

certain extent already formed, and if in the early days of life the nutrition of the infant is neglected, the teeth must of necessity suffer. They are almost invariably affected by rickets, and throughout life the adult is handicapped by this condition in infancy.

#### NORMAL FOOD.

Another important point to remember is that the normal infant requires normal food. In this connection it is important to observe the condition of the stools, as any departure from the normal in them is often the first indication of the presence of general abnormal conditions.

During the first six to eight weeks of life there is but little saliva formed. At the age of three to four months the infant begins to dribble, but it is not until the sixth month that it begins to convert starch into sugar.

At birth the infant's stomach is about one and a half inches in length, and its capacity is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. of fluid. It is a frequent but foolish and disastrous practice to overload the stomach of an infant with the result that the child is compelled to eject some of the food administered.

At birth the respiration of an infant is chiefly abdominal, a point to be remembered in the application of binders, as tight binders should be avoided.

The aim of those responsible for the welfare of an infant should be to secure to it a stable brain. At birth the higher and more important centres are undeveloped, and if the child is starved the brain on which its future depends is starved also. Impaired powers due to this cause are shown by the backwardness of the child. Instead of sitting up at six months, it may not begin to do so for from eight to ten months to a year.

It should therefore be the aim of all responsible for the care of infants to study each little life individually, remembering that no two babies are alike, in relation to their life's environment.

Those who know most about babies tell us that it is not at all an easy matter to get to understand an individual infant. It requires great experience, patience, and tact. Dr. Kelynack's most interesting lecture must have helped many to a better understanding of babies and their needs than they ever had before.

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Three babies were born at the General Lying-In Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, S.E., on Christmas Day. They received the names of Christina, Christabel, and Noel.

## Midwives' Defence Association.

The Midwives' Defence Association (whose office is at 12, Buckingham Street, Strand) is making good progress. A circular letter has been issued to a large number of practising midwives in England and Wales, inviting them to join the Association, and applications are rapidly being received.

The Council have resolved to undertake to advise members on matters which come within the scope of the objects of the Association from the first of January, 1908, and to defend members (subject to the Rules) so soon as the funds in hand amount to £150.

The Council acknowledge with very grateful thanks several special donations. They will gladly receive further donations, as the expenses of launching the Association are necessarily heavy.

From the letters which have been received from applicants for membership and others, it is quite evident that the need of an Association of this kind has long been felt by Midwives, whose work is often much hampered, and whose interests have suffered in consequence of their inability to defend themselves.

The issue recently of a circular letter by the London County Council to Midwives practising within the county of London relative to their name plates, cards, etc., has created considerable stir and indignation amongst midwives.

The Council of this Association feels strongly that it would be a great injustice to Midwives who have had a proper training and who hold certificates of high value that they should be compelled, as is suggested, to put "Certified Midwife" simply, on their name plates and cards, without any reference to their training and qualifications, thus placing them on the same footing as a *bonâ-fidè* midwife, who may have received no training whatever. Furthermore, it has been quite the usual custom for midwives to put a description of their qualifications on their plates, and the removal of any such description would naturally lead to the conclusion that the qualification had been withdrawn, with the result that the midwife's practice would suffer severely. The Association has therefore addressed a letter to the Central Midwives' Board on this important subject.

The Hon. Secretary (Miss Worrall) has arranged to attend at the office (12, Buckingham Street, Strand) every Wednesday, commencing January 8th, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Applications for membership should be sent to her as soon as possible.

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