

The baby, wrapped in the cotton garment, is placed inside with as many hot-water bottles about him as there is room for; a thermometer placed so as not to come in contact with the hot-water bottles, and covered, with the baby, by two light blankets. The crib is then covered with a blanket or heavy spread, excepting for a space of 6 in. or 8 in. at the top left to admit the air.

For the first week or ten days the crib is kept at a temperature of 95° F., and allowed to be lowered only as the vitality of the child increases. Here the infant remains for some time, his position occasionally changed, but taken out only once or twice each week to be weighed. He is bathed every day with warm sweet oil, and his cotton garment changed. If his vitality is very low his baths are less frequent. The mouth is kept clean by giving the baby a little warm water two or three times each day.

The temperature, by rectum, is usually taken once each day, and, as a rule, runs a little higher than normal if the baby is doing well, and often quite subnormal if he is doing badly. The pulse and respiration are very irregular, and because of the infant's sensitiveness to touch not easily ascertained.

The contents of the intestines are much the same as in those of infants born at term; the meconium presents the same appearance, and faecal discharges assume the normal consistency and colour when the food has been properly regulated.

"The appearance of uric acid on the napkin of the premature infant is not necessarily to be looked upon as denoting an abnormal condition. It should, however, be carefully watched, for when it becomes excessive it is an indication that the infant's food has not been properly adjusted to its digestive powers, and that the infant may soon begin to fail."—*Rotch.*

There is no doubt but these babies do better on human breast milk or on a diluted breast milk. If this cannot be obtained, a modification of cows' milk, low in all its percentages, is the best substitute. The babies here are generally first given a 1 per cent. of fat, 3 per cent. of sugar, and 0.50 per cent. of proteids, in quantities varying from 1 to 2 drachms, every hour or hour and a-half during the twenty-four hours, according to the size and vitality of the baby. This is very gradually increased in strength and quantity and the intervals of feeding lengthened. These infants are not always able to take food from the ordinary rubber nipple, and various methods of feeding have to be resorted to. If the infant can swallow at all it is better to avoid the shock of tube feeding. A medicine dropper may be used to advantage; better still is the Breck's feeder. For those nurses who may not have seen one of these feeders, I will say that it consists of a glass cylinder about 5 in. long by 1 in. in diameter; this is graduated to half drachms, and holds 9 drachms. It is so shaped at one end as to allow

a small rubber nipple to be fitted to it. The large end has a rubber cot; this cot collapses easily, thus making it easier for the infant to get the milk, or if he is unable to draw on the nipple, by a slight pressure on the cot the milk is slowly forced into the baby's mouth without danger of spilling it or hurting the mucous membrane, as might be done with a spoon or dropper, and can be given slowly enough to avoid the danger of choking. To fill the cylinder the small end is plugged with a rubber stopper, the milk poured in at the large end, then the cot put on, and the feeder inverted and the nipple replaced.

This is boiled and kept in a solution of soda bicarbonate and sterile water when not in use.

The change from the padded crib to an ordinary one should be made very gradually. First lower the temperature of the crib by removing the top blanket, then take out the heater, again remove the hood; then dress the infant in a shirt, knitted band, and flannel nightgown, and finally remove the padding from the inside of the crib. The screens should not be taken away for some time after this. For while the term of prematurity may be over, he is still more sensitive to any changes than the well baby born at term.—*The Trained Nurse.*

## The 'Registered Nurses' Society.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the Registered Nurses' Society in the new offices, 431, Oxford Street, W., took place on Wednesday last, when a satisfactory report was received. Fourteen candidates were elected on probation. The Hon. Superintendent reported that she had attended, as the delegate of the Society, the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, held at Cheltenham in November, and that the resolution proposed by her, that members of affiliated societies should be members of the National Union of Women Workers, was agreed to. This decision would be of mutual benefit to women's societies, and also to the National Union.

The Committee discussed the Draft Bill, a copy of which had been received from the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, and passed unanimously the following resolution:—"That the Registered Nurses' Society cordially approves of the Draft Bill for the Registration of Nurses, and promises to give the measure its active support, and grants a donation of 10 guineas towards the expenses of the Society in promoting legislation which is urgently necessary for the protection of the public and of trained nurses."

It was arranged that the Society should be "At Home" to its friends early in February, to make known to them its new official residence.

S. CARTWRIGHT, Secretary.

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