

## PARENTS SHOULD CONSIDER INSTRUCTION OF CHILDREN IN MYSTERIES OF LIFE A SACRED DUTY—SILENCE IS CRIME

BY MINNA S. PARKS,  
Noted Character Analyst.  
(Lesson Five.)

I doubt if a greater crime is done  
a child by its parents than that of



Mrs. Minna S. Parks.

remaining silent on matters of sex  
instruction.

Moral guidance cannot begin too  
early, and the sooner it is begun the  
easier this important task becomes.

The double standard, about which  
we are beginning to complain so bit-  
terly, is implanted in children al-  
most from infancy. Girls are taught  
restraint; boys indulgence.

The result is often arrested or  
stunted development in girls and ab-  
normal or over-indulgence in boys  
as they grow older. Both extremes  
are deplorable and can be corrected  
only by a careful, frank education.

Mothers, if your sons don't have  
the right attitude toward women  
when they grow up it is largely your  
fault.

It is appalling how many young-  
sters under 10 years of age are ad-  
dicted to secret vices, largely be-  
cause parents rely on natural in-  
stinct to carry youth through the  
danger periods; because no attempt  
has been made to give personal hy-  
giene instruction.

Fathers should take their boys out  
on trips to the country where they  
can be shown the story of reproduc-  
tion and its sacred character in all  
nature. These things should not be  
kept concealed and shrouded in  
mystery.

Fathers and mothers both should  
give children instruction in sex hy-  
giene and the proper expression of  
the sacred life functions. Teach  
them to know and respect their  
bodies.

If your own education along these  
lines is inadequate to properly in-  
struct your children, then by all  
means equip yourselves at once. In  
these days of widely scattered  
knowledge in books dealing with  
such problems and facts there is no  
excuse for parental ignorance and its  
terrible result.

All such instruction for children  
should of course be kept on the high-  
est and purest plane and the com-  
mon, coarse definitions avoided. If  
the parent's vocabulary is unable to  
teach the child the desired lessons,  
then the parent must acquire an ad-  
equate vocabulary.

The most immediate social prob-