

overfeeding. But Nature did a beautiful thing when she placed a baby's stomach almost perpendicular, so that it would run over so easily and its life be saved.

Caring for infants by the boarding-out system in San Francisco is not only a unique method, but has been a very successful one. The death rate of the old Foundling Asylum was so alarming that some way had to be planned to save the babies, so the boarding-out system was originated. We have found that there is a happy medium between the overworked nurse of the institution, and the too fussy mother at home. This we have in the good foster mother.

Our system for the caring of the baby in the home has brought very good results. The boarding out homes are selected with the greatest care, and as soon as a baby is placed, the certified milk is sent, also the feeding supplies. These are followed by the visiting nurse, who teaches the woman how to modify the milk to suit the baby.

In each home a Baby Record Book is kept, in which the formula is written and the weights are recorded from week to week.

We also have a weekly baby clinic at the Associated Charities, to which the baby is brought and weighed and examined by the doctors. In making the formulæ, we use the age and weight system as a basis, feeding by the caloric value of the food, and to this way of modifying the certified milk and instructing the foster mother in the preparation of the food and the hygienic care of the child we have had excellent results, as the following statistics show.

Number of babies on certified milk from	
Oct. 1, 1909, to Oct. 20, 1910 .....	164
Average attendance at the weekly clinic .....	17
Average gain in weight of baby per month	1 lb. 4½ oz.
Average gain in weight of baby per week...	4 oz.

#### Diseases Treated.

Whooping cough .....	4 cases
Measles .....	3 cases
Scabies .....	2 cases
Eczema .....	10 cases
Number of deaths .....	13

#### Causes of Death.

Tuberculosis .....	5 cases
Marasmus .....	2 cases
Premature .....	4 cases
Pneumonia .....	1 case
Syphilis .....	1 case
Mortality .....	8.5

There have been no deaths from intestinal disease, which is so common a cause of infant mortality. The city mortality for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1910, was 11.09.

In considering these statistics, bear in mind that these are not the normal babies found in

private practice, but little waifs left stranded alone, who are often handicapped by a poor inheritance, while some are the product of tubercular or drunken parents. And if right feeding can do so much for these, what might not be done to lessen infant mortality in the normal child who has been so unfortunate as to have to be bottle fed?

## Midwives in Vienna.

The unsatisfactory position of the midwives in this city, says the correspondent of the *Lancet*, has for a long time been a burning problem for the sanitary authorities. One of the most frequent complaints is that over-crowding of this particular occupation is nowhere so manifest as here. For instance, whilst in Berlin, with its larger population, there are only 800 authorised midwives, in Vienna there are over 2,000. This was pointed out a few years ago in a mass meeting of midwives, in which the speakers demanded the institution of a *numerus clausus* for their occupation, for under the present conditions there were many trained midwives in the city who had not one case of labour to conduct in a year. In the country districts the rate of payment was so bad that no woman of the better class cared to undertake the duties. The "midwife tariff," as it is called, stipulates a fee of approximately half a sovereign for an attendance of 10 days, including the delivery; this tariff has existed since the year 1845 and urgently requires revision. The insufficiency of the earnings of the city midwives naturally prompts many of them to undertake procedures of a criminal nature. As a rule, the poor women in this city prefer to go to one of the numerous hospitals for their lying-in, whilst the middle and upper classes always require the presence and active help of a gynaecologist and afterwards that of a surgical nurse. The total number of births is also steadily diminishing, whilst the number of midwives is increasing. This question therefore calls for reform.

## Paddington School for Mothers.

By the kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Meath a drawing-room meeting was held on Thursday in last week at 83, Lancaster Gate, to consider the advisability of establishing a School for Mothers similar to those already existing in other parts of London for carrying on the work of infant consultations inaugurated by the Paddington Health Society, home visiting, classes for home hygiene, needlework, domestic and infant management, a maternity provident club, and the provision of dinners for nursing mothers. A suitable house has been secured in the Harrow Road and the annual expense of carrying it on is estimated at about £400. Lady Ulrica Baring has consented to act as President.

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