

every morning, and I'll guarantee the whole operation won't exceed half an hour. The wet diapers are to be rinsed out and, what few stained ones there are, given to the maid to boil; this she can do without so much as soiling her hands, by simply dropping the squares in "ivory" suds—ivory because it is non-irritating; the maid to hang out the garments. I have never once had a servant object to rendering this aid, and, on the whole, they seemed rather pleased that they had done their part. I was perfectly willing they should *think* they had done the chief part of the work. This method does away with any towering accumulation. There are always plenty of fresh diapers on hand, and the word "fuss" has no place in the routine of daily tasks. The flannels are a question I have never had come up. I believe the simplest way for the nurse to bring herself to an understanding of the mother's feelings is for her to fancy *she* were the mother and that those flannels represented a precious sum that had to prove a lasting expenditure. I wonder would she be dull to the favour, did the nurse render her quite comfortable on the subject by washing them without inquiry? The Golden Rule is the best I know, and until I find a better I shall continue to employ it. One point more, a rack for drying, kept in the most convenient place, aids in airing and drying.

### The Notification of Births Act.

Midwives should take note that in any area in which the local authority adopts the Notification of Births Act, 1907, they have definite obligations in regard to it. Primarily it is the duty of the father of the child to notify the birth to the Medical Officer of Health, but, if he be non-resident in the house at the time of the occurrence the duty of notification devolves upon "any person in attendance upon the mother at the time of, or within six hours after, the birth." The notice must be given by posting a prepaid letter or postcard within thirty-six hours after the birth, or by delivery of a written notice of the birth (in either case) at the office of the Medical Officer of Health within the same time. The local authority are required to supply, without charge, addressed and stamped postcards containing the form of notice to any medical practitioner or midwife residing or practising in their area who applies for the same. The notification is in addition to, and not in substitution for, the requirements of the Act relating to the registration of births, and it applies to any child born after the expiration of the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy, whether alive or dead. Liability to a penalty not exceeding twenty shillings is incurred by any person who fails to give notice of a birth.

### St. Pancras School for Mothers.

The first annual meeting of the St. Pancras Mothers and Infants' Society was held at the Town Hall, Pancras Road, N.W., on Monday last.

The Mayor of St. Pancras, who was present in his robes of office, welcomed the Society, and the Bishop of Ipswich, Dr. Paget, formerly Vicar of the parish, presided. The Bishop, out of an intimate knowledge of the locality, spoke of the pathos of the place. To look at one's own children, he said, and then at those of Somers Town was to know that all was not well with them. He regarded the present movement as a permanent contribution to the happiness of the race. To know the movement was to love it.

Mrs. A. L. Smith, of Oxford, moved the adoption of the annual report and financial statement, which was seconded by General Hamilton Evatt, C.B., who spoke of the enormous imperial importance of the work. As an Army officer whose duty it was to inspect recruits, he was impressed with the great need of building up citizens physically fit to carry arms, or to do full work as civilians.

Mrs. H. B. Irving moved the next resolution—one of thanks to all who had helped the school to pass through the first year of life successfully—and this was seconded by Mr. T. H. Nunn, a member of the Royal Commission on the Poor Law.

Mrs. Carl Meyer appealed for funds to extend the work, and said it was easy to come down to Somers Town and tell poor women who had their living to earn that they should nurse their babies. It required more courage to speak to women of one's own class. The appeal was seconded by Mr. F. R. Viveash, one of the treasurers.

Mrs. Henry Luke Paget then distributed prizes to the most successful mothers, who, with their babies, bonny and clean, came up to receive them. They were awarded not to the finest and fattest babies, but to the most careful mothers. The points taken into consideration were the cleanliness, airiness, and tidiness of the home, and the general care of the baby, including under this head (1) regular feeding; (2) warm clothing; (3) cleanliness of child; (4) separate cot; (5) avoidance of comforter.

Eight prizes of one sovereign and four of half a sovereign were offered to be competed for between January and June. Fifty-one mothers and babies entered, 48 of the babies being breast-fed, and three bottle-fed; four were subsequently put partially or entirely on the bottle. The results showed "three perfect mothers," and twelve others ran the prize winners very close. One prize was offered, and has been awarded to the mother who has done best with the least advantages, and two half sovereigns have been awarded to two of the most careful mothers of babies fed by hand.

The original prizes were offered by a lady who describes herself as "a childless woman worker who reverences the mother." The Committee have added the remainder, which they consider necessary to a fair judgment.

At the conclusion of the meeting tea was served to all present.

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