

the problem, and the first establishment of milk laboratories was due entirely to his efforts."

It is quite impossible in a short review to do justice to a book at once so scientific, so eminently practical, and so thorough in every detail. We are urged to remember that, in spite of the accurate knowledge now available, as to the constituents of human milk, and, consequently, the most appropriate substitute feeding, that, nevertheless, "it is as true of the infant as of the adult, that the element of the human individual demands the most complete recognition." Also that "human milk is a food of varying composition, apart, altogether, from pathological changes. Rotch's figures, showing the composition of the milk of different women, all of them successfully nursing their infants, afford an instructive example of this." Incidentally, this is one of many cogent reasons against the employment of a wet nurse, seeing that it by no means follows that, because a mother's milk suits her own child, that it will agree with the child of another woman.

By substitute feeding, Dr. Vincent means not artificial feeding by other agents, instead of human or modified milk, but by cow's milk, divided into its constituent parts, and then re-combined in proportions so closely approximating to human milk that the two on analysis are indistinguishable.

Throughout the whole procedure he insists on the most thorough cleanliness. He condemns the use of boiled, sterilized, or Pasteurised milk—not only because it is thereby deprived of a considerable proportion of its nourishment, and the child is, consequently, liable to develop rickets and other diseases of malnutrition; but because beneficent germs contained in it are actually killed, leaving the milk at the mercy of pathogenic microbes, highly dangerous to the health, if not the life of the child.

Throughout his argument—and his practice—Dr. Vincent is the apostle of cleanliness. Raw, clean milk must be used, produced by healthy and clean cows, milked by clean milkers in clean sheds into clean pails; and all the conditions of transit must be scrupulously clean also. Only so can a nutritious and wholesome milk be ensured. He tells us further that "the dietetic problem of infant feeding is a two-fold one: To provide the infant with (1) an adequate supply of the materials physiologically necessary; (2) in a form capable of being digested and absorbed. It cannot be solved when either of these two essentials is neglected."

M. B.

A BREACH OF CONTRACT.

At a meeting of the Stonehouse Guardians, last week, the Clerk reported that Nurse Byng, who had resigned, stating her mother's serious illness as the cause, had since been appointed nurse at the Helston Workhouse. He had communicated the facts to the Local Government Board, with the object of getting them to compel the nurse to fulfil her contract. The Guardians had granted

her three months' leave of absence to obtain her midwifery training, on condition that she subsequently served the Board for eighteen months; and she accepted the contract. She now said that it never entered her head she would be positively bound. Such conduct is absolutely inexcusable. The Board endorsed the Clerk's action.

A MIDWIFE BY ACCIDENT, REPLETE WITH KNOWLEDGE.

Mrs. Carrie Hall, of Beritley, appeared last week at the Doncaster (West Riding) Police Court, to answer to two charges of breaches of the Midwives Act.

Mr. R. C. Jones (for the prosecution) stated that the defendant had, contrary to the Midwives Act, taken cases without medical direction, implying that she was either certified or specially qualified; and also that she had advertised herself. (Presumably, the advertisement implied that she was a certified midwife, as nothing in the Midwives Act prevents a midwife from advertising.)

For the defence, women were called who stated that when they engaged the defendant she informed them that she was not a certified midwife and that a doctor was also required.

Mr. Blackmore, who defended, said that certainly his client was without aptitude for the appreciation of statutory laws; but she was "replete with knowledge useful to her station in life." She had taken up midwifery quite by accident. She had been called in in an emergency; and the doctor so appreciated her services, that they were sought again, and so she gained a connection.

The defendant had been fined in that court before, when she had not been represented by a solicitor. She was then told it was all right for her to practise as a nurse, provided a doctor was engaged each time. She had done her best to carry out the law; and in the one case, when she had not notified the patient that a doctor was required, the offence could not be regarded as "habitual."

The defendant stated that she had attended about thirty cases in the last four months; if she had stopped to send for the doctor in the one case referred to, mother and child might have been lost.

The Chairman pointed out that "ordinary nurses" were allowed to attend maternity cases under the direction of a doctor. There was considerable difficulty in defining the word "direction," which occurred in the Act. In his view it did not imply that a doctor must be present at the time, and it was not quite certain that there ought to be a consultation. In future there must be an understanding that where uncertified "nurses" were engaged a doctor must be engaged. He very much doubted if the onus of sending for a doctor rested on the nurse. There ought to be some arrangement with the doctor previously. He thought the one charge should be dismissed. In regard to advertising herself, the defendant had pleaded guilty to a breach of the law and would be fined 40s., including costs.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)