

The First Born

By W. E. Hill

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"John, I think you'll have to go up and lie down next to baby a while—that always quiets him. Clara can't do a thing with him!" Something is bound to happen in the best regulated nurseries about the time the dinner guests have assembled.



"I tell you, a son is a great responsibility!" Very young fathers are pretty well bowled over by the first baby. They decide to be more dignified, smoke long black cigars and all that. Here is one telling the old boys at the club how it feels to be the father of a two day old boy.



"Mabel! MABEL!!!" Just a panic stricken young father who has held his first born not wisely but too long, summoning aid.



"He has your eyes, Lois." "O, NO, his eyes are blue, not brown, Gertrude. He has his father's eyes." Nothing makes parents crosser than to have a caller mistake the color of their child's eyes, so be careful. When in doubt say something like, "O, what a large child," or better yet, say, after a long stare at the baby, "It's such a relief to find a few people who don't believe in eugenics these days!"



"I don't know where he could have heard it!" The first bad word has been heard to issue from Junior's lips, and the household is in great turmoil.

"Hurry, doctor, HURRY!!!" What happens the first time an only child swallows the top of a cold cream tube, a button, or any foreign matter not included in the daily diet.



"What a pretty doorway that is, Victor; would you say it was Spanish or Italian?" The prospective father of a bouncing boy is waiting in the hospital reception room for the glad tidings. His mother (grandma, she'll be in a few minutes) is trying to keep him cheered up by talking gayly of this and of that.



"He notices everything. See how he's drawn two eyes in the face? And just the right number of feet!" Genius in the first child is watched for eagerly.