

subject a thought; as well as an enlightenment to those who are the victims of the prevailing system of leaving all teaching on sex and reproduction—with the exception of midwifery—to be given by the ignorant or the unprincipled.

The Production of Pure Milk.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE METHODS EMPLOYED AT THE FARM OF THE INFANTS HOSPITAL.

On Tuesday, March 14th, at the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, S.W., Dr. Ralph Vincent gave the first lecture of a course of five on the Feeding of Infants, with epidiascopic illustrations.

He showed many interesting pictures of the farm when the milk is specially produced for the Infants' Hospital, including the large covered shed where the cows are housed in inclement weather, with its floor of hammered chalk which he explained had a great advantage over the ordinary concrete floor on account of its greater warmth and more yielding nature; the isolation shed, where any cow suspected of illness is immediately placed; the refrigerator; the milking shed, with its irrigating apparatus, which enables the cow to be thoroughly washed down before milking time, in order that no dust from the walls or elsewhere may settle upon the milk.

A diagram of a churn was also shown, so constructed as to form a double vessel, with the air circulating in between by which method the temperature of the milk is kept at from 34 degs. to 38 degs. Fahr.

Immediately after being drawn from the cow, before the temperature is reduced the milk is separated, and travels to London in the form of fat free milk and cream.

Dr. Vincent said he thought it would be interesting to explain the methods of the Milk Commission. This is composed of various persons competent to deal with the matter including Dr. Vincent himself, the veterinary surgeon, and the farm bailiff. A report is presented by the veterinary surgeon as to the health of the cows, when they had last calved, if any had been isolated, etc. From the bailiff as to the methods of milking, condition of the sheds, pasture, quantity and quality of the milk. This last is ascertained by what is known as the milk curve, a chart of the yield of each cow kept by the secretary. If the curve is persistently under the mean line, the cow is no longer retained for milking purposes. The amount of hay, mangels, crushed oats, allowed to each animal is weighed and recorded.

Dr. Vincent then presents his own report of the result of his experiments on the milk, made at the hospital. He examines this twice a week for bacteria.

The milk produced under ideal conditions has been kept for seven days in a cool room without curdling, and in a warm room 70 degs. Fahr. it has been kept forty-two hours without curdling.

The lecturer said that it was possible to form an opinion as to the character of milk produced under ordinary conditions from the size of the curd, and as to whether it fell to the bottom or rose to the top, and as to how long it took to curdle, but he intimated that he would have more to say on that subject at a later date.

Infants' Need of Water.

Dr. O. N. Hoyt, writing in *The Medical Council*, says:—

The following little experience may be of interest to your readers. It was an eye-opener to me. A few years ago I was called to see a six-months'-old babe—the first in a Scandinavian family. It had fever, had slept little for the last couple of days, and was restless. The mouth of the little one was kept moving, and there was a queer expression on the face.

I felt anxious about the child, but prescribed the best I could and went home. Talking about the condition with Mrs. Hoyt, who is a practical nurse, I suggested that she go and see the child, and see if she could conclude what the trouble was, and what was best to do.

She went, and, observing the symptoms for a little time, said: "Bring me a glass of water and a teaspoon, I believe this child wants water." It was brought, and the babe drank eagerly all it was thought proper to give it. This babe was dying of thirst, the mother fearing to give it water, thinking it might hurt it.

The child was practically well the next day, and was not limited in its needed drinks of water afterwards.

The Examination of the Central Midwives Board.

The next examination of the Central Midwives' Board will be held on April 25th at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, W.C. The Oral examination will follow a few days later.

Miss T. M. Menzies, Queen's Nurse, gives in the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine* an interesting account of District Nursing in Fair Isle, a remote island between Orkney and Shetland. The most important is the maternity work. There is no doctor near the Island so the nurse has to do her best. She can, however, telegraph to Kirkwall or Orkney for advice.

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