

The Midwife.

INFANT CARE FOR NURSES AND MIDWIVES.

The special course of Lectures on Infant Care, arranged by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, to be held at 1, Wimpole Street, W., opens on October 1st, at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.; and the following syllabus shows the wide extent of their usefulness:—

SYLLABUS OF LECTURES.

October 5th.—“The Development of the Fœtus. Normal and Abnormal.” By Arthur Keith, Esq., M.D. (Aberdeen), F.R.C.S., Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons. (Please note that this lecture, and this one only, will be given in the Theatre of the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., instead of at the Royal Society of Medicine.)

October 12th.—“Threatened Abortion: The Midwife's Responsibilities and Duties.” By Amand Routh, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., Consulting Obstetric Physician, Charing Cross Hospital.

October 19th.—“Venereal Disease in Relation to Still-Birth and Infant Mortality.” By Eardley Holland, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P., Physician, City of London Lying-in Hospital.

October 26th.—“Ante-Natal Hygiene.” By Mrs. Florence Willey, M.D., Assistant Physician, Diseases of Women, Royal Free Hospital.

November 2nd.—“The Care of the New-Born Child.” By Eric Pritchard, Esq., M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P., Physician, Queen's Hospital for Children.

November 9th.—“Problems in Breast-Feeding.” By David Forsyth, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician, Evelina Hospital for Children.

November 16th.—“Problems in Artificial Feeding.” By Frederick Langmead, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.P., Assistant Physician, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

November 23rd.—“Nutritional Disorders in Infants and Young Children.” By H. C. Cameron, Esq., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., Dean of the Medical School, Guy's Hospital.

November 30th.—“Infectious Diseases.” By John Rolleston, Esq., M.A., M.D., Medical Superintendent, Fever Hospital, Tooting.

December 7th.—“Milk and Artificial Foods.” By W. G. Savage, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S., County Medical Officer of Health, Somersetshire.

December 14th.—“The Prevention of Ear Disease in Children under School Age.” By Macleod Yearsley, Esq., F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon, Royal Ear Hospital.

December 21st.—“The Prevention of Eye Disease in Children under School Age.” By E. Treacher Collins, Esq., F.R.C.S., Surgeon, Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital.

INFANT HEALTH.*

A useful little manual on “Infant Health” is that by Miss J. (Shawnet) Cameron MacMillan, a certified midwife and an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, Inspector of Midwives, and Health Visitor at Oxford. It is intended as a manual for district visitors, nurses, and mothers, and the author states that the material was got together originally for the purpose of giving a course of instruction to Voluntary Health Visitors, and the lectures have been delivered both in Aberdeen, under the control and supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, and in Oxford, with the approval of the M.O.H. and under the auspices of the Oxford Health Committee.

Sir William Osler, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, who contributes a Foreword, characterises the manual as full of sound knowledge and common sense, and says that it is not easy to give just the needed amount of information on health subjects, but Miss MacMillan has found the happy mean between a technical treatise and a popular handbook, and adds that she has done splendid work in Oxford.

In her introduction Miss MacMillan writes that “the ignorant and unsympathetic tell us that there is a great deal of unnecessary fuss made to-day about mothers and their babies. We are asked how our mothers and grandmothers managed and at the same time we are told that child-bearing is a natural function. The answer to the first is that the conditions of life generally have changed very rapidly, and we find ourselves faced by a new set of circumstances. To the second we would reply that we hardly ever find perfectly healthy parents combined with ideal circumstances, and though child-bearing is a natural function, it is always attended with some risk.”

The first chapter is concerned with details of elementary anatomy with which midwives and nurses should already be conversant, the value of which is increased by numerous excellent illustrations. Next we have a chapter dealing with the mother's management of her health during the ante-natal period, her preparation for confinement, and rest after confinement.

Of the mother's meals, so important if her health is to be maintained, we read: “It is not easy for the mother to get her meals in comfort. She has to look after everybody else, and she gets her food in haphazard fashion, or not at all. By taking some extra trouble, things might be improved. The mother might try to get her meal

* Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton, Oxford Press Warehouse, Falcon Square, London, E.C. 2s. net.

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