

THE EFFECT OF THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

It is interesting to note the effect which the National Insurance Act may have on the work of midwives. At a recent meeting of the Cookstown Guardians, co. Tyrone, Mr. Donnelly moved a resolution, proposing the appointment of a midwife for the Pomeroy dispensary district. A motion to adjourn the matter for a year was carried, on the ground that the Insurance Act maternity grant would meet the exigencies of the case.

EDUCATION BY POSTER.

A short time ago we drew attention to the first of a series of posters to be issued by the National League for Physical Education and Improvement, 4, Tavistock Square, London, W. The second, price 2s., which has just been issued, is equally striking. It is designed by the Nurses' Social Union, printed in colours, and conveys a warning against leaving fire-places without a guard. A small child is shown trying to get a drink from the kettle boiling on the fire, an occurrence which nurses and midwives are well aware is a frequent cause of accidents when children are left alone, both from the injury to the throat from the boiling water, causing swelling, and consequent suffocation, necessitating tracheotomy, and the further catastrophe of the clothing of the child igniting. The poster in question shows the flannelette clothing of the child catching fire through the open bars. Everyone knows the value of pictures as a means of conveying instruction and information, as our daily papers bear witness. In schools, hospitals, dispensaries, and as illustrative of addresses at mothers' meetings, and by health lecturers, these posters should be invaluable.

THE BIRMINGHAM WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

THE MATERNITY DEPARTMENT.

It will be remembered that a short time ago it was arranged to amalgamate the Hospital for Women and the Maternity Hospital Birmingham, and the first joint meeting of the subscribers was held last week. Mr. J. S. Nettlefold explained that separate accounts would be kept for each institution but they would be under a general committee composed of twelve ladies and twelve gentlemen. The detailed management of the Maternity Hospital would be in the hands of a committee of ladies who would carry on the work as heretofore.

Mrs. Beale who moved the adoption of the report relating to the Maternity Hospital said that as one of the original members of the committee it was with the deepest regret that they turned out their nursing at the end of three years very poorly equipped. But it would have been very sad to have closed the hospital after showing what

work was done and how much it was needed in the city, and they were therefore very thankful when the Women's Hospital accepted the proposal that it should be joined to their work. The older institution would carry the younger along with the rest of its work.

The Chairman, Mr. George Hookham, said that the arrangement was one tending to economy and the city would be getting more work for the money expended.

THE PRINCESS CHRISTIAN HAMMERSMITH DAY NURSERY.

Midwives who are really interested in their work do not cease to take an interest in the babies they have cared for during the first ten days of their lives. They know that on the first few years of life their permanent good or ill health to a great extent depends. The work done by crèches must therefore be of interest to them, and the Princess Christian Day Nursery at 135, Blythe Road, Hammersmith, which claims to be non-pauperising, non-political, and non-sectarian, is an interesting experiment in this direction. The crèche is open to visitors from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the Matron, Miss May F. Carrvick, is pleased to show them over the institution.

THE MEDICAL CERTIFICATION OF MILK.

Dr. George C. Mosher, Chairman of the Medical Milk Commission of Kansas City, in an interesting address delivered before the Child Welfare Congress and published in the *Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette*, said that one of the interesting discoveries connected with the evolution of the certified milk industry is the comparative value of milk of various breeds of cows. The Holstein cow, which for 200 years has been the source of wealth in Holland, has been found the ideal producer of milk for infant feeding. Holstein cows are large and of placid disposition; the results of veterinary examinations show them much less prone to tuberculosis and other diseases than the small, delicate and nervous animals of other breeds. In addition, there is in Holstein milk a physiological constituent which Professor Carlyle calls the vital element, which he declares makes bone and muscle in the young fed on this milk far superior to that of any other breeds. This observation is corroborated by many of the authorities on infant feeding. The comparatively small size of the fat globule makes the Holstein cream much more easily digested. The venerable head of the School of Dairying in one of the great State universities, a charter member of the National Association, a breeder of one of the most popular breeds of dairy cattle, told Dr. Mosher when he had a calf of any other breed not doing well, he put it on Holstein milk, and it usually recovered its tone and vigour without other treatment. This observation had grown out of twenty-five years' experience.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)