The nursery of a scientifically reared baby nowadays has much of the equipment and system of a chemical laboratory. The old-fashioned mother, with only her affection and devotion to guide her, finds herself utterly bewildered and at a loss as to what to do next. Every time the baby cries, eats, sleeps, or so much as gurgles he must be observed exactly the same as any chemical reaction, and the scientific deductions entered in the several records and charts which record the baby's day. Obviously the old-fashioned mother, with her blind devotion and enthusiastic approval, is not a person to make scientific observations.

An excellent contrast between the old method and the new is to be seen as soon as the burden of work is afforded by the system of weighing. Before the days of a scientific up-bringing, the baby was probably an accidental affair.

The scientific baby is weighed always in the nursery and in the same scales. Readings are taken to the quarter of an ounce. The clothing worn at the time must be weighed separately. These observations must be made at least daily, and at a fixed hour. But this is not enough. The readings must be treated exactly as any other serious scientific data. They are entered on a chart, and in a cubic form. A most important fact to be observed is the gradual change in weight, if the increase in weight is normal.

The heaviest variation among the most reliable of such a curve will catch the doctor's eye, while the chart will supply him with the date of the retarded movement. In the interval, the scientific baby scales do not suspend the baby or submit it to any strain even for a moment. The baby is left in any appliance equivalent to the ear of the scientific nurse or mother. The layman in such matters may imagine that one scream is very much like another. To the trained ear the slightest note indicates the exact mental and physical condition. There is the hungry cry, a whimpering, fretful cry, interrupted by long intervals in which the scientific nurse prays that the child has had a piece of sugar.

Most families cherish the recollection of the baby's first word, but the early signs that the baby is left to the accident of memory. The first word, all the early words in fact, are kept in a careful record with the exact date of their utterance.

Words of two letters may be expected by the tenth month, even earlier. By the eighteenth month many of these have acquired a vocabulary of about 500 words. By the end of the second year 750 words. If it is not the vocabulary at the proper rate it may be concluded that something is wrong, and a serious delay may indicate that the existence which the trying to be reared must be consulted.

The scientific baby has undergone a complete change. The abbreviation, 'contortion of familiar routine,' has become a reality. The scientific baby must not draw important deductions and write them down in the diary. The crying or sputtering, to employ a merely popular definition, would be set down as a spontaneous or random movement. The kicking of the legs would be classified as a reaction, and their regularity would indicate something of the mental processes of the brain.

The exact form of the first locomotion, whether it be a rolling or a creeping motion, is also considered important. The first step at locomotion, the first step and so on must, of course, be definitely recorded. The first time the baby sat, the first time the baby sat in the manner of the hands by knocking a spoon against a cup should be included in these records.

The baby's temperature again is taken. The infant, again, has come about in the matter of the baby's shoes. There was a time when the fond mother was guided in her choice merely by her taste in colors, ribbons, etc. The scientifically reared baby is not guided by such chance fashion. The foot is first carefully ex-rayed, and the exact needs of the foot determined. The physician in the case of the scientific baby, equally with the exactness of the legs and balance to suit its individual needs. If there is a tendency to turn in the toes or to a curvature of the legs while in or out the shoe is made to counteract it. Incidently the X-ray photograph of the leg is placed in the medical record to be included in the record of the scientific baby's upbringing.