

Professional Review.

OUR BABY,

It is proof of the popularity of "Our Baby," Mrs. J. Langton Hewer's well-known book for mothers and nurses, that it should have reached its twelfth edition, and that 70,000 copies have now been issued. It is published by Messrs. J. Wright and Sons, Ltd., of Bristol, in paper covers 1s. 6d. net, or in leather 2s. 6d.

It deals with the care of the newborn infant, and next with its outfit; the necessity for protecting the lungs, the skull, the abdomen, for the use of porous clothing.

A chapter is devoted to the infant's food, and to the importance of a mother nursing her child. We read: "A hand-fed baby's life is threatened with numberless drawbacks and dangers, to which a breast-fed baby is not even exposed. It has been conclusively shown that a breast-fed baby is practically immune from infectious diseases—e.g., measles—and that dangerous diarrhoea is very rare. One in every six infants born in the British Isles dies before it reaches a year old, and the vast majority of these are hand-fed."

The conditions under which a mother should not nurse her child are enumerated as follows: (1) If she be consumptive or markedly scrofulous. (2) If she be suffering from any acute disease—e.g., typhoid fever, inflammation of the lungs. (3) If she be in a state of great general debility. (4) If, after a fair trial, she have excessive back-ache, faintness, continual prostration; or if her periods should return at all profusely.

The various methods of managing a "bottle baby" are described, ass's milk, as supplied by Welford's Surrey Dairies, being mentioned as one alternative to mother's milk. The methods of modifying cow's milk are detailed, and the use of a Soxhlet apparatus advocated for sterilising and pasteurising purposes.

One chapter is devoted to "Baby's Troubles," beginning with vaccination. "Many mothers," it is stated, "have very strong objections to having their children vaccinated, which they base on the following grounds: (1) It pains the child; (2) it may introduce diseases and even cause death; (3) it is quite unnecessary and practically of no value."

It is not surprising that the idea of inflicting pain on an infant, and, indeed, of introducing the vaccine into its system is distasteful to many mothers. At the same time no mother who has lived in a country where vaccination is not the rule, and seen how many hundreds die during an

epidemic, and the virulence of the disease even in those cases which do not end fatally, would hesitate to afford her child protection from so terrible a disease at the small price of the temporary discomfort caused by vaccination.

SKIN AFFECTIONS.

An interesting section of the book is that on skin affections, including naevus, or mother's mark, red gum, sweat rash (sudamina), eczema, nettle-rash or urticaria, boils, ringworm, the itch, and, lastly, lice or pediculi. The accompanying illustrations show the various kinds of lice greatly magnified—i.e., the head louse, and the egg of this louse attached to a hair. The eggs are of an oval shape and glued to the hair. A hair of the natural size with an egg glued to it is also shown. As nurses are aware, great irritation is caused by lice, and sometimes eczema, especially that form which is situated at the back of the neck, and the neighbouring glands, are often enlarged.

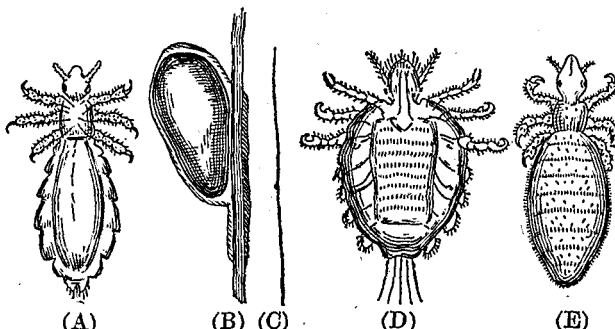
WORMS.

There are three varieties of worms by which a child may be affected—the tape worm, the round worm, and the thread worm. The symptoms (when present) are irritation and consequent scratching at the anus, grinding of the teeth, picking at the nose, disturbance of the bowels, and capricious appetite, to which we may add rise of temperature and feverishness; but in many instances the presence of worms gives rise to no symptoms at all.

Tape worm rarely infests an infant. Flat pieces of worm are passed in the motions of the child. A cure will not take place until the head of the animal is passed.

Round worms are several inches long, and have somewhat the appearance of the common earth worm. One or more may be present, usually one. They may be expelled through the mouth by vomiting. The drug usually given (under a doctor's orders) is santonin, which is given at bedtime and followed by a dose of castor oil in the morning.

Thread Worms.—These worms, when present, usually exist in large numbers. They are about a quarter of an inch in length, and inhabit the lower bowel. They often escape from the anus and crawl about in its vicinity. They are treated by injections of salt and water (a teaspoonful to a pint) into the lower bowel, or an infusion of quassia of the same strength may be given. For young children not more than three or four ounces of the injection should be given at a time. Occasionally santonin is prescribed in place of the injections.



VARIOUS KINDS OF LICE (GREATLY MAGNIFIED).

(A) Head Louse, chiefly found in the scalp. (B) Egg of Head Louse attached to a hair magnified, and (C) natural size. (D) Louse found on the hairy parts of the body. (E) Body Louse.

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