

the mouth and gums of the child. This done the mouth is anointed with glycerine and borax on the nurse's finger, which often only has a perfunctory washing subsequently before the next child receives attention. In view of the fact that so serious a condition as gonorrhoeal infection may be conveyed by the nurse or midwife from child to child, the importance of thorough disinfection of the hand after handling each baby should be impressed upon pupils in training.

The whole question of infection when nursing maternity cases, in relation to both mother and child, needs more attention than it often receives. For many years class after class of midwifery and maternity pupils passed through their entire course of training without the silence being broken on this point. Yet the possibilities of infection are many. Those most emphasised are probably the infection of the child's eyes by infectious discharges in the parturient canal of the mother during labour, of a sound eye from an infected eye in the same infant, or of infection being conveyed from the eyes of an infected to those of a healthy infant.

Gonorrhoeal vaginitis may spread from child to child with alarming rapidity if wash cloths and towels are not kept quite distinct.

Infection may also be conveyed from an infected to a healthy mother, if vaginal tubes are not thoroughly disinfected, and lastly the nurse herself may be infected, generally by touching her eyes with infected hands, and blindness may result.

In view of the number of patients suffering, quite innocently it may be, from syphilis or gonorrhoea, unsuspected even by themselves, it is wise for the nurse or midwife to work in rubber gloves which can subsequently be boiled, and, in any case this should be the invariable practice when there is any suspicion that any infection is present.

THE DUNDEE WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

The annual meeting of the friends and subscribers to the Dundee Private Hospital for Women, at which Mrs. Thomas Maitland presided, was this year of special importance, as early in the new year, after seventeen years of good work, in its present quarters, this is to be extended in a new hospital now nearing completion.

The Committee in their annual report notified with great regret the resignation of the President, Mrs. R. B. Don. The Chairman said that only the pioneers of the work knew the value of Mrs. Don's services. It was downright goodness of heart and life that had made her the valuable friend that she had been, and always would be, to the institution.

Referring to the death of Miss Walker, the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Maitland said they would miss her guidance and untiring devotion in many directions, and the best monument they could raise to her memory was to endeavour to carry

out the schemes she would have gladly carried out herself had she been spared.

On the motion of Professor D'Arcy Thompson, C.B., it was agreed to change the name of the society from the Dundee Private Hospital for Women to the Dundee Women's Hospital and Nursing Home.

Mrs. Maitland was invited to accept the office of President, and in thanking the meeting for the honour they wished to confer upon her asked for time for consideration as to whether she could devote sufficient time to the discharge of the duties

FEEDING AND CARE OF INFANTS.

A second Post-Graduate Course on the Feeding and Care of Infants will be held from January 12th to January 22nd, 1914, under the auspices of the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and for the Welfare of Infancy. A strong Advisory Committee has already been formed. This Course will be on the same lines as those which proved so successful in the first, but there will, in addition, be an evening lecture each day. A full syllabus and further particulars will be obtainable shortly from the Secretary of the Association at 4, Tavistock Square, W.C.

PRACTICAL POINTS.

INFANTS NEED WATER.

Many infants who are thought to be insufficiently nourished do not (says the *Journal of the American Medical Association*) need food, but water. If on account of difficulty of nursing on the part of the mother or the child there is real need of food, breast milk obtained from another mother is the best. Cow's milk should not be given until the middle of the second week; with sufficient fluid a child will not suffer before that time. The slight fever observed so often in the new-born and frequently called inanition fever generally disappears spontaneously if water is given frequently.

AIR IN REDUCTION OF HERNIA IN INFANTS.

The *American Journal of Nursing* reports that a surgeon in attempting the reduction of an inguinal hernia in an infant three months old was unable to succeed because the incessant screaming of the child caused the abdominal wall to stiffen unyieldingly. Blowing sharply into the child's face caused the screams to cease and in consequence the abdominal wall relaxed, allowing the hernia to be returned.

FETAL MEMBRANES FOR SKIN GRAFTING.

The same journal comments on the new procedure for skin grafting, the use of the amniotic layer of the fetal membranes. If the membrane is to be used immediately, it is washed free of blood and vaginal secretions with normal saline solution, and bottled in that solution until needed. If it is to be kept on hand for several weeks it is dried with sterile gauze after washing and stored in a preservative mixture. The glistening, inner surface of the amnion is applied to the wound.

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