

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA.

We have received from Messrs. Newton, Chambers & Co., Ltd., an extract from the letter of a medical man, who writes:—

"Apropos of the serious epidemic of infantile diarrhœa now prevailing, I doubt if the majority of medical men, mothers and nurses realise how infectious this disease is. Cases require most careful nursing, as unless the discharges are disposed of with great caution the disease will rapidly spread to others. I always give instructions that any clothing, sheets, etc., soiled by the patient should at once be placed in a vessel containing 1 in 200 Izal. A similar solution may be used for bathing the patient and also for washing the hands of doctor and nurse, or any other person brought in contact with the case. This precaution is of essential importance for anyone who has to handle food, milk, or cooking utensils."

The writer adds that he hears on all sides of the heroic efforts now being made by municipal health visitors to cope with the present epidemic, and his letter is written in the hope that they, and others, may profit by the hint it conveys.

Messrs. Allen & Hanburys, Plough Court, Lombard Street, E.C., point out that the high death-rate of young infants each summer is well known, and it is recognised that infected milk is the chief cause. They emphasise the fact that epidemic diarrhœa may be described as a 'Bottle Baby's' disease, and a filth disease (due to micro-organisms) communicated to the baby in milk, in support of which they quote the statements of Dr. Sykes, Medical Officer of Health, St. Pancras, who says: "It may be taken that the high mortality occurs where the hand-feeding is with modified cow's milk."

In addition, the danger of infection with tuberculosis through cow's milk is well known. In the Final Report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis the Commissioners say:—

(1) "The evidence we have accumulated goes to demonstrate that a considerable amount of the tuberculosis of childhood is to be ascribed to infection with bacilli of the bovine type transmitted to children in meals consisting largely of the milk of the cow."

(2) "Of young children dying from primary abdominal tuberculosis the fatal lesions could in nearly one half of the cases be referred to the bovine bacillus, and to that type alone."

(3) "The potency of tuberculous cow's milk in the causation of the tuberculosis of infancy and childhood is clearly demonstrated."

All of which goes to prove the exceeding importance of a suitable diet for infants who are not breast fed. The "Allenbury's" Milk Foods are practically identical with healthy human milk in composition, nutritive value and digestibility, and are guaranteed absolutely free from all harmful organisms.

A LETTER FROM IRELAND.

WORK AT BALLINCOONA.

The many readers of this journal who have followed the brave efforts of the Hon. Albinia Brodrick, to provide a hospital for the people in a far-away corner of Co. Kerry, and in so doing shouldered responsibilities which few people with less courage and genuine love of humanity would care to assume, will read with interest the following letter, in which Miss Brodrick records the year's progress and difficulties, for the information of the friends of the work at Ballincoona (the House of Help).

BALLINCOONA,
CAHER DANIEL,
CO. KERRY.

Our record this year is of steady progress, and our keynote is thankfulness.

Not only are the outside walls completed, but the slating is three parts finished on the main portion of the hospital building, and the majority of the windows are glazed. The timber work of the roof proved to be a matter requiring serious consideration, owing to the wide spaces to be spanned—and in several cases openings in the internal walls needed strengthening far beyond our original expectations. Late in the day, we also decided, in view of the roominess of the attics, to form habitable rooms under the roof, in addition to the fine range of cupboards, already designed.

It was necessary to consult a building engineer upon these matters, bearing as they did vitally upon the stability of our structure. With his help, the difficulties have been overcome, and we have his assurance that all is now safe. Naturally, this has been a considerable addition to our expenses.

When the roof-timbers came under consideration, we found that the architect who worked out the specification and quantities had omitted the whole of the principals, a very large item. And it is perhaps needless to say, for building has invariably a similar result, that there have been fifty other unforeseen sources of outgoing.

We still hold our own, it is true, but it seems probable that we shall shortly be brought to a standstill through lack of funds, and must lie on our oars until we can accumulate sufficient to finish the interior fittings, and to furnish.

For the first time, our report is in the nature of a plea for more funds—much more! Into finance we will enter presently.

The work, as far as was possible, has been done by our people. The laying of the tram-line, the making of the tank for overflow water, the casting of lintels for windows, some 140 in number, and for doorways, 25, including some big spans which had to be cast in position, the twisting of the irons for reinforcements, and the quarrying have been carried out largely by our local workers, with more experienced men supervising. On the other hand, it has been necessary to employ Cork tradesmen for the masonry, carpentry,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)