

thus grasp them in an ever-tightening grip, so as to compress them. This occurs all through the labour pains, but more particularly in the second and third stages, as the pains become stronger and quicker. The stagnant blood in the torn sinuses clots and forms a plug, useful to prevent bleeding during the normal relaxation which follows a contraction. The circulation through the branches of the uterine artery in the uterine wall is diminished in force by the folding of the main vessel, which occurs as the child emerges and the uterus is emptied. This decrease in the force of the current tends to help the effect of retraction by not forcing open the torn vessels."

From which it will be gathered that this *multum in parvo* has a very useful function.

THE HAMMERSMITH DAY NURSERY.

The Princess Christian Day Nursery, 135, Blythe Road, W., is doing good work, in a poor part of the metropolis, on non-pauperising, non-sectarian, and non-political lines. The staff consists of a Matron, Head Nurse, three Under Nurses, and a Cook General, all interested in the work of the Nursery.

The Hon. Medical Officer, Mr. Richard Bevan, D.P.H., reports that "the value of the work done is shown by the steadily increasing numbers of admittances. This is mainly due to the efforts of the excellent Matron and Staff, and to the earnestness and hard work of the Committee, and other willing workers.

"There has been very little illness of any kind, and no spread of anything infectious. The prompt isolation and securing—by the Matron—of proper advice has prevented this."

Mr. Bevan is "much struck (when visiting the Crèche, generally unexpectedly) with the cleanliness, not only of the children, but of the whole Institution. It is well ventilated, the children well looked after and properly fed, and seem extremely comfortable and happy. A rapid improvement is noticed in those children who come regularly for a few weeks.

"A great testimony, too, is the gratitude of the mothers. This proves that the many efforts made to maintain the Institution to a high standard of efficiency, and the resulting benefit to the children, have been successful and appreciated."

DELICATE BAROMETERS OF NATIONAL WELFARE.

Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky, Hon. Treasurer of the East London Federation of Suffragettes, urges the claims of women and children fighting in their own way at home the intensified enemy brought to their doors by the European conflict. At all times the struggle for existence in the East End is acute, and with the ever-rising prices the weekly list of bare necessaries has now to be still further curtailed, and, as always, the mothers are the first to go short, and the babies, those delicate barometers of national welfare, are not

likely to improve under the adverse conditions created by shortage of food, warmth and breathing space. Orders for work, gifts of stuff for making up into clothes to give away to those who are destitute, also money to pay for wages of those employed on making things to give away, are urgently needed. So are funds—at least £100 a week—and the return is the knowledge that very real and lasting help is being rendered to the babies and their mothers, who must otherwise starve, and starve hopelessly. A short time ago, the British casualties were reported to be 104,000. Dr. Tchaykovsky asks: "Is it generally realised that each year we lose over 114,000 babies, mostly through neglect and malnutrition, and their attendant ills?"

THE JEWISH DAY NURSERY.

Lady Rothschild, the President, who was unable to be present at the annual meeting of subscribers of the Jewish Day Nursery, in communicating her regret, stated that she "always looked forward with great pleasure to visiting the crèche, where all is so bright and attractive. It is a really admirable institution, and I think the whole of the Jewish community ought to be proud and grateful at the excellent work carried out."

TAKE CARE OF THE YOUNG LIVES.

The Hon. Mrs. Murray Smith, presiding at the annual meeting of the Leicestershire Nursing Association, emphasised the importance of conserving the young lives born into the country.

NURSE-MIDWIVES IN SCATTERED COUNTRY DISTRICTS.

At the annual meeting of the Cornwall County Nursing Association, the Executive Committee reported that during the year there had been considerable growth in public opinion as to the necessity for good nursing in every home with special regard to the needs of mothers and children, and it now seemed almost certain that the Local Government Board would be prepared to help to establish qualified nurse-midwives in those scattered country districts where there was no resident midwife and often no doctor, and where it was impossible to provide locally sufficient funds for the maintenance of a nurse.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES FOR BREAST ABSCESS.

A writer in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* says that organisms are present in the nipples of all pregnant women and in the milk ducts of 86 per cent. of them. The preventive measures for breast abscess consist in absolute cleanliness of the nipples and avoidance of injury to the breasts. Prompt treatment of mastitis by bandaging, ice packs, cold, astringent compresses and saline catharsis, is also necessary as a preventive.

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