

that covered the cots; they were so charming that there was some fear lest the infants themselves should be overlooked, but it was only a momentary obsession.

Lying out in cradles on the roof garden were pathetic motherless twins. The Home was in no sense responsible for their loss, as they were received from outside out of sheer loving kindness, owing to their pitiable condition. "Ann" and "Tom," however, are now flourishing. May they always be as lovingly tended.

The Hospital is free and does not appropriate any portion of the Insurance benefit. The addition of a new scullery is in course of progress, the white and green tiling being quite ideal for the purpose.

A most delightful tea-party, by the kindness of the Matron was given to the visitors in the pretty little garden, and brought a most pleasant visit to a close.

Those who visited Queen Charlotte's Hospital found much to interest them, especially the bed for the Labour Room designed by the Matron, Miss Blomfield. It has the ordinary framework of a hospital bed, japanned black, but instead of the wire-woven mattress is a firm zinc foundation which can easily be raised when it is desired to lower the head of a patient suffering from shock. It is hoped that the same mechanism may be applied to the ordinary wire-woven mattresses for use in the wards also. The head of the bedstead can be raised with equal facility.

The tent used as an incubator for delicate babies was recently described in these columns.

The preliminary school with the life-sized dummy which can be washed in bed, the baby dolls for bathing, and much else of interest was much admired.

In the evening the members of the class had the advantage of seeing Dr. Fairbairn's interesting lantern slides.

POUND DAY.

Thursday, May 28th, is to be "Pound Day" at the General Lying-in Hospital, York Road, Lambeth, S.E.; and the Ladies' Committee, of which the Marchioness of Blandford is Chairman, and the staff of the hospital, will be grateful for gifts, however small—or however large. A £ in money, a pound of coppers, or lbs. of groceries, tea and coffee, cocoa, sugar, jam, rice, flour, soap, soda, fruits and potatoes—all are welcome; and if a millionaire chose to send 1 lb. of bank notes we are quite sure it could be utilized most usefully. Gifts can be brought or sent at any time on May 28th. The name and address of the sender should be enclosed so that they may be acknowledged.

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

The Midwives (Scotland) Bill has been read a third time in the House of Lords and passed. There is a general consensus of opinion that there is great need for the passing into law of this measure.

MATERNITY AND INFANCY.

THE NURTURE OF THE RACE.

The Conference convened by the National Committee for the Prevention of Destitution held at the Kingsway Hall, W.C., on Thursday, May 14th, considered a number of problems connected with maternity and infancy, as they are affected by the National Insurance Act and other factors. Mrs. Sidney Webb presided in the absence of the Bishop of Birmingham, President of the Committee, and gave a message from the Bishop emphasising the importance of the large proposals incorporated in the Budget.

Dr. C. W. Saleeby, who spoke on "The Nurture of the Race," said that the condition of an infant at birth was usually assumed to rest on heredity alone, but alcohol, racial poison, and other causes might have affected it also.

One-third to one-half of the population of institutions for the blind were said to have been "born blind," but they were not born blind at all. They were born seeing, and were blinded by racial poison against which we had failed to protect the infant's eyes. Much of the money spent on blind institutions and Braille literature might be saved by the application of a weak solution of silver nitrate to the baby's eyes at birth.

Hereditary disease such as hæmophilia and colour blindness did exist, but that was a different matter.

The question of the reduction of infant mortality applied mainly to the second half of the year of infancy, largely because the first half was to some extent guarded. But if the mortality in the first half was to be reduced we must go back to pre-natal conditions, and the care of the expectant mother.

THE NATIONAL CARE OF MATERNITY.

Miss Margaret Bondfield, who read a paper on the above subject, said that there were literally thousands of people whose annual income was far below £160 per annum, where neither husband nor wife were insured, for whom better provision was necessary.

There should be a linking up between the State, the municipality, and the home. She advocated the creation of a Ministry of Health, entrusted with the duties and powers of the Health Insurance Commission, and those of the public health side of the Local Government Board. There should also be a linking up between the State and municipality and the home, and all maternity and infant care should be organised under one authority.

The need for better care of children between the ages of one and five was urged by Mrs. Leslie Mackenzie, and supported by Mrs. Cobden Sanderson, and resolutions were adopted calling upon the Government to extend the maternity benefit, to establish more hospitals for mothers, and adequate service of midwives, nurses and health visitors, and inspection by trained women.

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