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The parent's library. Faults of childhood and youth by M. V. O'Shea

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Faults of Childhood and Youth

BY

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and

Educational Director,
Mother's Magazine and Home Life

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The Parent's Library

A series of practical books relating to the care and culture of the young, published under the editorial supervision of Professor M. V. O'Shea of the University of Wisconsin, Educational Director, and Mr. Paul E. Watson, Editorial Director, of *Mother's Magazine and Home Life*, in coöperation with which magazine this Library has been prepared.

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FOREWORD

The author of this volume has served for many years as educational director of *Mother's Magazine and Home Life* and also as chairman of the department of education of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. During these years he has discussed a large number of problems of child training with parents and teachers whom he has addressed and who have taken advantage of the opportunity offered by the Personal Service Bureau of *Mother's Magazine and Home Life* to seek counsel and assistance in the rearing of their children. They have freely sought the author's advice and they have given him their experiences in employing various methods in the instruction and discipline of their children. It has been his custom to select the more fundamental and important questions asked by parents and teachers and submit them for investigation to groups of advanced students engaged in the study of child nature and education. It has generally turned out that the author has made practical suggestions to those who have consulted him and they have in most

cases made a trial of these suggestions and have reported the results to the author. In this way a great many concrete instances illustrating characteristic traits of childhood and youth have been accumulated, and the outcome of different methods of dealing with them has been accurately recorded. In the preparation of this volume the author has chosen for discussion the more vital of the problems which have been treated in the manner indicated, and he has suggested how these may best be solved under the conditions existing in different types of homes, schools and communities.

The author has kept constantly in mind that most parents and teachers are neither familiar with nor interested in technical psychology, biology or hygiene. They are concerned with the immediate and pressing problems of guiding children in their intellectual, physical, ethical, and temperamental development. They wish to understand why children act in certain ways and how they can most effectively divert them from wrong action. Parents and teachers are so engrossed with the concrete activities of childhood and youth that they have little time to consider academic questions pertaining either to the nature of children or to their training; and consequently the author has avoided practically all merely theoretical exposition in this volume. He has confined the discussion throughout to typical

situations which confront most parents continually in the upbringing of their children. He has used terms which can be understood by those who have had little or no study of psychology, physiology and related sciences, though the suggestions for child training given herein are based upon data derived from these sciences.

The author has not allowed himself to forget at any time that this book is designed for practitioners who are every hour face to face with childhood and youth in the concrete and who are training their children in some way whether right or wrong. He has undertaken the difficult task of applying science to practice without leading the practitioner over the technical ground upon which the practice is based. It would have been a simpler matter to have dwelt principally in the realm of theory and only occasionally to have made practical application of scientific principles.

This is one of a series of four volumes prepared for the Parent's Library. These volumes supplement one another, and are published simultaneously. The title of each indicates that it deals with particular phases of the training of childhood and youth but it has been written with relation to the others in the series. The titles of the four volumes are: "First Steps in Child Training," "Faults of Childhood and Youth," "The Trend of the Teens," "Every-day Problems in Child Training."