

specially adapted, not only to the needs and digestive organs of the young human animal, but designed to educate these gradually to perform their functions as it becomes increasingly stronger.

"Cow's milk, which alone can be considered as a convenient and safe substitute for breast milk, since patent foods cannot build up a sound constitution, was when it left the udder a living fluid, at the body temperature, pure and free from germs. But it has long lost its first vital properties, has gone through many changes of temperature in its heating and cooling before it reaches the baby's stomach. And in the very process of being milked, and even more in its inevitable handling afterwards, it has been exposed to germs which abound in the air and all about us. Its ingredients are designed for the needs and capacities of the digestive organs of the calf, which are very different to those of the baby."

### A Sad Case.

The Coroner for the West Riding of Yorkshire last week concluded the inquiry into the death of a patient at the Leeds Infectious Diseases Hospital, Seacroft, and her infant child, at which both the Leeds Corporation Sanitary Authority and Mrs. Frances Walker, certified midwife, of 36, Bagley Road, Leeds, and the Leeds Midwives' Association, were represented.

At the previous hearing it was deposed that the deceased went to stay with Mrs. Walker for her confinement, being well at the time. A few days afterwards she was removed to the Seacroft Fever Hospital with scarlet fever, to which her baby was subsequently removed. Both died in the institution. Four days before the patient was received by Mrs. Walker her daughter had been removed to the hospital suffering from scarlet fever. Miss Macdonald, Assistant Sanitary Inspector, deposed to having called on Mrs. Walker on December 16th, after her daughter's removal to the hospital, and informing her that she would have to be disinfected, and in the meantime must receive no more cases. The following day she again called on Mrs. Walker, and told her the disinfection would not be carried out that day, but at a later date, probably in ten days' time. Mrs. Walker said she would not think of attending cases in the interval. On December 24th she called on Mrs. Walker, and told her she was to be disinfected that day and the midwife made no mention of having received a patient. When she heard of the woman's removal to the hospital she again called on Mrs. Walker, who explained she was "in need of money for the rent."

Mr. Arthur Willey, representing Mrs. Walker, asked why she was not disinfected at once. The witness replied she did not know, that was in the hands of the heads of the department.

It was brought out that a patient who had been confined in the house five days before Mrs.

Walker's daughter had been sent to the hospital, had not contracted scarlet fever. The witness admitted that the usual course was to disinfect everyone in a house at once after a fever case had been removed.

Mr. F. Thompson, disinfectant officer, deposed that he called at Mrs. Walker's house on December 17th, 24th, and 28th, and as a result the house and clothing were disinfected.

Dr. Cameron, Medical Officer of Health for Leeds, said he was assured that the sanitary officers had confidence that Mrs. Walker would receive no more cases, and he did not call a meeting of the Sanitary Committee with the object of issuing an order preventing her from taking further cases. He considered that by the rules of the Central Midwives' Board Mrs. Walker was bound not to attend any patients, until she was disinfected. He said further that the reason why it was impossible to disinfect Mrs. Walker's house at once was because there were patients in two rooms.

The Coroner, in summing up, said that the case was an important one. Mrs. Walker had an excellent character, but such people sometimes made serious mistakes. It seemed to him the case would have been best dealt with in a firm and responsible manner by calling a meeting of the Sanitary Committee and issuing the order prohibiting Mrs. Walker from practising.

The jury found that the deceased woman died from scarlet fever as stated in the medical evidence, and that the baby's death was due to debility. They also expressed the opinion that Mrs. Walker was not guilty of culpable negligence, but they considered that she ought to be censured for disregarding the sanitary authority's instructions. They also considered that the sanitary authority deserved censure for the way in which the disinfection took place, the feeling of the jury being that it had not been carried out as expeditiously as it might have been.

### Puerperal Fever.

"G. P.," writing in the *British Medical Journal* on the subject of puerperal fever in Liverpool, says:—It is not fair to divide cases into two classes only, namely, those attended by doctor and by midwife. I can at the moment think of eight distinct classes:—

1. Simple cases attended by midwife alone.
2. Simple cases attended by midwife and doctor.
3. Bad cases attended by midwife and doctor.
4. Bad cases attended by midwife alone at first, doctor being called in when necessity arose.
5. Simple cases attended by respectable experienced unregistered woman and doctor.
6. Bad cases attended by respectable experienced unregistered woman and doctor.
7. Simple cases attended by dirty inexperienced woman and doctor.
8. Bad cases attended by dirty inexperienced woman and doctor.

Nearly the whole of my troubles in nearly thirty years' practice have been in class 7.

By bad cases I mean cases in which a doctor is required for any purpose.

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