

NEW LIFE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

One day . . .

At the moment of conception all the child's features, hair coloring, skin, talents and sex are set for eternity. Each newly formed cell has its own job to do— one layer starts working to produce brain, spine, nerves, skin. Another forms the bones, the heart and the muscles. Another begins to build the digestive tract. In three short weeks the heart begins to beat . . . to continue until death.

31 days . . .

Hands, arms and shoulders can be seen now. Even the untrained eye can see there is a human child here. Head, eyes, ears, mouth, brain, kidneys, liver, digestive tract, heart . . . all are distinguishable.

40 days . . .

The child's body is well formed and he can now move his arms. The brain and nervous system send out their life sustaining impulses. Teeth buds can be seen, hands, lips, tongue, toes, ankles. The mother is carrying new life and may not even suspect she is pregnant!

9 weeks . . .

If the baby's forehead is touched now, he can turn his head, pucker and frown. His whole body is now sensitive to touch except the top and back of the head.

3 months . . .

The baby, distinct and unique, now can make faces. His vocal cords are complete, so are his taste buds. The sucking muscles of his cheeks are filled out. Now the child can kick, although his mother probably will not feel him. Still there is a lot of action going on: curling and fanning toes, moving thumbs, making a fist, turning his head, squinting, frowning, opening his mouth, pressing his lips together.

4 months . . .

The baby is now one-half as tall as he will be at birth. All his life giving organs are formed and all systems are go. His heart is pumping his own blood which he has never shared with his mother. All that is needed now is time to grow.

5 months . . .

Eyebrows and hair have appeared and his heart beat can be heard in the doctor's stethoscope. He can hiccup, change position in his sleep and even be awakened by a loud noise.

6 months . . .

From now on it is possible for the baby to live on his own, independent of his mother, if absolutely necessary.

