobody is too good, too rich, too strong, or too ignorant to bear a child with such a defect. It is the eternal doom of fate, and that's all we know about it.

A fair general knowledge of embryology enables one to understand how these congenital defects happen. We know, for example, that so-called hare lip is due to a cessation or delay in the natural process of development of the structures involved; every human being has "hare lip" and cleft palate and various other potential defects prior to birth.

Where knowledge or understanding is lacking, superstition is rampant. One of the crudest superstitions prevailing among the ignorant and the uninformed is that of "marking" the unborn child. Such an elementary knowledge of embryology as every schoolboy or schoolgirl should have completely dispels this superstition, for the ingenious or fanciful explanation offered for "marking" becomes too absurd when considered in the light of such knowledge.

I say this superstition is cruel because it causes much needless anxiety and worry for expectant mothers at a time when they should be cheerful and happy. Unquestionably the effect of this emotion, fear, anxiety or worry, is injurious to anybody's health, and the prospective mother and her unborn child are not immune.

One of the main reasons why the incident or circumstance to which the "marking" is ascribed by the inevitable old harpy fails to impress the enlightened mind is the incongruity of the explanation—the maternal impression occurs at the wrong time, either too long before or too long after the development pause or abnormality. Then, besides, the tales fabricated by these vicious gossip are too far fetched and the manifestations in the child too hazy in character to satisfy a sensible person even if she has no knowledge of embryology.

A single instance will suffice to illustrate the general run of cases of alleged "marking." A child had congenital "clubfoot." The parents were on a farm. The explanation of the neighborhood fishwife broadest was plausible enough to the ignorant: she pointed out that the mother had rendered first aid to her husband when he sprained his ankle in the field one day two weeks prior to the baby's birth. But this explanation was not so good in view of the fact that the defect showed a cessation or delay in the development of the foot dating back at least two months. That is to say the defective foot had developed normally up to the seventh or eighth month of prenatal life and then for some reason that nobody knows the process of development in that foot had been interrupted or retarded.

The wonderful part of it is that such interruption or delay in the growth process occurs so rarely that the human being is "club-footed" before birth.

There is no question more difficult to answer than this one, which confronts me every little while: A young mother's first born has had some such congenital defect. She is now looking forward to the birth of her second child and asks me whether the second child is likely to have the same defect.

The truth is that any child born to any parents may have a congenital defect. Lightning sometimes does strike twice in the same place. The second child is as likely to have a congenital defect as is any child ever born. But how to answer the expectant mother's question so that she may have the greatest assurance?

Any injury or severe shock imparts the expectant mother's health quite as much as it would if she were not preparing for the coming of a baby. But it is absurd to imagine that trivial incidents, which ordinarily would not seriously affect the woman, assume grave proportions and cause dreadful consequences if she happens to be looking forward to the visit of a little stranger. It is absurd to imagine that casual mental impressions of the mother can stir or control the inscrutable ways of nature in the growth and development of the child. It would be more reasonable to fancy surprising a neighbor's pet snake sunning himself under our lawn swing would cause you and me to grow scales or a forked tongue.

As I write this there comes an inquiry from a girl who was born with cleft palate and hare lip, which she attributes to the ill health of her mother (of course her mother's health or ill health had nothing to do with it) and now she contemplates marrying but hesitates for fear any children born to her may have the same defect. She says there had been no other instance of it in her mother's family as far back as they have been able to trace. If this girl marries and has children, her children are no more likely to have such a defect than are your children or mine or anybody else's. Even if a child has hare lip or cleft palate or both, the defect may

be remedied by plastic surgery if the operation is done in early infancy.

The concept of maternal, parental impressions as applied to mental or emotional effects upon the unborn child, has even less to commend it than has the fancy of physical marking. What artistic, cultural or other trends, talents or gifts either the mother or the father may have, as well as any vicious traits either may have, are as likely to be inherited by offspring as is the personal appearance, or the type of stature, or form of parents, but any such influence upon the unborn is determined many years before the advent of the little stranger and the mental, emotional or spiritual life or experience of the prospective mother in the comparatively short period of her expectancy has practically nothing to do with the question of the child's disposition, talents or traits.

Search scientific medical literature as minutely as you wish and call to the witness stand all the authorities of the country and you will not discover tangible support for the idiotic notion that a mental or emotional shock suffered by the prospective mother affects the mental or emotional integrity of her child.

At any rate, let us give the little stranger a fair break, and the best way to do that is by keeping the prospective mother in a happy, cheerful frame of mind. If she has enough brains there is no reason why she should permit the superstition of "marking" to give her a moment's anxiety.

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## OPEN CAMPAIGNS FOR SPEAKERSHIP

SALEM, Ore., June 2.—(AP)—W. D. Campaigns for the speakership of the house of representatives and for senate presidency of the 1933 legislative session were already under way in the capital city, although many of the seats in both houses are yet to be decided in the general election.

Three-way fights loom in each house and re-election of the leaders of both houses at the last session were being sought.

Frank Lonergan, speaker of the house at the last session, is again being urged to run for presiding officer. Earl Snell of Arlington is a candidate, as is Herbert Gordon of Portland.

In the senate friends of Willard L. Marks are urging the Albany senator to submit his name for re-election as president of the upper house.

Fred Kiddle of La Grande, prominent Eastern Oregon senator, is likewise high in consideration, and Senator Sam Brown of Marion county has also been mentioned as a candidate.

DENNY CLARK IN SALEM SUICIDE

SALEM, Ore., June 2.—(AP)—W. D. Clark, 47, who shot himself through the heart in his hotel room here yesterday, was identified today as William Dennison Clark, who for the past quarter of a century has been shouldering the sole responsibility for the defeat of the Michigan university football team by Chicago 2 to 0 in 1905.

Clark had been at the hotel for several days and went to his room about 10:30 o'clock Monday night. He had been drinking, the elevator man told the coroner who found about two pints of alcohol in his rooms.

Denny Clark, Michigan alumni and football fans recall, made a mistake in the 1905 game in attempting to make a safety in order to bring the ball into play further down the field, but was thrown for a touch-back, causing Michigan to lose its first game in several seasons.

NINE GIVEN DIPLOMAS AT JACKSONVILLE HIGH

JACKSONVILLE, June 2.—(Sp.)—Commencement exercises were held for the Jacksonville high school graduating class at the local gymnasium Thursday evening. Nine students graduated.

Diplomas were presented George Brown, Robert Forbes, Malcolm Jones, Brian Smith, George Nunn, Barbara Durham, Louise Johnson, Luis Metzgar and Margaret Norvell. Class officers were: President, Louise Johnson; vice-president, Luis Metzgar; secretary-treasurer, Geo. Nunn.

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Seagulls Aiding Farmers' Battle Against Crickets

POCATELLO, Idaho, June 1.—(AP) Seagulls, which turned back the grasshopper pest that threatened the Mormon pioneers' crops six years after their arrival in the great Salt Lake valley in 1849, today came to the aid of farmers battling a crickets horde in the Tyhee section near here. They arrived in increasing numbers from the American Falls reservoir and immediately fell upon the insects.

Nature also lent her assistance with cold rains and lowering temperatures, which quieted the movements of the grasshoppers.

Publisher's Wife Burned To Death

OLYMPIA, Wash., June 2.—(AP)—Mrs. Pearl H. Vaughn, wife of Chas. L. Vaughn, publisher of the Oakville Cruiser, was burned to death early today when trapped by flames which destroyed their home and newspaper plant at Oakville, in southeastern Grays Harbor county.

Forest Too Wet for Lesson

BEND, Ore., June 2.—(AP)—Headquarters were unable to start forest fires in the rain-drenched Fall river country, the opening of the Deschutes national forest has been postponed. The course was to have opened today.

Bandits Release Captive

WASHINGTON, June 2.—(AP)—The release of Captain Charles Baker, Oakland, Cal., man who was captured by Chinese bandits in the Yangtze river near Hankow, January 16, was reported to the state department today by Consul General Adams at Hankow.

SHRINERS TO STAGE ANNUAL CARNIVAL MEDFORD JUNE 6

Announcing their annual spring fiesta, which opens here Monday, members of the Hillish Temple Shrine Patrol today made known their plans to have the Wortham Shows, well known carnival company, in the city for six days, opening here June 6.

The carnival "city" will be located at the Pacific and Eastern railway grounds on East Main street, just across Bear creek bridge. The troupe will arrive here Sunday night from Redding, Calif., in special trains, composed of thirty double length cars, according to Tobe D. McFarland, advance man and purchasing agent for the Wortham company.

Committee for the grand fiesta of June has been announced as Paul B. Eyring, Albert E. Peasley, Rec Barnish, Jack Porter, E. C. "Jerry" Jerome, and Herb Grey.

Mr. McFarland, who is making his headquarters at the Jackson hotel here, is busy this week purchasing food supplies, animal feeds, needed repair supplies for the carnival equipment, and miscellaneous items necessary to carry on the operations of the miniature village to be located here six days.

The personnel of the company is made up of 500 people, who assist in moving the show, and carrying on the twenty divisions of the carnival. Numerous riding devices, known as the largest transported, will be set up at the carnival grounds, and the various lectures, side-shows and collection of freak animals are expected to induce hundreds of valley people to visit the big show being sponsored by the Shrine.

The patrol is bringing the carnival here to raise funds for the trip to the shrine convention in San Francisco next month.

Agile Aged Lady Succumbs at 102

ONTARIO, Ore., June 2.—(AP)—Mrs. Elizabeth A. Doty, 102, who had celebrated her last ten birthdays by running a footrace, is dead. Rheumatism and an attack of the grippe brought on her death Sunday. Each birthday she demonstrated her agility by racing around her house with guests at her birthday celebration.

States Parade Features Oregon

Oregon is to be featured in the General Motors "Parade of the States" radio program Monday evening from 8:30 to 9 p. m. (P. B. T.) over stations WEAJ and NBC coast to coast network, according to the programs received in Medford.

Acquire Bank

MARSHFIELD, Ore., June 1.—(AP)—The Security bank of Myrtle Point today acquired the Bank of Myrtle Point, with deposits of \$121,985. A. C. Schramm, state banking examiner, aided in the transfer.

Pierce's Hothouse Tomatoes can now be had at your grocers. Remember they are vine ripened.

Aviatrix Trips Light Fantastic In Royal Arms

LONDON, June 2.—(AP)—Mrs. Amelia Earhart Putnam, the first woman to fly the Atlantic, proved her prowess on a ballroom dance floor last night. She was one of the most popular guests at a hospital charity ball.

Mrs. Putnam agreed today she "had a great time."

She was escorted to the table of the Prince of Wales, and after talking pleasantly for a few moments, the couple swung away on the dance floor.

So pleased with the flit's dancing was the prince that twice again he asked Mrs. Putnam for dances.

The blonde aviatrix was attired in a most becoming evening dress of green.

KLAMATH PIONEER TO LAST REWARD

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., June 2.—(AP)—Major Watson Overton, courier for the United States army at the time of the Modoc Indian war, died here last night.

When he was 14 years old, Major Overton became a courier for the army and carried the news of the massacre of settlers in the Tule Lake country at the start of the Modoc war. Following the war he led a major drove the stage between Klamath Falls, then Linkville, and Ager, Cal. He was instrumental in having a postoffice located at Topsy in the Klamath canyon southwest of here. Forty years ago he took up a homestead on the Klamath river, and later moved to Gold Beach.

Portland Sells Big Jim Moore

PORTLAND, Ore., June 2.—(AP)—Sale of Jim Moore, big outfielder for the Portland Beavers, was announced last night by Tom Turner, president of the club. Moore left at once for Newark of the International League. He came here from the Philadelphia Athletics this season but went into a batting slump.

Portraits of distinction. The Peabody opp. Holly theater.

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In these pictures you see the two types of treads used on all the tires offered for sale today.

At the left is the smooth center tread, politely called by the tire industry a "rib center."

At the right—the Goodyear All-Weather.

Look at the "rib center" tire and you see gripless sled-runners of rubber in the middle of the tread where the tire contacts the road.

Look at this new Goodyear and you see traction in the tread center—big husky blocks of rubber—keen-edged—deep-slotted at an angle which means grip and stop, no matter which way a car wants to slide.

Goodyear All-Weather Tread Tires give you the type of tread shown at the right—Goodyears provide the complete and sure-footed safety of traction in the center of the tread where it belongs.

But this year Goodyears give even more. They give you safety and silence both in the first noiseless non-skid tread, the new Silent All-Weather.

What with new cars becoming faster, more powerful every year, it's well to remember that brakes may stop the wheels, but only TIRES can stop the car—and those tires must have traction.

What with engines and bodies built quieter than ever before, it's worth while to watch the tires you buy, and make sure they roll without rumble or hum.

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Millions of motorists have discovered the superior safety of the All-Weather Tread. That is one of the big reasons why more people ride on Goodyear Tires than on any other kind.

When you buy tires, get the newest and safest and best. All you need to do is ask yourself the simple question: "Why be satisfied with any second-choice tire when first-choice costs no more?"

TUNE IN on the Goodyear Program every Wednesday night over N. B. C. Red Network, WEAJ and Associated Stations

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