

High Fever in the Newly Born.

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A CASE of what might be called hyperpyrexia neonatorum came under my notice in the summer of 1893. The mother of this little subject, a primipara aged about twenty-five, had been very, in fact alarmingly, ill during the second and third month of pregnancy with excessive and obstinate nausea. This being relieved by a course of sedatives and judicious feeding, she went the remainder of her term in the best of health and spirits, having an excellent constitution and an unusually sweet disposition. Her husband was the typical New Englander, with a delicate, high-strung nervous organisation. The baby was born July 11th, the birth being normal and the child perfectly formed and well-nourished. The first few days were partly occupied in getting the baby acquainted with the principal business in life of the new comer. The nipples were of the kind so many women of this generation possess, and very difficult for the child to secure. Whatever is the reason, it seems to be a fact that the nipple is something which is gradually becoming obliterated—so many new mothers are found with almost no projection in the mammary areola. A doctor I knew used to say most babies had enough suction to draw a nipple out of a pine board, but that did not seem to be the case with this little creature, for she struggled bravely with her source of provender with very little success. Other methods of drawing out the nipple did not seem to have the desired effect, and although the breasts were distended with milk, the baby derived no comfort from it. We persisted for some days in putting her to the breast frequently; the supply being so good, it seemed, of course, the most desirable sort of nourishment for her. The fifth day, which was July 16th, and excessively warm, being 93° F. in the shade, the child appeared to get particularly heated and irritated in her efforts to nurse, although by this time she did better in seizing the apogly for a nipple. About the middle of the afternoon the little hands and feet were so hot the temperature of the body was taken and found to be 103° in the rectum. At 5 o'clock it was 105°. Tepid bathing seemed to give comfort and sleep, and the morning of the 17th the temperature was 103°. In the afternoon it was again 105° with a great deal of fretting and irritability while nursing. A slight discharge showing at the orifice of the vagina, a tiny douche was given with a two-drachm glass syringe, which brought away perhaps a half-ounce discoloured mucus. These douches

were continued for a few days with no further result in that line.

On the 18th the temperature went from 102° in a.m. to 102.5 in p.m. The 19th, it was 99° in a.m. and 102° in p.m. The 20th, 98.4° in a.m. and 102.5° in p.m. The 21st, 102° in a.m. and 104 in p.m. The 22nd 104 in a.m., 104.8° at noon, and 106° late in the afternoon. The weather all this week was very warm, ranging from 90° to 98° F. in the shade. The baby was very fretful, and, of course, feverish. She took the breast readily, and drank teaspoonfuls of cool water greedily. She had frequent tepid bathings. The bowels were active, and showed nourishment fairly well digested. Although crying two-thirds of the time, and burning up with fever, she lost very little weight. On the evening of the 22nd, the baby's temperature being then 106°, a consultation of three physicians was held, and the baby being stripped, a thorough examination made. No abnormal condition of organs seemed to exist, and there was nothing to indicate a cause for this extraordinary run of fever. One would have said from the child's appearance she was an unusually vigorous and well-nourished infant, with a highly nervous temperament. As nothing else seemed to be indicated she was taken from the breast and put on cream and water—one to two—from a nursing bottle. An analysis of the mother's milk showed only a slight lack in fats, otherwise normal. On the 23rd the baby's temperature was normal, and continued so. The cream and water agreed with her only a few days, and for some time nothing seemed to be suitable, although a number of things were tried. Nestlé's food finally seemed to agree. She grew strong, and became a most beautiful and interesting child during the following twenty weeks. When she was five months old she died very suddenly, after a few days' illness, with an apparently slight cold on the chest. This was in Boston, Massachusetts.

Home Hospitals.

SOME IDEALS.—THE NURSING STAFF.

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HAVING made the patient's room beautifully neat, the Nurse will then take the opportunity of cleaning and polishing all the surgical appliances used, and replacing them in her surgical cupboard; she will wash and disinfect and thoroughly dry the dressing mackintosh, and then attend to the Notes necessary to record the result of the doctor's visit, the dressing, and directions for future treatment. Here a word regarding Note-taking, which should in every case be written first in a note book by both night and day Nurses,

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