

utensils; (b) *Simplicity* in composition of food; (c) *Regularity* of meals.

The disorders associated with improper feeding in infancy are: (a) gastro-intestinal affections; (b) rickets and scurvy; (c) anæmia, malnutrition, and general debility.

Cow's milk, diluted with water according to the age of the infant, with a little cream and white sugar added to it, is a suitable food for most hand-fed infants. This mixture should be scalded, and never given after a shorter interval than two hours. Milk is a food and not merely a drink. Plain water is good for the infant, and may if desired, be given freely between meals.

VENEREAL INFECTIONS.

Of venereal infections the writer says:—

A peculiar constant hoarseness in the respiration of older infants is frequently due to syphilis. Syphilis is a contagious disease which may be transmitted to the infant from the father through the mother, and yet the mother may remain uninfected. In such a case it is quite safe for the mother to suckle her child, as by some means she has been rendered safe against infection. It is not safe for any other woman to nurse the child. In most cases the mother of a syphilitic baby has syphilis, or has previously had it.

A syphilitic infant very frequently is born dead. If born alive it is frequently strong and well for the first six to eight weeks of life; then the signs of syphilis appear—sores, rashes, and discharges—and such an infant is a source of great danger to its attendants. Steady treatment usually readily cures these symptoms, but the infant's vitality is frequently so low that death results. All sores and discharges from such an infant are capable of communicating the disease. Antiseptics must be constantly employed in handling the infant. One should never unnecessarily handle an infant with sores on its skin, or in its mouth, or discharge from its nose.

Infants, especially girls, not infrequently suffer from a discharge from the genital canal. The condition is usually due to want of cleanliness, and accidental infection in these cases, but the discharge as a rule contains the organism of gonorrhœa, and is consequently capable of spreading this disease. The utmost care and cleanliness are consequently necessary, and it is particularly important to prevent the infant infecting its eyes by its fingers.

SCHOOLS FOR MOTHERS.

Dr. Dora E. Lidgett Bunting deals with the above important subject, and says:—

A "School for Mothers" is a training and educational centre where the child-bearing women of the nation may be adequately fitted for their responsible vocation of bringing up healthy children who shall ultimately take their place as useful citizens of the State. Such institutions were established in the first instance to help the poorer mothers of our large towns in the care of their young infants. They now have obviously a wider field before them, and must include within the scope of their instruction all the duties of motherhood not only to babies but to older children and all dwellers in the home. A "School for Mothers" is an establishment to which mothers can come

feeling it to be their own, and where they may obtain not only the advice and sympathy of the teachers, but the encouragement of the company of their fellows.

Dr. F. S. Toogood, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Society of Day Nurseries, writes on "The Rôle of the Crèche or Day Nursery," and Dr. John J. Buchan treats of "Milk Dépôts and Kindred Institutions."

MILK DÉPÔTS.

A milk dépôt for infants effects a saving of life by its actual results on the infants fed, and by its educational influence on the mother, and the community generally. Clinically, the infants on dépôt milk are found to gain in weight, usually at a surprising rate. As a general rule, an infant, when taken off the breast, at first loses in weight, and the earlier the age at which hand-feeding is begun, the greater is the loss, for a young infant often experiences difficulty in adapting itself to artificial feeding. Infants are found, however, to more rapidly accommodate themselves to the use of humanised and sterilised milk than to other artificial foods, and frequently they gain more in weight on dépôt feeding than on the breast.

LAW AND INFANT LIFE.

An interesting chapter on this important subject is dealt with by the late Dr. Stanley B. Atkinson, who shows that the infant—even the unborn infant—has its legal rights.

THE INFANT AND THE NATION.

Sir John W. Byers, Professor of Midwifery in the Queen's University of Belfast, deals with this subject, and says:—

The late Professor Pierre Budin, of Paris, told his countrymen in 1892: "Your country has need of all her children, and humanity demands that we should spare no effort on their behalf." For this land as well as for France the question of infant life is a vital one.

MUNICIPAL ACTION.

Dr. John F. J. Sykes, Medical Officer of Health, St. Pancras, contributes a most interesting chapter on "Municipal Action in the Prevention of Infantile Mortality." His conclusions are: That the main remedies required are, briefly: (1) The improvement of the health of the expectant mother; (2) the improvement of the health of the suckling mother; (3) the avoidance of premature weaning of the infant from the breast, especially during the summer months; and (4) the protection of the infant from cold, especially during the winter months. It will thus be seen that our knowledge regarding the ultimate causes of preventable infantile mortality, and of the remedies applicable, leads us to converge upon the mother and the home.

MORAL ASPECTS OF INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Lastly, Dr. T. Arthur Helme, Hon. Physician to the Northern Hospital, Manchester, deals with this question. There is no great mystery in this problem of the protection of infant life. The infant's life depends in the first instance upon the vitality it gets from its mother, and, after that, upon the proper fulfilment of its needs as regards air, food, warmth, and cleanliness. For these it is dependent upon the health, intelligence, and devotion of its mother, and indirectly, of its father.

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