

1. Never employ aperients, purgatives, enemata, or suppositories, especially during the first few weeks of life.

2. In breast-feeding make certain, by means of the "test feed," there is neither underfeeding nor overfeeding.

3. In breast-feeding correct quantitative and qualitative defects by supplementary feeding.

4. Induce regularity of "habit" by systematic training.

In fact, the one insistent note throughout the article is the absolute necessity of establishing and maintaining a settled habit of daily evacuation, by persistent and deliberate training, and without the use of unnatural stimulants.

M. F.

The Needs of the British Lying-in Hospital.

Mr. C. E. Farmer, Chairman of the British Lying-in Hospital, Endell Street, writes bringing before the public the needs of that institution, which has ministered to the wants of very poor married women since 1749. "The Hospital is," he says, "notwithstanding the exercise of most stringent economy, now overdrawn at its bankers to the extent of more than £1,000—which it has no means of paying except by the sacrifice of a portion of its small invested capital. Any contributions would be most gratefully received by myself or the Secretary at the Hospital, and would relieve a very real anxiety." It is strange how backward the public are in helping Lying-in Hospitals, many of which like the British, are doing splendid work.

The Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh.

At the annual meeting of the subscribers to the Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital, held at 79, Lauriston Place, last week, at which Sir Robert Cranston presided, it was stated that the number of patients taking advantage of the benefits of the Hospital was 1,914, which was more than double what it was five years ago. The very fact of its success, however, and the necessity arising from it for a greatly increased nursing staff, has caused a serious strain on the resources and appliances of the Hospital. The directors are now appealing for a sufficient sum to enable them to provide a hospital which will meet all the requirements of the best modern obstetric practice. Last year the income amounted to £1,825, and the expenditure to £2,522.

The Chairman said that certain things were needed which could be done if they had the money. He did not say the well-being of the patients was affected, but the room was cramped altogether, and the provision for the nurses was most unsatisfactory.

Direct Representation of Midwives and the Midwives' Institute.

The Midwives' Institute has addressed a memorial to Lord Wolverhampton, Lord President of the Council, on the subject of the Amending Bill of the Midwives' Act, in which we regret to observe that no claim is put forward for the direct representation of midwives on the Central Midwives' Board, and that the Midwives' Institute even desires to render insecure one of the two seats for the first time assured to midwives by the Lord President of the Council in his Bill.

Midwives have, indeed, reason to be grateful to Lord Wolverhampton for having admitted the principle which the Midwives' Institute so far has not recognised, that certain seats on the Central Midwives' Board should be allotted to certified midwives, and for having definitely proposed that the Board should be constituted as follows:—

Two persons appointed by the Lord President of the Council.

One person appointed by the Local Government Board.

Four duly qualified medical practitioners.

Two certified midwives.

Four persons appointed by (1) the County Councils Association, (2) the Association of Municipal Corporations, (3) the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and (4) the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute.

We do not think, in their justifiable desire for direct representation, that midwives have sufficiently realised their indebtedness to Lord Wolverhampton for recognising their right to representation on their governing body and making provision for it. It is a right never claimed for them by the Midwives' Institute, and even opposed by members of that Society—an inconceivable attitude, to our mind, for any midwife to assume. But, this being so, we can hardly be surprised that the Midwives' Institute is officially endeavouring to obtain the substitution of the word *person* for *certified midwife* in regard to the representative of the Royal British Nurses' Association, thus proposing to render insecure one of the two seats granted to midwives by the Lord President, while it claims that a second representative, "not of necessity a midwife," shall be granted to the Midwives' Institute.

In regard to "direct representation" of midwives on their Governing Body, the official organ of the Institute states: "We have always clearly understood that the Midwives' Institute has never taken up any attitude of objection or opposition to direct representation, for no such scheme has ever yet come within the range of practical politics." Surely a more feeble attempt at self-justification could never have been penned. If the Midwives' Institute desires to be regarded as "in any way representing the 15,000 practising midwives on the Roll," it is its duty to see that such a scheme is brought within the range of practical politics. Those who are not for us are against us.

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