

If neither diluted cow's milk nor other preparations, even peptonized milk, suit an infant, Dr. Hutchison recommends giving a little gray powder a trial. He writes:—"I do not know how the gray powder acts in those cases, but I am satisfied that in many cases, even although there is no reason to suppose there is a congenital syphilitic taint, the administration of gray powder will in some mysterious way make all the difference to the child's digestive power. . . . Gray powder seems to fatten some children just as cod liver oil does."

If, in spite of this, digestion does not improve, the author recommends the use of whey fortified with cream or white of egg.

Diarrhoea is an important disease dealt with, and one of the new chapters treats of coeliac disease, a "by no means uncommon condition, and one which is very well defined, although it has not found its way, curiously enough, into the text books. The clinical characteristics are wasting, diarrhoea, characterised by stools that are not numerous, but large, pale, and offensive, distension of the abdomen, a curious mental attitude, and certain complications, such as weakness of the legs with absence of knee jerks, toxic or essential oedema, tetany, and sometimes convulsions."

(To be concluded.)

QUEEN ALEXANDRA AND QUEEN'S NURSES.

The following congratulatory telegram was sent to Her Majesty Queen Alexandra from Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's arrival in England.

The Council and Nurses of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses present their humble duty and beg leave to offer their congratulations on the fiftieth anniversary of your Majesty's arrival in England.

HAROLD BOULTON,

*Vice-Chairman, on behalf of Lord Goschen,
Chairman, at present abroad.*

The following is a copy of reply received:—

March 7th, 1913.

Please convey to the Council and Nurses of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses Queen Alexandra's sincere thanks for their kind congratulations on the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's arrival in England.

STREATFEILD.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

WHAT IS THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ABORTION, MISCARRIAGE, AND PREMATURE LABOUR?

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss Elizabeth Douglas, Maternity Hospital, Belfast Union, Belfast.

PRIZE PAPER.

Abortion is the expulsion of the ovum from the uterus, before the complete formation of the placenta and before the commencement of the fourth month.

Miscarriage is the expulsion of the ovum after the placenta is formed but before the foetus is viable, that is likely to live, and before the twenty-eighth week.

Premature labour is the expulsion of the ovum after the twenty-eighth week, or after the foetus is likely to live, but before the full term of forty weeks.

ABORTION.

There are two causes which tend to bring on abortion, predisposing and exciting causes. The predisposing are the most important, as they can usually be treated, and in a good many instances cured. The exciting causes are not of so much consequence, as they only tend to bring on abortion if the predisposing cause is already present.

The most prevalent cause of abortion is endometritis, which may either be a primary condition, or secondary to some other condition, such as renal disease or syphilis, or some malposition of the uterus.

The exciting cause may be a fall, a severe fit of coughing, or the woman may overstrain herself in some way. If the endometrium is unhealthy, anything of this nature may bring on abortion; but very rarely will if there is a healthy uterus.

Pyrexia, and hyperpyrexia, may bring about abortion without any predisposing cause. The sudden rise of temperature kills the embryo, and the ovum is then expelled. Syphilis of the embryo acts in the same manner, *i.e.*, the embryo dies and the ovum is expelled.

A sudden rise of temperature is more likely to kill the embryo than a gradual rise.

During the first three months the ovum is almost entirely attached to the uterus by vascular adhesion, and the detachment causes free hæmorrhage.

MISCARRIAGE.

Miscarriage is brought about by the detachment of a normally situated placenta, as in

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