

The Midwife.

INFANT CONSULTATIONS.

The National League for Physical Education and Improvement has done well, in view of the rapid increase within the last two years of Infant Consultation Centres and the more ambitious "Schools for Mothers," to form a special Department to co-ordinate their work, to promote the formation of new Centres, and generally to act as the "guide, philosopher and friend" of these useful institutions. At the well-attended inaugural meeting of the Association of Infant Consultations and Schools for Mothers (the title under which the new Department of the League is known) held at the end of last week, with Alderman Broadbent, of Huddersfield, in the chair, the constitution was settled and a strong provisional Executive Committee formed to carry on the work till the first meeting of the representative General Council is held. The Association is well supported by the medical profession, and the governing bodies are to be composed of equal numbers of medical and non-medical delegates from the various affiliated Societies, which already number 34. Several Local Authorities which have initiated work of this sort, were also represented, and the chairman specially drew attention to the happy combination of municipal and voluntary effort which already exists in certain districts and is doing much to promote the welfare of mothers and infants.

Most of the speakers laid stress on the need for some uniform method of keeping records and statistics, and the first efforts of the Association are to be directed towards attaining this desirable end. Newly-forming societies will find that the Association is ready to act as a clearing-house for information bearing on their work, saving them from the tedious and often expensive process of working out their own salvation, and enabling them to benefit by the failures and successes of the older Societies.

A leaflet giving suggestions for the formation of centres, doctors' case-papers and weight-recording charts is now ready for circulation, and the first of a series of coloured wall-charts, designed to teach simple hygienic truths, will be published within the next few days. The first will deal with the dangers arising from the use of long-tubed feeding bottles, to be followed by others depicting the evils of leaving fire-places unguarded, of the use of push-carts for very young children, etc.

The League has already published two reports containing a great deal of useful information on this subject, and may safely be applied to (at 4, Tavistock Square, W.C.) for help and advice on all matters relating to the work and progress of these institutions.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 15TH, 1911.

1. What would lead you to suspect that a woman had a contracted pelvis (a) During pregnancy; (b) During labour?
2. Describe the treatment you would adopt in the conduct of an uncomplicated breech case from the commencement of labour to the birth of the child.
3. What causes lead to inflammation of the bladder during (a) Pregnancy; (b) The puerperium; what are its symptoms?
4. What do you understand by White Leg? Under what conditions is it likely to occur?
5. Supposing a baby one week old to be suffering from soreness of the buttocks, how would you endeavour to ascertain the cause, and what treatment would you adopt?
6. A woman between 40 and 50 whose monthly periods have ceased for some months tells you that she has a red and offensive discharge. What advice would you give her, and why?

PUBLIC HEALTH AND INFANT MORTALITY.

The second lecture of a series on the "Civic Life of the City" was given recently at the Friends' meeting-house, Liverpool, by Dr. E. W. Hope, the medical officer of health, the subject of the lecture being "The Public Health." He showed, says the *Lancet*, that the rate of mortality of all great centres of population was largely contributed to by infant mortality, and any causes, therefore, which directly or indirectly lessened the amount of attention paid to infants added to that mortality. Privation, for example, which deprived the nursing mother of food, immediately affected the infant, who then readily fell a victim to adverse circumstances. The subject had been recognised as one of such vital importance that in Liverpool and other places the health committees had established special committees whose sole function was the preservation of infant life. Dr. Hope then drew attention to two important Acts of Parliament specially designed to safeguard infants—namely, the Midwives Act of 1902, and the Notification of Births Act.

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