

The cord being severed, the infant should be transferred to the warm, dry receiver, and placed where the nurse can watch it, with a hot water bottle near it.

As soon as the mother has been attended to the baby should be gently rubbed with warm olive oil, the cord should be ligatured again and dressed in the usual way, the dressing being secured with a warm, soft flannel binder. The rest of the body should be warmly wrapped in cotton wool or gamgee tissue, a good pad being placed underneath the buttocks—to absorb all evacuations—and in such a manner that it can be changed without causing much movement. The baby should, if possible, be then placed in an incubator; but, as this cannot often be procured, it may be necessary to improvise one.

This is best done by getting a large wooden box with deep sides, placing several hot water bottles in the bottom with a pillow on top of them, covered with warm flannel or a blanket, on which the baby is placed and then covered with another blanket.

A thermometer should be hung inside the box, and should never register less than 70°, and the box should never be removed from the warm room till after the baby has reached the normal weight and strength.

For the first two weeks the baby should be fed every hour day and night, very gradually increasing the length between the feeds until the sixth or seventh week, when it should be fed every two hours.

For the first few hours it should have $\frac{3j}{4}$ sterile water hourly, and then $\frac{3j}{4}$ of one part milk to five parts water, and a very little sugar of milk for the remainder of the first and the whole of the second day. During the remainder of the first week the feeds may be increased to $\frac{3ij}{4}$ and the water decreased to $\frac{1}{4}$. By the fifth week the baby ought to be having $\frac{3j}{4}$ of one part milk and three water, two-hourly. If cow's milk is not digested, whey and cream may be substituted, $\frac{1ij}{4}$ of cream to $\frac{3j}{4}$ of whey. Twice a day a feed of warm water may be given instead of the milk mixture, and if there are any symptoms of constipation, $\frac{1iiij}{4}$ of pure olive oil alternate mornings will counteract it.

If the mother has sufficient breast milk, it will not be necessary to continue artificial feeding after lactation is established, for the milk can be drawn off with a breast-pump, and given to the baby by means of a spoon. If the infant is strong enough to use a bottle, the usual attention to scrupulous cleanliness of bottles and teats must be paid, and in every case must the baby's mouth be carefully cleansed with warm boracic lotion after every feed.

If very weak, a normal saline injection—one ounce—may be ordered daily.

When the normal weight is gained, the baby may be bathed in the usual manner, and after one month may be taken out of doors for a short time each day.

Warmth and proper feeding are the two things absolutely necessary for success with a premature infant.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss L. Holme Buck, Miss A. Smith, Miss S. Kerr, and Mrs. Power.

Miss Allbutt writes:—“As a makeshift, a small clothes basket, with a pillow placed at the bottom and lined with an old blanket, will make an excellent and cosy bed for a premature baby. A couple of hot water bags, securely covered, should be filled and placed ready in the basket. . . . If the child cries at once, all the blood in the cord may be squeezed along toward the child and the cord ligatured and cut. . . . Plenty of warm sterile water may be given between feeds.”

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

What records would you keep, and what points would you observe and report upon, as a routine practice, when nursing a case, either in a hospital ward or in a private house?

THE PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION.

The Bill for State Registration in Louisiana, U.S.A., was signed by the Governor on July 10th, and is an Act to regulate the practice of nursing; to create a Nurses' Board of Examiners; to regulate the fees and emoluments thereof; to establish a class to be known as Registered Nurses, and to prohibit the use of words or letters or other means of identification by unauthorized persons as registered nurses, and to provide penalties for the violation of the provisions of this Act.

A just and simple measure such as we have been asking for in this country, and which has been before our House of Commons for ten years. No wonder Englishwomen—at least those who work and thus contribute to the wealth of the nation—feel bitterly the systematic neglect of their interests by an oligarchy of men who don't understand their needs, and don't mean to trouble themselves to do so. Every day, resentment is on the increase.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)