

pleasure to her to see its work increasing year by year and affording relief to millions.

The Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund was founded by the late Lady Curzon as a memorial of the sympathetic interest taken by Queen Victoria in the domestic troubles of the women of India. The general object was: (1) To train up midwives of a superior class; (2) to impart a certain amount of practical knowledge to indigenous midwives. Infinite patience is necessary before noticeable progress can be made in training these backward and illiterate women, but good work is being done. The scheme has also been taken up in the native states. In Bopal, Her Highness the Begum has interested herself so much that large numbers of dais have received a thorough training, and, what is even more important, they are kept under the strict supervision of their teachers so that they may not return to their ancient methods.

#### THE ENDOWMENT OF MATERNITY.

Dr. Murray Leslie, Chairman of the Association, who read an interesting paper on "The Endowment of Maternity and its Relation to Eugenics," said that the dwindling birth-rate is nowhere more marked than amongst those classes of the community that are most thrifty, prudent, and well educated, and considered that there must be some root cause of an economic nature at work which impels the prudent married man and woman to-day to shirk the obligation and national duty of parenthood. He suggested the handicap of children in the struggle for social and commercial success. In a large number of trades and professions the existence of encumbrances practically means disqualification. "No married man or woman need apply" is facetiously understood, and in this respect some of the Government Departments are the worst offenders.

The speaker offered the direct and indirect endowment of maternity as a solution of the problem, or, as Dr. Karl Pearson states, that "The central problem of all practical eugenics is to make the well-born child a valuable economic asset."

The discussion was continued by Dr. Saleeby and Dr. Woods Hutchinson, after which Dr. David Kemp gave an interesting address on "Tuberculosis."

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Hon. Sir John McCall, M.D., Agent-General of Tasmania, presided at the afternoon session, when Dr. F. H. Sandwith spoke on the prevention of plague, and Miss Amy Hughes spoke of her recent visit to Australia and of the part of nurses as health agents.

### Our Prize Competition.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize again this week to Miss Emily Marshall, 123, New Bond Street, for her paper printed below on the following subject:—

**WHAT SPECIAL VIRTUE HAS NORMAL SALT SOLUTION THAT IT IS SO UNIVERSALLY USED FOR INTRAVENOUS INFUSION, AND SOME VARIETIES OF ENEMATA?**

Normal salt solution, or sodium chloride, is a most important adjunct to medical and surgical work. Its virtue is in its purity, its cleansing, resisting, and stimulating qualities, and it is universally considered to be the very best preparation procurable, which to a very great extent resembles the properties and composition of the human blood or *Liquor Sanguinis*. It is therefore able to supply the system when enfeebled by loss of blood, by conveying heat, oxygen, and moisture to all parts of the body by means of hypodermics or enemata. It nourishes, temporarily renovates, and vitalises the various tissues, restoring the vigour of the pulse, and enabling the heart to continue its work, when owing to loss of blood and strength the human body and organs have become generally feeble and the patient is in a state of collapse, and often in extremis.

The escape of the blood or nutritive fluid in the human body is due to injury or disease, as the fluid which is designated "the river of life" has its special set of vessels, arteries, veins, and capillaries, and the blood flow goes on unchecked until disease, injury, or a surgical operation interferes, dividing one or more of these vessels, which are the chambers of the "river of life."

The average composition of the human blood consists of a large proportion of water and common salt. So that a solution in proportion of about 80 grains of sodium chloride to one pint of water made sterile by boiling and cooled down to a temperature of about 105 degrees Fahr. injected either in some convenient vein or syphoned into the bowel at the rate of about a pint in ten minutes, has the effect of restoring vitality in cases of collapse after hæmorrhage, combatting thirst after abdominal operations, etc. It is useful in cases of uremia, gastric ulcer, hæmorrhage from bowel, perforation of bowel, recurrent vomiting in infants, etc. Small doses may be given by mouth. Large doses are emetic, and may relax the bowels. Salt injections are used to expel thread-worms.

#### QUESTION FOR THIS WEEK.

What are some of the Complications to be watched for during Pregnancy, and their Causes?

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)