

but the children of heedless, ill-behaved people, will follow the foolish conduct they daily witness, and never be well thought of, nor in a condition to assist their infirm parents. Diligence brings comforts; but idleness, indolence, and tattling, gains no good, but leads to difficulties. Take great care to prevent your children from fancying that there can be any enjoyment in wasting time. If you never indulge them in trifling, and if you make employment cheerful, they will take real delight in industry. Teach them also not to spend as fast as they earn. The purse will never be full, if the cash goes as soon as it is gained. You may give a very little one this lesson. He, or she, will see other children have confections and toys, and will desire the same. Tell him you are resolved to throw away no money in that way, but to keep it for buying books when they can be of real advantage. Explain to him that *the paint on the toys is absolutely mixed with poison*; and promise that in the winter evenings, when you cannot be better employed, you will cut out pieces of wood for him for building houses, which will be more serviceable, more durable, and more safe than the toys. You may also take occasion to shew him how contemptible glaring colours and finery should be considered, as they are of no solid benefit. The more care you take to instil this, and all pious, moral, and prudent sentiments into the heart of your eldest child, the less trouble you will have with the rest. They should not indeed be left to her discretion, but her assistance in attending and instructing them, under the inspection of her parents, will make every task more light for them.

CHAPTER VII.

URGENT REASONS FOR EARLY INOCULATION.

BEFORE a child is six weeks old, he should be inoculated, as a safeguard against infection, to which he will be liable by every delay; and it is criminal in parents to subject their offspring to such a disease, as the cruel and loathsome natural small-pox. Let me intreat you to inquire of those on whose judgment and truth you most entirely depend, and you will find, that of the children who are inoculated, not one in five hundred lose their sight or life. How different with the natural small-pox. Suppose you have three or four young creatures in a small house, and cannot give each a separate bed, how dead-

ful must be their state. Two under the same bed clothes, with their bodies full of sores, torturing each other by the least movement, and struggling with a violent fever at least fourteen days. What night watching, what fatigue and anxiety must you undergo! All business neglected; and more money laid out for the illness of one child, than would have paid for inoculating twenty. How many weeks these sad circumstances may continue must be uncertain; but if your children sicken one after another, months may pass in this dreary way. Some of your family perhaps deprived of sight—some laid in the cold earth, and you will forever upbraid yourself for the helplessness or premature death occasioned by reluctance to expend a few shillings. Nor will your purse be saved. Sickness and interment are more costly than a Doctor's bill; and the maintenance of a blind child, will be more expensive than the inoculation of a whole parish; but above all, let me intreat you to consider the crime of bringing so much distress upon your children. If you saw a quantity of boiling water scattered over them, would you not think yourself a barbarian to let them take their chance without stirring a step for their rescue? Yet the misfortune of a severe scald is trifling, compared to the tormenting pain and inflammation that attend the most favourable natural small-pox. Can you endure to load your conscience with the guilt of omitting to use the means so easily accomplished for saving the sight or lives of your little ones, who are too young and ignorant to secure themselves from danger. Some of you have religious scruples, as if it could be tempting Providence to take the benefit of a discovery that has preserved thousands from blindness, and ten thousands from death; yet the very persons who urge this objection have no scruple in going to see their neighbours in the most dangerous fever, though they can be of no service, and by disturbing the patient, will aggravate his disease. Is it not a far more daring and culpable tempting of Providence, and a disregard to the welfare of your household, to expose them to a contagion which they may take again and again, than to inoculate each child with a mild disorder, that assuredly guards against the most fatal and excruciating sufferings? If all children were inoculated, the small-pox would be banished from the known world; and ye who fail to take advantage of the means afforded by Supreme Goodness for extirpating a malady that has been a scourge to the human race, have not only to answer for the consequences to your own offspring, but for the lives of all who perish, by continuing the infection among us!