

sure to find it and take it out. But the best change of all is that every morning now he has a beautiful bath in the dishpan, and he is beginning to know, when the shining thing is put on a chair and the towel hung over the back, that his bath is coming, and he crows with pleasure.

THE CARE OF NEWBORN INFANTS.

The following important points in regard to the care of newborn infants are epitomized in the *Nurses' Journal of the Pacific Coast* :—

When urination is delayed immediately following the birth, try a warm sitz bath for the baby and give plenty of water, not too cold, to drink.

When the baby suffers frequently from colic and is troubled with rumbling in the bowels and general restlessness, an irrigation of the colon with salt solution, using a medium-sized soft rubber catheter, will usually give relief. The solution should be injected a little at a time and continued till it returns clear.

The weaker the baby the more it becomes exceedingly important to prevent heat loss. To keep the baby thoroughly warm, to prevent chilling at any time, and to keep the supply of air pure, are all important points to be watched.

When the cord remains constantly moist a washing with alcohol, about 95 per cent., will help to improve conditions. The navel should always be regarded as a wound, requiring the most exact surgical cleanliness.

When the baby has difficulty in nursing, the application of a hot fomentation to the breast before each nursing, over the nipple, will help to lessen the trouble by bringing the milk to the surface.

A great deal can be learned as to the child's condition by carefully observing stools. The normal stool in the newborn is dark green for two or three days, gradually becoming brown. The change from brown to yellow is gradual, and by the end of the first week the stool should be a golden yellow. When a baby is not getting sufficient food the colour of the stools will remain brownish rather than yellow.

INCUBATOR BABIES.

Miss Mary Dabney Smith, R.N., in an interesting paper on the above subject, read before the Graduate Nurses' Association of Virginia, Richmond, said :—

"The most rigid rules must be observed to prevent infection; the incubators should be kept as thoroughly disinfected as possible. It is a good idea to wipe them out with a 70 per cent. alcohol solution every day, as the odour from the alcohol rapidly disappears, and is not harmful to the babies. Each infant should have its own thermometer, which should be kept in carbolic solution,

and washed before and after using. The bottles and nipples must be boiled after each feeding. It is well to keep them in a boric acid solution when not in use. The wet nurse's nipples should be thoroughly disinfected with boric acid after each feeding, as well as before feeding, especially where she nurses more than one baby, as thrush can be transmitted in this way. It is also well to remember that the sick and well babies should be separated, but unfortunately in most Baby Incubator institutions no such provision is made.

"*Clothing*.—Premature infants should be very warmly clothed, and it is well to remember if they are two months or under term to wrap them in a cotton and then put on a flannel shirt. Too much clothing in premature infants requires so much manipulation that it exhausts the infants, so have fewer garments and those warm. Gauze diapers, with a small piece of cotton in them, are the best to use as they can be burned when removed. By no means use a diaper a second time without washing. It is well to keep a cotton and gauze cap on babies that are under seven months' gestation, as their little heads are soft, and they can be handled much more safely, also the caps keep the infants warmer.

"*Bathing* is looked upon differently by different doctors. Dr. Rotch favours rubbing the infant with olive oil every 48 hours."

A MIDWIFE'S SAVINGS.

The recent death of Mrs. Jack, of Bray, Ireland, recalls a story which excited much interest about twelve months ago. Mrs. Jack, an old lady of some 80 years, who had been for over thirty years in the employment of the Rathdown Board of Guardians as midwife, had retired on pension, and lived by herself at Ardee Street, where her eccentric conduct attracted the attention of the police. They communicated with the Bray relieving officer, who was aware that Mrs. Jack, in addition to her pension, was possessed of some money. He proceeded to her house, and made enquiries as to what she had done with her money, or where she kept it. The old lady, who was in feeble health, denied that she had any money, but a search of the house showed that in gold and notes she had over £800 hidden in cups, mugs, jugs, pots, under the mattress and bedstead, and other unlikely places. A further search the next day brought to light a further sum of close upon £1,000 in equally unlikely hiding-places. The money was placed in the bank to Mrs. Jack's credit.

A USE FOR "RUMMAGE."

Sister Olive, York Road Hospital, Lambeth, S.E., would be very glad of any "rummage" before the end of August. The proceeds are to be devoted to the Hospital garden.

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