

## Clean Milk.

### PROGRESS OF THE CAMPAIGN.

If the circulation of the leaflets on clean milk, published by the National League for Physical Education and Improvement, is any guarantee of the progress of the campaign which that Society has initiated, it would appear to be making good headway. Over 100,000 copies have been distributed within the last few months, mainly by officials connected with Health Authorities, although national and local Health Societies throughout the kingdom are also playing their part in circulating these leaflets, which are already recognised as standard publications on the subject. The leaflets for the householder, in particular, are also rapidly finding their way into the schools, having been supplied to many Education Authorities, for distribution among the school children when lessons in domestic hygiene are being given, and also for the instruction of the teachers themselves. It is, indeed, among the rising generation, that simple, practical instructions such as these are required—fathers and mothers seem to consider themselves beyond the need of teaching and are content to muddle along as their ancestors did.

The Secretary of the League, 4, Tavistock Square, will be glad to supply specimen copies of the leaflets on application.

### POINTS OF DANGER.

There are three stages at which the milk may be contaminated, namely, in production, in distribution, and in consumption.

*The danger from the producer* has been thus described by the medical member of the Local Government for Scotland:—

"To watch the milking of cows is to watch a process of unscientific inoculation of a pure (or almost pure) medium, with unknown quantities of unsuspected germs. . . . Whoever knows the meaning of aseptic surgery must feel his blood run cold when he watches, even in imagination, the thousand chances of germ inoculation. From cow to cow the milker goes, taking with her (or him) the stale epithelium of the last cow, the particles of dirt caught from the floor, the hairs, the dust, and the germs that adhere to them. . . . Everywhere, throughout the whole process of milking, the perishable, superbly nutrient liquid receives its repeated sowings of germinal and non-germinal dirt. In an hour or two its population of triumphant lives is a thing imagination boggles at. And this in good dairies! What must it be where cows are never groomed, where hands are only by accident at all washed, where heads are only occasionally cleaned, where spittings (tobacco or otherwise) are not infrequent, where the milker may be a chance comer from some filthy slum—where, in a word, the various dirt of the civilised human are at every hand reinforced by the inevitable dirt of the domesticated cow? Are these exaggerations? They are not. I could name many admirable byres where these conditions are, in a greater or less degree, normal."

### THE EAST END MOTHERS' HOME.

At the Annual Meeting of the East End Mothers' Home, 394, Commercial Road, E., on Wednesday, April 5th, the following resolution was carried:—

"That the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home is engaged in excellent work and deserves wider financial support, in order that it may be able to maintain its efficiency and enlarge the sphere of its activity. That the annual report and audited accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1910, be taken as read, and are hereby adopted—also that the General Committee, Committee of Management, and Honorary Officers, be and are hereby re-elected."

### THE BIRMINGHAM MATERNITY HOSPITAL

The annual meeting of the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women, authorised the Committee of Management to take over the Maternity Hospital and Lying-in Charity, including its assets. This step was proposed by Mr. George Hookham, who presided, and seconded by Mr. J. S. Nettlefold, who said that unless they acceded to the request of the above charity its work would come to an untimely end just when the great and pressing need for it was beginning to be more generally recognised. They would have to add another £2,000 a year to their income, but they had behind them a splendid body of workers, and he was confident that so long as they kept their work up to its present standard the women of Birmingham would not leave their poorer sisters to undergo unnecessary suffering for the want of a little money. The work was complementary to that of the Women's Hospital, which was curative, while that of the Maternity Hospital was preventive. If the preventive work were discontinued the curative work would increase. Alluding to the low death-rate in operations involving abdominal section, only 1.55 per cent. (an extraordinarily good result), and the improving position of the hospital, the Chairman mentioned the criticism that the institution had had to undergo during its early years, and said: "If they had been successful bone-setters they could not have been regarded by the medical Pharisees with more jealous dislike."

### THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD EXAMINATION

The next Examination of the Central Midwives' Board will be held on April 25th at the Examination Hall, Victoria Embankment, London. The oral examination follows in a few days.

### ILLEGAL PRACTICE.

In July last, Ellen Concannon, of Earlestown, was summoned at the instance of the Lancashire County Council for practising as a Midwife although not certified under the Act.

Mrs. Concannon had been certified by the Central Midwives' Board, but had been struck off the Roll for negligence and misconduct, but notwithstanding this, she continued to practice. A fine of £2 and costs was imposed, but the defendant disappeared without paying.

On March 28th, Mrs. Concannon was sent to prison for one month in default of paying the fine and costs imposed upon her.

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