

# AS SEEN THROUGH WOMAN'S EYES.

## Family Repression.

From the time when he first begins to show a consciousness of his surroundings the baby becomes a thirster after knowledge. His eyes open wide in wonder; his hands reach out eagerly to grasp experience; his feet lead him into all sorts of unexplored by-ways; even his little snub nose and the button of a mouth beneath, when they are not experimentally smelling and tasting on their own account, form, of themselves, an animated interrogation point.

How unjust we grown people are to

those same little interrogation points! Even for us who have left some decades behind us in our flight through time, and have, therefore, gained a greater or less store of experience, life possesses probabilities and possibilities all as yet unexplored or even hinted at. Though we have learned the self-control which forbids our showing upon the surface the eager search with which life is filled, everything within us reaches out in the self-same way to the unknown, the unattained; until the grave closes over man almost the only thing of worth that life holds for him is the knowledge that is withheld.

We know all this, but we do not recognise it, or, recognising it, we ignore it. This surely must be so or we would not perpetually treat the eager little questioner to the impatient "hush," which is so often the only response he receives to questions that arise most frequently from a desire to know.

And what if the questioning be not, according to our minds, legitimate? (That may be false judgment on our part, little as we like to call it so.) What other means have the little souls of finding out those things which cause them to be devoured with curiosity? How are they to learn the distinctions

between right and wrong, good and evil, if they do not ask? The human consciousness is constantly in a state of unrest if it be in a healthy condition, and the treatment of this state should be constructive rather than destructive, though the latter line is the one upon which most parents base the training of their children, reluctantly as the fact must be admitted. Repression at every point where there seems to be a promise of exuberance of growth inconsistent with adult life is now known. Repression of tastes, repression of wishes, repression of affections! All must be brought under the stern regulation of



THE OLD, OLD STORY.

"HOW HAPPY COULD I BE WITH EITHER, WERE T'OTHER DEAR CHARMER AWAY."