

one of the chief aims. "There never was a time in the history of this country when the duties which the maternity hospitals perform towards mothers and children were more necessary than at the present moment."

Maternity hospitals train those, whether doctors or nurses, who are to go forth to all parts of the world. It is, therefore, necessary that such institutions should be supported in such a manner as to enable them to carry on successfully their teaching activities, and to maintain the supply of qualified persons. In the last ten years the cases dealt with by the Glasgow Hospital number 41,577. In that period no fewer than 1,156 students and 1,222 nurses have received their training within its walls. Evidences of good work can be given by all the maternity hospitals of Scotland. They are truly the handmaidens of the State.

#### MATERNITY BENEFIT.

The question of payment for hospital treatment of maternity cases by Approved Societies under the National Insurance Act has been made the subject of a definite agreement between such societies and the Edinburgh Royal Maternity and Simpson Memorial Hospital, under which it is provided that (1) In the case of every member of the Society to whom, or to whose wife or widow the Hospital has given its services at her confinement (whether by treatment in the Hospital or by treatment outside the Hospital, or by both), by or under the supervision of a duly qualified medical practitioner, or by a duly certified midwife, as the latter phrase has been defined for Scotland, the Society shall pay to the Hospital, out of the said Maternity Benefit (so far as the same is available for the purposes of this agreement), payable in respect of such case, the sum of fifteen shillings for an operative case; of ten shillings for an ordinary intern case; and of five shillings for an ordinary extern case; or such other less sum as shall represent fifty per cent. of the Maternity Benefit receivable by the insured person.

(2) In every such case the hospital shall furnish to the insured person a Certificate of Confinement signed by the medical practitioner by whom or under whose supervision the confinement has been carried through, or by the midwife, as defined for Scotland, who has been in attendance, or by the matron or other authorized officer of the Hospital.

(3) On the production of such certificate by or on behalf of the insured person, the Society shall deduct and retain from the benefit the sum due to the Hospital in respect of such case, and shall pay the same to the Hospital, not later than the calendar month next ensuing.

(4) Nothing in this Agreement shall compel any woman to accept treatment by the Hospital.

(5) In all cases under this agreement the Hospital shall be bound to continue treatment as long as may be reasonably necessary, according to the circumstances of each particular case.

#### SOME PROBLEMS IN ARTIFICIAL FEEDING.

The lecturer at the special course of lectures at the Royal Society of Medicine on Tuesday was Dr. Frederick Langmead, Assistant Physician to Great Ormond Street Hospital. His subject was "Some Problems in Artificial Feeding."

Cases, he said, were rare of infants who could not take milk in any form. The difficulty lay in the milk itself and the problems of a satisfactory milk supply were numerous and grave.

The manner in which the cows were housed and milked, the care or want of care bestowed on it in ordinary houses and dairies, the frequent and almost general use of preservatives, the jolting of it in the transit, were all factors in making the use of it a source of danger to young infants. Then, again, there was the danger of the tubercle bacillus still to be found in five per cent. of milk samples.

There was, Dr. Langmead said, a wide difference of opinion as to the best method of dealing with cows' milk in order to render it suitable for infants. He himself was of opinion that the best method was to scald milk, that is, bring it just to the boil; or to place a jug of milk on a cloth in a saucepan of boiling water and let the water boil for twenty minutes. The tendency to scurvy which boiled milk produced should be counteracted with fruit juice.

The lecturer said that his own view of dealing with milk for infants, provided they were healthy, was to use a whole milk, treated with sodium citrate, as this threw out the calcium which is in excess in cows' milk.

Gr. 1 sodium citrate to milk (1 ounce) lessened the curd.

Grs. 2 sodium citrate to milk (1 ounce) closely analagous to human milk.

Grs. 5 sodium citrate to milk (1 ounce) curds altogether prevented.

He would not venture to put forth this view in any but an advanced lecture, as he understood this to be. Citrated milk could be used whole or diluted, but in any case it must be used tentatively.

The addition of cream to milk had its objections, as it nearly always contained preservative. If whole citrated milk were used the addition of cream was unnecessary.

Under abnormal conditions, where pure milk was not obtainable, it was necessary to use condensed milk or some form of dessicated milk.

Dr. Langmead impressed upon his audience that it was a great responsibility to take an infant off the breast unless absolutely necessary; and the practice of trying one food after another, merely because it was recommended, was quite indefensible, considering the complexities which underlie this difficult problem.

The Cuban Parliament has voted an allocation of 400,000 pesos for the construction of six maternity hospitals, one in each of the provinces of the Republic.

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