

Annotations.

THE INFANTS' HEALTH SOCIETY.

Influential support has been secured for the recently-formed Infants' Health Society, whose objects are to spread a knowledge of, and put on an organised basis, the best methods of systematically dealing with the chief factors affecting the health and life of infants, to encourage the formation of institutions, such as milk depôts and dispensaries, for the purpose of supplying food adequate in quantity and quality for the needs of each infant, and to co-operate with other bodies, public or private, having similar objects in view. A Special Committee has been appointed to carry on the Infants' Hospital, established last year in Denning Road, Hampstead, and the funds of the Society will in the first instance be used for the upkeep of the hospital, which serves as a nucleus for the propagation of the Society's ideas; but it is hoped that the amount subscribed will soon be sufficient to further allow of the general advancement of the principles of the organisation. At the earliest possible date the hospital will be moved to a central situation, and it is hoped before long to equip an institution with every arrangement for the saving of infant life, and the furtherance of scientific knowledge pertaining to that end. The headquarters of the Infants' Health Society are at 120, Victoria Street, S.W.

INFANT MORTALITY FROM SUFFOCATION.

The appalling death-rate amongst infants from suffocation caused by overlaying is one which imperatively demands attention. In London alone in 1900 there were 615 such cases, and in 1901 there were 511. In 1902 in England and Wales 1,600 inquests were held on children suffocated in bed, and in all these cases there were only two verdicts of murder and none of manslaughter. The opinion of several coroners consulted leads to the conclusion that the majority of such deaths are accidental. One believes that such deaths will continue to happen so long as English custom acknowledges the right of parents to take infants under a year old into their own beds at night; another thinks that, though it is amongst the poor that such cases occur, this class of the community are as fond, if not fonder, of their children as those who are in better circumstances, and that deaths of children from suffocation in the middle and

upper classes are not recognised as such because they are classed as "convulsions."

The question of making it illegal for infants to sleep with their parents is one which should be regarded from all standpoints before its enforcement. If a baby can be ensured the surroundings obtainable in well-warmed nurseries, or by means of hot-water bottles skilfully applied, unquestionably these are the more desirable methods. But it must be realised that in the houses of the poor these things are unattainable, and that the warmth obtainable from contact with the mother is the natural method of its application to the newly-born. This fact should be taken into consideration before legislation is adopted depriving infants of this natural heat, or the last state may be worse than the first.

THE REGISTRATION OF ARCHITECTS.

At the recent twentieth annual dinner of the Society of Architects, Mr. Atherley-Jones, M.P., said that he thought it detrimental to the State that architects were not armed with fuller powers. The Society had for years advocated the principle that anybody proposing to enter the profession of architecture should, as was the case with other professions, be obliged to undergo a course of education, and subsequently give evidence that he had the power of applying his knowledge to practical use before he was allowed to describe himself as one qualified to give advice in the science and art of architecture. It was only by an Act of Parliament that such a principle could be carried into effect. A great change had recently taken place in the attitude of the senior body, the Royal Institute of British Architects, in this matter. Two-thirds at least of its allied societies had decided for registration, and the profession was as a whole practically unanimous on the principle. So strong had been the feeling in its favour among members of the Institute itself, that they had appointed a committee to report upon the whole question. He would like to dispel any impression that the Society was in any way antagonistic to the Institute, but they were endeavouring to carry through a measure which they believed to be in principle the only remedy for the present unsatisfactory state of affairs.

The same belief is held by those trained nurses who are endeavouring to obtain the regulation of their own profession by the same method.

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