



Has Baby a Clever Head?

BY GERTRUDE BACON.

*Illustrated with Photographs by
J. W. Righton, Newbury.*

HERE are such wonderful possibilities

about Baby!

As he lies on his mother's knee, a little bundle of pink flesh and tiny, rounded limbs, he represents the most unfathomable mystery in creation. We guess hopelessly at the thoughts that lie within his fluffy head. We strive fruitlessly to break down ever so little that impenetrable barrier that as yet stands between him and all the world. He is less than human. He is more than human. He is beyond appeal, beyond knowledge, beyond reach.

And for the future? What may not that hold? Will those tiny, curling fingers that twine so tightly round our own one day wield the pen or the sword? Behind that lineless brow are there nestling the germs of great thoughts that shall sway men's minds, or wise counsels that will rule the nation, burning eloquence or inspired song, music, science, or art? When thirty years have rolled over his innocent head, will they find Baby a senior wrangler or a famous actor; a rising politician or a Royal Academician; will he be on his way to a bishopric or the Woolsack?

Who can tell? Whichever way we look is mystery, and Baby in the midst is greatest mystery of all. And yet, though we can in no way hope to lift even a corner of the veil that shrouds what is to come, still from Baby himself we may perchance gather a

stray hint or two, here and there, which shall shed a spark of light over the unknown path he has to tread.

There are many who sneer at the science of phrenology as elaborated nonsense and charlatanism, and deny the possibility of arriving at the contents of a head from studying its outward form. There are many more who do not dispute its tenets in the main, but refuse to allow that they can hold good in the case of infants. "All babies' heads are alike," they declare (and it is unnecessary to go on to state that these people are all men, and mostly unmarried). No mother will be found to allow that babies' heads resemble each other more than the heads of adults, and it will need but a moment's glance at the tiny mites whose portraits adorn these pages to prove their dissimilarity. Compare, for example, the rounded poll of Baby No. 15 with the flattened crown of Baby No. 8. Contrast the narrow forehead of Baby No. 3 with Baby No. 16's broad brows. Is there the slightest resemblance between the heads of Nos. 9 and 12? and so on through our whole assortment. Even the most confirmed bachelor will be unable to deny the difference.

Granted then that differences really exist, we have next to go to work to find the signification thereof, and learn to apply our knowledge to the solving of that all-important question, "Has Baby a clever head?" But we must always bear in mind that as Baby's faculties and tendencies are as yet undeveloped, so are they proportionately difficult to trace; and that just as time and education

will tend to accentuate certain features, so will they, in like manner, tend to hide and obliterate others that belong exclusively to childhood. For if, as is averred, the heads of grown people continually change and alter, then the soft skull of an infant will change within far larger limits, and each succeeding year will leave its well-marked trace. It is, therefore, but upon the broadest outlines that we must build up our inferences concerning these little people.

One of the first teachings of phrenology tells us that the outward expression of purely intellectual qualities is found in the forehead and fore part of the head, while those that we possess in common with the animal world are at the back. In other words, the *cleverness* is in front and the *lovableness* behind. Suppose we begin by studying Baby side-face, and see what we can learn from the length of his or her skull. This is a view of a baby that is very rarely to be obtained in ordinary photographs, which are almost invariably taken full face. There is no denying it that profile is not these tiny ones' strong point. There

is a lack of character in the wee dab which does duty as a nose, and the rosy mouth over the toothless gums, though very sweet and kissable, is neither very definite nor very indicative of what it may presently grow to. Nevertheless, it is the profile we should first examine.

If the head is long, as seen sideways, measured from the ear backward, then Baby has a well-developed "bump of philoprogenitiveness"! Phrenologists love long words, and this is the longest of all, though in plain English it may be simply translated as "love of offspring." Better translated still, it will stand as "motherliness," at least with the female sex, and it is, perhaps, the most lovable characteristic of all. It means love and tender sympathy with all that is weak and helpless, pity for all sorrow and suffering, and a loyal defence of the

oppressed. The little girl with the long head will be a devoted mother to her dolls; the little boy will cherish a family of pets, if he is so allowed; and both will, all their lives, have a specially soft place in their hearts for children, and hold no music so sweet as the laugh of a child.

And if the head is not only long at the back but broad there also, there will further be added the love of friends, the joy of companionship, the social tendency. Baby with the long but narrow head will probably be shy and reticent. He will refuse to "show off" when the proud mother would display his charms to strangers. He will hide his head in her shoulder and loudly resent all attempted overtures. Broad-headed Baby, on the contrary, will early display his sociability, rather delighting in the presence

of a new face, and quickly earning for himself the adjective of "friendly."

Baby No. 1 in our illustration sprawling on the woolly mat, has a long head, but in his case the length comes chiefly higher up, on the level of the eyes, while the back is well rounded.



NO. 1.—THE HOME BIRD.

This boy is a "home bird," a boy with the home ties strongly developed. If he could give intelligible utterance to the private opinions he holds very strongly in his little brain, they would be to the effect that his own nursery and his own cot are the best and most comfortable in existence, and he defies the world to produce their equal. Later on he will extend this view to his own house, then to his village, then to his country. He will never willingly roam far from his "ain fireside"; and if another day finds him, perforce, at the far ends of the earth, his thoughts and longings will ever be turning to "the old folks at home."

These three characteristics, then—love of children, love of friends, love of home, together with other similar qualities which belong more particularly to later life—are represented by length of head, and are less



NO. 2.—A FUTURE BULLIER.



NO. 3.—GOING TO BE AN EDITOR.

strongly developed, though never wholly absent, in heads of the squarer shape. Wherefore, oh, fond mother, rejoice if your tiny one's soft little skull projects backward, for then, no matter what more intellectual attributes he has or lacks, he at least possesses the power of love, which is greatest of all.

About the region of the ear, above and behind it, lie the outward manifestations of the presence or absence of a series of qualities essential to that most important business called "getting on in the world."

A very noteworthy set these, for not only are they all-important as natural attributes, but it is to their abuse and undue development that we owe the seamier side of life. Phrenology owns to no "bad bumps" *per se*, holding that so-called bad qualities are only abuses of good and natural ones, which have been suffered to obtain undue preponderance; as, for example, when the natural instinct of self-defence is allowed to grow into actual aggressiveness, or the useful power of keeping a secret develops into downright



NO. 4.—A TYPICAL JOHN BULL.

deception. Mothers, then, need fear to find no trace of ill in the little innocent heads of their tiny ones, while it rests with them, more than all the world, to see that none may hereafter be discoverable there.

Measure Baby's head a little behind the ears and parallel with the top of them. If there is plenty of breadth here, then your boy has all the instincts of the soldier



NO. 5.—A PEACEABLE CITIZEN.

—courage, daring, self-reliance, persistence in the face of difficulties. Look at Baby (No. 2) for example—a born fighter, if ever there was one. The development behind the ears in his case is particularly well shown, and the head is carried a little on one side, as is usually the way with such natures. If Baby No. 2 one day has his way he will be a trusty member of His Majesty's forces. If fate wills otherwise, and he becomes a peaceful citizen, then let County Councils, Boards of Guardians, and such-like bodies have heed of their dealings with one who will stand so firmly by his rights and take such good care that he gets them. Baby No. 3 also is going to be a very tolerable warrior, as also sturdy little boy



NO. 6.—A LITTLE MOTHER.

personality. When very evident, this tends to depress the ear, and of all our interesting examples, Baby No. 7 has her ears set lowest in her little head. This is a good sign, they say, inasmuch as it indicates large brain capacity above, and at this rate our small lady may certainly be expected to make her mark in the world. A very energetic young person she is, no doubt, always lively and with plenty of "go." Not improbably a "bit of a pickle" at times, with a passion for investigating the interior economy of her toys. Another day she is likely to excel at outdoor games and exercises.

Undoubtedly the most curious-shaped head in our whole collection belongs to solemn Baby No. 8, the lateral development, in his case, at the back of the head, halfway between the back of the ear and the beginning of the crown, being exceedingly conspicuous. If this child's head is, indeed, a true index to his character he should be prudence personified. In a young infant this instinct of cautiousness is often particu-



NO. 7.—PLENTY OF "GO."

No. 4. In Baby No. 5, with the rather pathetic, wee face, this fighting trait is perhaps less noticeable than in most, as also—and rightly—in bright-eyed, motherly little lady No. 6.

Lower down over the ears than the "bump of combativeness" is a kindred organ of which energy is the leading characteristic and what we are pleased to call a "strong"



NO. 8.—"LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP."

larly marked, as is only wise and natural in a being so defenceless and weak. Baby No. 8, when he is a man, will be able to keep his own counsel, and secrets with him will be in safe holding.

A head that is pointed, or approximates to



NO. 9.—A WILL OF HIS OWN.

a point, at the top means firmness, and here Baby No. 9 affords a splendid example. Tinies (Nos. 5 and 10) display the same peculiarity, though in a less marked degree. Height of head, measured directly above the ear, is a gift to rejoice over, for it carries with it will-power, perseverance, fixedness of purpose, and the ability to decide—all admirable qualifications. Never mind if Baby No. 9 is a bit obstinate at times. There are occasions in life when it is a good thing to be stubborn and none when vacillation will stand him in any stead.

It has been said that it is easier by far to read a man's character phrenologically at a glance than a woman's, and this not only because his hair does not so obscure his bumps, but because you can immediately tell from his hat! The wearers of long hats are affectionate and clever, and those whose hats are broad will be tactful, amiable, full of common sense, and excellent men of business. In this way a hatter should

have a unique opportunity of studying his fellowmen.

Phrenology entirely bears out this statement. We have seen already why a long head should be loving—we shall understand in a moment why it will be clever also; and



NO. 10.—ABLE TO HOLD HIS OWN.

as to the broad head, there lie about the region of the crown the sentiments of self-respect, conscientiousness, hope, and laudable ambition, which are, above all others, the virtues of good citizenship.

The bonny little gentleman of our illustration who is represented by No. 11 is



NO. 11.—A FINE OLD ENGLISH GENTLEMAN.

represented by No. 11 is a splendid case in point of the broad-hatted fraternity. It needs but a glance at the solemn, wee face with the big, earnest eyes to be filled with respect for the owner thereof, and recognise at once the rectitude of his morals. Conscientiousness is his ruling star—courteousness his peculiar charm. He is a little gentleman by nature, whether his father be an earl or a groom, and he will be uniformly considerate, honourable, and kindly

in his dealings with high or low. He is a clever boy, and a boy to be implicitly trusted, and what higher compliment can we render him than this?

And now we have come—by slow degrees—to the abode of the qualities which we are



NO. 12.—A BUDDING POET.

pleased to consider as constituting what we call "cleverness"; the qualities which go especially to the making of poets and painters, and musicians and actors, and writers and thinkers. It is probably just this part which appeals most particularly to the fond parent—for who does not cherish the hope that their child may prove to be a genius, no matter what exceedingly uncomfortable sort of people to have as intimate relations real geniuses often are? It is unfortunately,

too, just here where the study of baby heads becomes most difficult, for these are the organs which specially develop later with use. An infant may be self-willed from birth, and his head will early indicate the fact; but though an artist may be born, not taught, yet his talent must perforce lie dormant and undeveloped during the years before he is able to hold a brush.

Nevertheless it is not wholly impossible to trace in the little ones the germs of their special tastes. Perhaps the most interesting little head in all our batch of babies is owned by the tiny boy we make answer to Baby No. 12, who, it will be noticed, has a very pronounced development some distance behind the temples, which gives an almost overhanging appearance to that part of the brain. It is just about here that are

gathered the organs of "marvellousness," "sublimity," and "ideality." This last has sometimes been called the organ of poetry, for it prompts to the love of all that is beautiful, exquisite, and sublime, whether in Nature or art. It represents taste and refinement, and in Baby No. 12's case it is combined with a most impressionable nature and great imagination. If appearances are to be trusted this little lad should one day make his mark in the poetical or artistic world.

The musical faculties give breadth and fulness to the face—a certain rounded appearance to the forehead immediately above the outer angle of the eyebrows. The little girl with the big, dark eyes and curly hair, whom it were rather an insult to call *Baby* (No. 13), shows this peculiarity very

plainly, especially on the left side of the head. The very winsome-looking little maiden (No. 14), with the big curl and little bare feet pressed together, is apparently deficient in this particular respect. As a make-up for it she has the organ of calculation, which is shown in the overhanging brow at the outer corner of the eye, unusually well developed for her age, which signifies that figures will come easy to her, and she will have the much-



NO. 13.—A MUSICIAN.



NO. 14.—MENTAL ARITHMETIC.

to-be-desired gift of mental arithmetic, denied, alas, to so many of the rest of us.

Arching eyebrows give the sense of colour, and are most apparent in Baby No. 3 and little girl No. 13. This is an all-essential gift in an artist, though it scarcely follows that its possession implies the artistic power. Brows which overhang close to the nose, giving the eyes a sunken appearance, indicate perception of size and weight. These are all-important faculties for the architect, the engineer, the sculptor, and the marksman. Prominent eyes endow with the gift of tongues, making the learning of foreign languages an easy task. A considerable distance between the eyes means not only a frank and open nature, but signifies the possession of the sense of form.

Children with eyes wide asunder are said to learn to read quickly, and to rarely forget a face. Fighting Baby (No. 2) will probably live to congratulate himself upon both these useful acquirements in his future career. He will make an excellent scout.

It will have been noticed at the first glance through our portrait gallery that two of our infants (Nos. 15 and 3) have a very special and marked development of the centre of the forehead. This is the bump of "eventuality" in phrenological jargon, and means "the sense of events." It endows the lucky possessor with a good memory, with quickness to learn, observation, a grasp of facts, a love for information. History in particular is specially fascinating to those

with such foreheads, and Babies Nos. 15 and 3 are passionately fond of stories and narratives. Time and opportunity will determine whether they are presently to become editors, teachers, or historians, but they are

well suited to fill either capacity — that is to say, of course, as far as frontal development goes.

Grandest of all the faculties with which mankind is blessed, that which raises him highest above the brute creation, is the power of reason; the power not only to observe and feel and remember, but to compare, classify, and argue from the results; to trace the cause from the effect; to deduce from the fall of the apple the law which holds the universe in place. It is a matter of universal knowledge that the great thinkers, those in

whom the reasoning power is most highly developed, have broad, high foreheads. It is equally a matter of ordinary observation that men of small intellect have narrow and receding ones. The "reflective" faculties, in short, lie along the upper part of the forehead, just below where the hair begins. Who does not recognise the power of the broad, open brow, even when, as in the case of twelve months' old baby, there can be little yet to justify the respect we yield? In our infant album are several foreheads that promise well for another day; but surely out of all, the happy mother of bonny, bright Baby No. 16 can best answer in the affirmative, when she asks herself the mother's query, "Has my baby a clever head?"



NO. 15.—A THIRST FOR INFORMATION.



NO. 16.—OUR PHILOSOPHER.