

Test the reaction with litmus paper; if blue turns pink the milk is acid.

Take the specific gravities. Compare,

Stand for four hours and note amount of cream that rises.

Boil a fresh specimen; the albumen solidifies and entangles the fat globules; this forms the "skin."

To test for fat. The opaqueness of milk is due to fat globules. Take some milk in a test tube, add a few drops of caustic soda solution; shake with twice its volume of ether. The milk lying below the ether becomes translucent because the fat is dissolved.

To test for proteids. Dilute one volume of milk with three volumes of water. Add acetic acid drop by drop, shaking after each addition; a flocculent precipitate of caseinogen and fat is thrown down. Compare quantity and character in cows' and human milk.

Filter. Add to the filtrate a quarter of its volume of saturated solution of sodium chloride, heat and a precipitate of lactalbumin is thrown down.

To compare curd in the two milks add a little rennet to both, warmed to blood heat, and note difference in character of curd.

To test for sugar.—Take the clear filtrate and add it to equal quantities of 1 and 2 Fehling's solutions, characteristic red precipitate will be thrown down.

To demonstrate blood.—Examine a drop with a pocket lens; fine yellowish red particles in an almost colourless fluid will be seen, these are the red corpuscles. By degrees they conglomerate and form patches.

Allow some blood to stand; note separation into clot and serum—the clot consists of the red corpuscles plus the fibrin, an insoluble proteid which is precipitated when blood is drawn. Whip some blood with a bundle of fine twigs, threads of fibrin will collect upon them, a fluid will remain containing the corpuscles.

To demonstrate the presence of micro-organisms in dust.—Take two small glass jars with tightly fitting tops, a slice of potato in each, place them in a vessel of cold water, and boil for four hours; most of the micro-organisms will be destroyed. Take a glass rod, and put a little dust on one piece of potato. Close immediately. Compare day by day; varied growths will be present in the one with dust, the other will show few signs of decomposition.

These few simple demonstrations are very little trouble and expense. A number of others will suggest themselves. The pupils' interest will be quickened by them, and their powers of observation stimulated.

SCHOLARSHIPS IN MIDWIFERY.

The London County Council will in July, 1908, award not more than six scholarships, value £25, to students in midwifery. Candidates must be resident at the time of application and award within the administrative County of London, must satisfy the Council of their need for assistance, and must enter into a bond with sureties that they intend to practice midwifery for two years within the County. They must be not less than 25 or more than 40 on July 31st, 1908, must furnish satisfactory evidence as to character, and be certified by the Council's medical officer as being in good health. They will also be required to pass a qualifying examination. Forms of application may be obtained from the Executive Officer, London County Council, Victoria Embankment, W.C., and must be returned to him not later than April 18th.

PROVIDENT MATERNITY CLUBS.

A useful little leaflet is published by the Nurses' Social Union on the formation of Provident Maternity Clubs. The object of these clubs is to cut at the root of the loss of infant life and the ruin of health in after years for mother and child, which are caused in innumerable cases by the lack of provision for confinements. Through the clubs women are helped and encouraged to begin saving small weekly sums as early as possible. The method advocated for collecting these sums is through a collector, who pays a weekly visit. Specimens of the regulations of two maternity clubs already in existence are given in the leaflet, which would be useful to any who are contemplating the formation of such clubs, which should certainly form part of the organisation of every parish. The leaflets are obtainable at 7d. a dozen, or 1d. each, post free, from the Central Organiser, Nurses' Social Union, Kingston Grange, Taunton.

AN INTERESTING CASE.

A case of interest to Midwives arose at the Brighton Borough Police Court last week, when Esther Holmes was summoned under the Midwives Act for unlawfully using the title of midwife. Mr. C. N. T. Jeffrys, who prosecuted on behalf of the Corporation, said that at an inquest on the body of a newly-born child the defendant had described herself on oath as a certified midwife, the holder of a diploma, and registered under the Midwives Act. Her name was not on the Midwives' Roll.

The defendant produced the diploma of the London Obstetrical Society and a certificate which she said she had sent to the Central Midwives' Board on March 31st, 1905. She received them back with a printed paper, which she produced, and a Post Office receipt for the registered package. The communication from the Central Midwives' Board was a notice of examinations held by the Board. The defendant had no certificate from the Board, but always considered herself registered by it. As she was entitled to registration by virtue of holding the diploma of the London Obstetrical Society, if she applied within the two years' period of grace, which apparently she had done, the case was adjourned for a fortnight that the Central Midwives' Board might be communicated with.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)