

WOLF AND WILD-PIG.

THE interest a young child gives
 To every animal that lives,
 Dear mother, is an open door
 Through which unbounded good may pour,
 Filling his mind with knowledge manifold,
 Of Nature's wondrous laws, so new, so old.

But watch! lest by this selfsame way
 Into his soul some ill may stray,
 And, while your eyes look other where,
 Make for itself a lodgment there.
 Watch, and with noble thoughts so fill his mind
 That passing evil may no shelter find.

Picture, song, and motto are reciprocally explanatory; hence few words are needed by way of commentary. This shadow picture is made by laying the hands together, palm against palm and finger against finger, and then alternately parting and joining them. The thumbs are so held as to make shadows somewhat resembling ears. It may require practice to produce this picture. In our illustration the hands are too widely open, therefore the shadow is not correct.

The lower passions are often conspicuously displayed by animals. Hence, if the child's imagination is to be kept pure and his delicacy of feeling unimpaired, his curiosity about animals



must be hedged and guarded. With children whose nerves have been overstimulated, it is particularly important to preserve the purity of phantasy, and neither to wound nor blunt the sense of shame. Even when nothing has occurred to make special precaution necessary, it is important to avoid those careless words which waken premature curiosity and suspicion. Preserving unblemished the purity of his heart, the innocent child will be unscathed by the guiltless phenomena of Nature, easily explaining them to himself by the thought that "animals know no better."

Man, however, is no animal—or, rather, he is more than the animal. Man knows what he does, or, at least, he should know. Even a child should have this knowledge. Therefore, mother, call his attention to the fact that in Nature every creature conforms to the stage of being it has attained, and lives and develops in harmony with the demands of its total environment. An illustration of this harmony was given you in my commentary upon *The Bird's Nest*. Because the life of animals is thus adapted to environment it is healthy and happy. The same is true of the life of plants. Like flower and tree, like beast and bird, the human being should respond to his environment, and be pliant to the demands of each successive stage of development.

Injudicious interference with the natural process of development cripples the powers and retards the progress of the soul. On the other hand, each stage of development makes specific claims, which it is fatal to disregard. To awaken