

MEETING YOUR CHILD'S PROBLEMS

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Meeting Your Child's Problems by Miriam Finn Scott

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MIRIAM FINN SCOTT

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HOW TO KNOW YOUR CHILD

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BY
MIRIAM FINN SCOTT



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To
HELEN HILDA DAVID

PREFACE

To make the most of our children, — this is the instinctive desire of all normal modern parents. Unfortunately, however, few women or men have been trained for the high duties and privileges of parenthood and the mere event of the birth of a child does not automatically endow them with the ability and the knowledge to perform the parent functions. And so the instinctive desire remains too often a blind desire. To help give eyes to that desire, to help parents see the possibilities that lie in their children, to help them see how best to develop these possibilities is the purpose of this volume.

We who have grown old and wise enough to examine ourselves honestly will admit that we are far short of being what we might have been. The most has not been made of us. We might have been far more useful

PREFACE

to ourselves and to others, and far more happy. We are this fraction of our full potentiality largely because in our childhood we were not understood and guided aright. Some of our good qualities were allowed to go undeveloped, some of our weaknesses were allowed to grow uncurbed, because of the loving ignorance of our parents. And this same process of wasted humanity is continuing with the children of to-day.

It is perhaps now too late for us to make of ourselves the full one hundred per cent. of the persons we might have been, but it is not too late to attempt to do this with our children.

This book is no complete compendium, covering all cases and leaving nothing unsaid. Rather it tries to handle its subject by pointing out certain typical causes and conditions of error, of failure, of overlooked qualities, and by directing attention to certain rich possibilities that exist in the child and his ordinary surroundings; with the hope