

thoroughly worn out with sitting up with him. Since then a woman in the same street has volunteered the information that her baby had fits till it was nine months old and had to be carried about on a pillow. She gave it a soothing teat until about that age, dipped in borax and honey, on the advice of a nurse, and she now thinks she knows what caused the fits. It seems to me that this matter deserves the attention of medical officers of health and district nurses, as well as the general body of medical men.

It would seem as if the commercial preparations of glycerine and honey are dangerously strong for infants. The dilute ones, the use of which is sanctioned by members of the medical staffs of hospitals, are constantly used without ill effect. At the same time, nurses and midwives should avoid using on their own responsibility preparations which may have such serious consequences.

DIARRHOEA IN BOTTLE-FED BABIES.

"After many experiments," says *The Medical Record*, "Dennett came to the following conclusions:—

- "1. Underfed, poorly nourished babies with diarrhoea do best on the milk and water mixture, boiled, without sugar.
- "2. Those that do not improve on these mixtures are benefited by albumin milk.
- "3. Babies that have repeated or prolonged attacks do better on albumin milk.
- "4. Older, well-nourished babies with a diarrhoea do best on a barley gruel diet for a few days.
- "5. Infectious diarrhoeas, if seen early, should have a cathartic and starvation for forty-eight hours. The milk-and-water mixture, boiled, or albumin milk should then be given.
- "6. Cathartics should be given to babies with diarrhoea with great discretion."

MATERNITY TRAINING FOR CHARGE NURSES AT THE BELFAST POOR LAW INFIRMARY.

At a recent meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians the Infirmary Committee reported that they had, as directed by the Board, reconsidered the question of affording maternity training to charge nurses, and also considered the report of Dr. M'Liesh, visiting medical officer, relative to this subject, in which he suggested that charge nurses who had not obtained maternity training should be sent over to fill extra vacancies as they arise. The Committee recommended: "That the Board grant a course of maternity training to all charge nurses who have not yet received such training as opportunity arises to enable this proposal to be carried out without infringing the nursing regulations under which sixteen probationer nurses are to be trained yearly. Any nurse receiving maternity training is not to be paid

salary during the period. That the Lady Superintendent and medical staff be authorised to arrange as to the method of sending nurses for the training." It was agreed to adopt the recommendation, which should certainly have the effect of increasing the applications for posts at the Infirmary.

PROSECUTION OF AN UNCERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

The first case of prosecuting an uncertified midwife in the county of Somerset occurred recently, when Mrs. Sarah Newton, of Huxham, East Pennard, was summoned at the instance of Miss C. C. du Sautoy, inspector of midwives, for and on behalf of the County Council of Somerset, acting as the local supervising authority for midwives within the area of the said county, for that she, not being a woman certified under the Midwives Act, 1902, unlawfully did habitually and for gain attend certain women in child-birth, otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner.

The defendant pleaded guilty in all except one of the cases mentioned, which Mr. A. J. Mawer (of Wells), who prosecuted, professed himself willing to have struck out.

Mr. Mawer further stated that the case was an important one; and he wished, therefore, to address a few words to the Bench. He explained that he appeared for the Somerset County Council, which was the Local Supervising Authority, to prosecute in this case, but, as the defendant had pleaded guilty, he had no desire to press the charge. It was the first case that had been brought under the Midwives Act of 1902 in the county; and the only object of the prosecution was to put an end to the indiscriminate practice of midwifery by unqualified persons.

He then traced the history of midwives from the time when they were recognised as a separate class of the community at the Court of Pharaoh, when Moses was born, to the passing of the Midwives Act, in 1902. He explained that at the passing of the Act a period of grace was provided, in the interests of women who were in actual practice, and the Section of the Act, under which they were proceeding, in this case, did not come into force till 1910. In that year the Somerset County Council issued a circular, under the hand of Dr. Savage, the County Medical Officer of Health, calling attention to the fact that the Section of the Act came into force in April of that year; and this particular handbill was sent to the defendant, and one was also left at her house by a policeman, so that she must have had cognizance of it.

The defendant said she never read the County Council paper; it was destroyed by mistake.

The Chairman of the Bench said that the defendant was liable to a penalty of £10, but the County Council did not wish to press the case. They had got to put a stop to this sort of thing going on. It appeared the defendant had a warning, and did not take any notice of it. He fined her 10s. and half the costs, £1 3s. 4d.

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