

The Midwife.

MOTHCRAFT AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Exhibition of Mothercraft and Child Welfare at the "Passmore Edwards" Institute, Tavistock Place, W.C., was opened on July 3rd, by Muriel, Viscountess Helmsley. A most interesting collection of exhibits are on view.

I.—Models of two rooms, one arranged by a dirty, careless mother, expecting confinement, and another with similar furniture and circumstances arranged by a clean careful mother. The contrast was eloquent and instructive.

II.—An artificial feeding exhibit, with feeding bottles—approved and otherwise.

III.—A Baby Care Exhibit, which showed in particular a screen designed for containing necessary articles for use in washing and dressing a baby.

IV.—Model clothes.

V.—Model of Day Nursery.

VI.—A Dental Exhibit. Who runs may read.

VII.—Housewifery and Cooking. This exhibit not only demonstrated inexpensive and suitable meals for babies, but also displayed food unsuitable for the same, e.g., bloaters, pickles, faggots, and like delicacies.

VIII.—Fly Exhibit. This exhibit brought home, in simple demonstration, the disgusting blue-bottle and its smaller kindred in relation to food. Simple effective fly traps were also shown.

IX.—The literature stall was contributed to by all Societies dealing with the care of women and children, and is a storehouse of information on these subjects. The leaflets are distributed free, and should be acquired by nurses interested in these subjects. A comprehensive leaflet issued by the N.S.P.C.C. entitled, "How to Bring up a Baby," contains all that a mother ought to know and believe excepting only that the forbidding of the deadly comforter is omitted.

All must agree with its axiom: "The first care of a mother is her baby. All the rest of her cares are second to this."

The Exhibition remains open till July 10th, and lectures are delivered every afternoon, by medical women and men, dental surgeons, and social workers.

On Wednesday, Dr. Louis Sambon lectured at 4.30 on the Protection of Children Against Insect-borne Diseases. This was a chance too good to be missed by any nurses and midwives who could avail themselves of it.

Admission is free both to the Exhibition and Lectures.

NATIONAL MOTHCRAFT COMPETITION.

The National Mothercraft Competition, in connection with the Exhibition of Mothercraft, was held on July 3rd at the L.C.C. Infant Schools, Cosway Street, Edgware Road. The Competition was for the Challenge Shield which was carried off

by the School of the Goldburn Ward, Kensington, which obtained 39 marks. The second prize was awarded to the School of St. Peter's Branch, Holborn, 38 marks; and the third to St. Marylebone (Mondays, Consultation) 29 marks.

There were fourteen Classes in which competitors could enter subject to the Rules. Eighty-five mothers, and over sixty infants competed.

The Laundry Class required a set of baby clothes to be washed and ironed. The second prize was awarded to an out-of-date robe, and a much discoloured flannel, belonging to the mother of ten children, the clothes having served each in turn. She certainly deserved her award.

The Cookery Class regulation was that the dinner should provide for four persons—father, mother and two children—at a cost of rs. 3d. Most surprising were the results obtained from such a modest sum, running in some cases into three courses.

Appetising stews, stuffed Yorkshire pudding, deliciously cooked fish, floury potatoes, fried potatoes, meat puddings, stewed fruit junket, even dainty dishes of toast with cheese.

Service was taken into consideration, so that not only well-cooked food, but appetising appearance was the order of the day. The husbands of these mothers are to be congratulated.

The most important class of all was that of "The Mother and Child showing evidence of having profited most by the instruction given at her school." The prize for this class was carried off by a mother in the South Marylebone School.

Six simple questions in home nursing formed another competition, on such subjects as ventilation, disinfection, bedsores, &c.

The letters on Mothercraft revealed a surprising response to the instruction given. The subjects were: (a) How to secure a restful night for a nervous child; (b) How to teach obedience; (c) What clothes should a baby of three months wear. The beaming winner of the first prize could hardly believe she was the possessor of a whole sovereign.

It was a goodly and inspiring sight to see these mothers of all ages, and their little ones. How happy the mothers were! It was such a pleasing feature to hear the generous applause accorded to the prize-winners by the less fortunate. How charming the babies! Fancy over sixty babies without comforters, except—low be it spoken—*one!*

The prizes were distributed by Lady Baring, assisted by Dr. Eric Pritchard.

An excellent tea was provided for the mothers and visitors.

The organisers and workers of these centres cannot be too highly praised for their high and noble work, the results of which are self-evident. Would there were such centres in every district, both in towns and country villages. True war work this.

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