

THE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT OF MOTHERS IN RELATION TO INFANT MORTALITY.

Mrs. Scharlieb, G.B.E., M.D., M.S., occupied the chair on Wednesday afternoon when the subject for discussion was "The Industrial Employment of Mothers in Relation to Infant Mortality." Papers were read by Dr. Rhoda Adamson (Leeds), Miss Barker, O.B.E. (Woolwich), and Mrs. Holden (Dewsbury).

Dr. Adamson said the child must be cared for, and the right person should be the mother; failing her, someone trained in infant care really interested in the subject and adequately remunerated. At present many families could not exist without the earnings of the mother. Infant mortality is greatest in crowded slum areas, where mothers are generally in factories and unable to breast feed their children or take them out into the fresh air. Day nurseries are expensive, and require a grant towards their upkeep; if, therefore, the State contributes, why not pay the mother to carry out her duties rather than a disinterested institution? Of course the State would see that the mother performed her duties or else lost the grant. Exclusion of married women by law from factory work would result in the practice of some form of birth control.

Miss Barker advocated women in industry, maintaining that children could be adequately cared for in crèches and hostels.

Mrs. Holden deprecated women in industry as the high rate of infant mortality was due to separation of mother and child as well as to the awful housing conditions.

Referring to the housing conditions of textile workers, Mrs. Holden said:—

"Take the ordinary working-man's home, consisting of one or two bedrooms upstairs and one room downstairs, and perhaps a coal cellar.

"In the downstairs room, weekly baking of bread, all cooking, washing, ironing, and cleaning is done.

"How many of us realise (who are at home all day to look after the household) what anxiety of mind there must be for the mother (who from her outlook thinks that perhaps the money she is earning is a recompense for any discomfort), who has to come home to a house which has been shut up the greater part of the day from twelve hours to fourteen hours, and then has to begin her household duties?"

A medical man remarked that women required instruction in household duties, as some could not keep the best-built house tidy.

Miss Paterson (delegate National Union of Trained Nurses) disapproved of crèches and day nurseries, as they encouraged women to leave their children, and agreed with Dr. Adamson that public money spent on them could be more advantageously used in helping the mother in fostering family life—a great British asset. At present few crèches were free from the charge of over-

crowding; if they had to be, then they must be in charge of a trained competent nurse. All ante-natal care was wasted on the child if doctors and nurses did not realise the importance of *Pediatrics* and begin at once to study the subject.

She voiced the opinion of many nurses when she urged general training as essential before one could qualify for the Central Midwives' Board examination. Midwives undertook a great national responsibility, and should be fully qualified for it; the scarcity of educated midwives and health visitors would be speedily overcome if the authorities were prepared to pay for the educated status they rightly demand.

(To be concluded.)

POST-GRADUATE WEEK.

The result of the examination at the conclusion of the Post-Graduate Week at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, S.E., is as follows:—

First Prize.—Miss Murray, 5, Lansdowne Circus, Leamington.

Second Prize.—Miss Cohen, 54, Upper Clapton Road.

The week was a very successful one and much appreciated by all who took part in it.

THE MARMET BABY CAR.

Maternity nurses and midwives should make a point of acquainting themselves with the merits of the Marmet Baby Car, which are many. It is very comfortable for the child, owing to the width of the car. It is very attractive in appearance and it has no nuts or bolts to get out of place. It is supplied by E. T. Morriss & Co., Ltd., 139B, Finchley Road, London, N.W. 3, and we are confident that those who once use it will always do so when they require a baby car.

The "Marmet" differs in many very essential features from all other baby carriages—the frame being made of one continuous steel tube and the body suspended by coil springs—this most useful invention being the sole patent of the manufacturers of the "Marmet."

All that you could desire baby to enjoy in the way of "pram-comfort" is embodied in the "Marmet," and it is claimed that no other system of construction combines such lightness, durability and complete freedom from cumbersome, complicated undercarriage parts.

ISLINGTON MATERNITY HOME.

At the opening recently of the Islington Maternity Home by Princess Arthur of Connaught, at 35, Parkhurst Road, Islington, N., Dr. R. Murray Leslie said the opening of the home was the beginning of a new epoch in the child welfare movement in London. The home was for married women residents of the Borough of Islington, members of the Women's United Services League, and of the Women's Section of the "Comrades of the Great War," and of clubs affiliated to the League. There was a very moderate inclusive weekly charge.

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