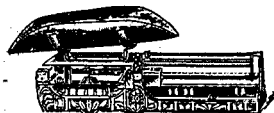


arranged, so that it is calculated to meet a need as a handbook for pupil midwives and maternity nurses. Both midwives and maternity nurses can study the book and absorb its teaching with profit.

Especially to be commended to attention are the chapters on the relation of the foetus to the uterus (in which the method of making external examinations is explained), the management of normal labour, and artificial feeding. Part VI contains some useful information on the subject of house sanitation, asepsis and antisepsis, and Appendix A deals with cancer of the uterus, and Appendix D with venereal disease, in which the three forms in which this disease may present itself are described, its infectious nature emphasised, and the need for the observation of the greatest precautions on the part of the midwife insisted on. Text books for midwives, as well as the verbal lectures they receive, have too often ignored this subject, and we welcome the teaching given in this book. It is published by Cassell & Co., Ltd., La Belle Sauvage, E.C.

THE "GREVILLITE" WEIGHING MACHINE FOR INFANTS.

We have pleasure in drawing attention to a new weighing machine for infants (The Grevillite) which will be shown by the Medical Supply Association, 167-173, Gray's Inn Road, W.C., at



the Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition at the Royal Horticultural Hall, S.W., next week. It is of white enamel, washable, and plainly marked for easy and exact reading and will give the exact weight from a drachm to 30 lbs. The cost is 25s. and it should certainly be inspected by the authorities of maternity hospitals, and infant consultations.

THE EFFECTS OF THE INSURANCE ACT.

The Jessop Hospital, Sheffield, like many others has felt the effect of the National Insurance Act, and the annual report states that the effects were most noticeable in the maternity, and maternity out-patients departments, in both of which there had been a considerable falling off in the number of patients treated. "It is most important," says the report, "if future midwives are to receive proper hospital experience and training, that there should be a sufficient number of cases passing through their hands, to enable them to qualify for the certificate of the Central Midwives Board. The income and expenditure accounts show that the number of pupil midwives has been considerably reduced during the year."

The Newcastle-on-Tyne Maternity Hospital also reports a decrease in the number of patients from the same cause.

NO LANGUAGE BUT A CRY.

It takes a baby lover, with imagination, to understand the needs of infants, and often those needs are sorely neglected, not so much from lack of affection, for of affection, of an uninformed kind, there is plenty; but the discomfort and ill-health extending far beyond babyhood, caused by ill-considered clothing and feeding has added much to the sum of human misery, and misery in a class of the community which should, before all others receive tender consideration, the class which is wholly dependent upon its elders and has "no language but a cry."

Medical science is slowly—very slowly—teaching us something of the dieting of infants and young children. Now we know that cow's milk can be divided into its constituent parts and recombined in such proportions as to defy differentiation, on analysis, from human milk, and that doctors who have studied the question can prescribe a "milk mixture" suited to the digestion of almost any baby.

What has science to say about the clothing of infants? Very little. Partly because clothes are essentially woman's province, and few women have studied the question from the scientific standpoint.

Still there is that pitiful cry, the baby's sole method of indicating discomfort as well as many other things. The uninformed, perhaps the average mother, picks him up, rocks him in her arms, pats him on the back and says, "there then." If that is insufficient she rings the nursery bell and summons nurse. And all the time, may be, baby is trying hard to let her know that the clothing selected for him is quite unsuitable, that the square he is wearing is sodden and irritating, that closely woven linen, and bath towelling are entirely unsuited for his wear, and that if the grown-ups would only turn their attention seriously to the elementary requirements of babyhood he would be a much happier and more contented little person.

HARRINGTONS' HYGIENIC SPECIALTIES.

We commend to the notice of hospital authorities, maternity nurses, and mothers the Hygienic Specialties supplied by Harringtons', 8, Paternoster Row, London, E.C. Their hygienic squares for infants will be found delightfully soft as well as most absorbent, and for this reason they never strike cold. They are very easily washed and quickly dried, and washing only seems to increase their softness. The cost is 9s. per dozen, and we do not think that any one who has once used them will willingly revert to the ordinary type. A binder, soft and elastic is also supplied, which never "felts" like the ordinary flannel binder. It would, however, be an improvement if the width were greater. Little shirts (price 1s. 3d.), soft and porous, must be grateful to the tender skin of an infant, instead of irritating wool, and an absorbent cot pad, made of the same material as the squares (price 1s. 6d.) will be welcome in every nursery.

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