

The Babies of the Exhibition.

Nor the least attractive of the many charming things on view at the Exhibition were its babies. First in Section A came two baby dolls, shown by Miss Frank, of 25, Mortimer Street, who demonstrated that it is possible to clothe our babies in a thoroughly rational and hygienic manner, and yet in point of prettiness to leave little to be desired. Nothing could exceed the daintiness of the woollen garments, feather stitched, and lace-betrimmed, worn by these babies, though the price of some of the articles shown put them beyond the reach of those who are not plentifully endowed with this world's goods.

Next in order was a baby in an incubator, or thermostatic Nurse, which attracted considerable attention. This baby was simply warmly wrapped up in cotton wool, its body and each limb being separately swathed. It lay cosily enough between white woollen sheets—supplied by Messrs. Jaeger—in a little wicker cradle, over a hot water tank, and under a glass lid. A thermometer indicates the temperature of the foster mother, and further, by an ingenious arrangement, a little lid suspended over the chimney of the lamp which heated the hot water rose as a danger signal directly the incubator became unpleasantly hot. The baby appeared as comfortable as was possible under the circumstances. The incubator was lent by Messrs. Hearson and Co., of 235, Regent Street. All Londoners are familiar with this shop, where the chickens parade in the window and cluck over the virtues of their strange Nurse.

Next was a baby dressed by Nurse Washington, of St. John's House. This House has always prided itself upon the attention it bestows upon the comfort and well-being of its babies, all its midwives being obliged to act as Monthly Nurses also during their training, and thoroughly to master this branch of their work. The doll shown at the Exhibition was an admirable example of the care and attention to detail and finish insisted on in the dressing of infants under the care of St. John's House. It lay in a cot sent by the Homœopathic Hospital, and any baby is fortunate indeed which has for its use such a charming creation in blue and white.

Next came a baby in the Alione clothing, designed by Mrs. Garling Drury. The feature of this is that all the garments are prepared in order and fastened together, and then the child is laid in them. There is no need to turn the baby over, and the process of dressing is easily accomplished. The sleeves of the monthly gown, though long, are easily untied and turned back to the shoulder—a great desideratum and advantage during the vaccination period.

Last, but not least, we must mention the real, live baby of the Exhibition—the baby *par excellence*. It evidently believed in the tradition that “little children should be seen and not heard,” for though it visited the Exhibition for some time every afternoon no sound was ever known to have escaped it, though the fiddles, the flutes, the trumpets, and the big drum vied with each other in making music that must have been distracting to a peacefully-inclined baby. But the baby was happy enough, sleeping quietly, or contentedly sucking its fists, and appearing supremely content with its position on the Baby Holder, designed by its mother.

The “Brook Baby Holder” is simply an apron made of jean, with a wedge-shaped pillow attached. The pillow is easily reversible, so that the child can lie on either side. A strong leather belt is passed through a hem at the top of the apron, and again at the back through webbing braces, and fastens at the left side. The braces are then brought over the shoulders and attached to two buckles at the lower margin of the apron, and the baby is comfortably ensconced in position. The obvious advantages of this admirable arrangement are that the child is much cooler and more comfortable than in a Nurse's arms. It is impossible for a baby to be dropped by a careless Nurse; and lastly, the mother, or Nurse, has both hands free, while the weight of the child is divided, and little felt, so that the Baby Holder should be a veritable godsend to busy mothers, or to Nurses on night duty, with, for instance, babies who have been operated on for hare-lip in their wards, who *must* be kept quiet, while at the same time other patients must not be neglected. The Baby Holder is protected by patent, so one may hope that its inventor will get the full benefit of the profits arising from her clever idea.

A notice of the babies would be incomplete without some mention of the various improvements for artificial feeding, notably of the means which are now at our disposal for sterilising milk, or prepared food. Several Sterilisers were in evidence—one shown by Messrs. Maw, Son, and Thompson, the patent Sothlet Apparatus, with self-acting pneumatic closure, being much admired. It is very complete in all its details. Sufficient food can be sterilised by its means for twenty-four hours, or even longer, and simply warmed as required. A teat is provided, which is fitted over the neck of the bottle when the cap is removed, and the child is fed from this bottle in which the milk has been sterilised, so that there is no danger of mischief from imperfectly cleansed tubing. Monthly Nurses who have used this steriliser speak highly of its virtues.

A steriliser shown by Messrs. Hawksley, of

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