

or his habits of living, it becomes an actual social crime when the patient is a little child who can in no way change its environment.

It has been observed that babies in an asylum never laugh, or even cry, except when in severe pain. Every child should be stimulated to exercise and made to laugh. We realise that when a mother is separated from her child she undergoes great mental anguish and it is quite reasonable to suppose that the child also suffers when separated from its mother. Let each nurse remember this fact and do all she can to fill the mother's place. Let every nurse consider the social background of her patients and be a real force in all that tends to brighten the life of every child. Pull your oar joyfully in that "teamwork of nurse, educator and social worker" whose object is "the care of the people in trouble." Surely the homeless child left in an institution without the mother's care is in trouble. Make that home in the meanwhile the "House of Love" for that child.

MATERNAL MORTALITY IN CONNECTION WITH CHILDBIRTH.*

In a most interesting supplement to his report for 1914-1915, Dr. Arthur Newsholme, Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, discusses the question of Maternity Mortality in connection with Childbirth, and gives a vast amount of information on the subject. The report is intended to draw attention to the unnecessary mortality from child-bearing, to stimulate further local enquiry on the subject, and to encourage measures which will make the occurrence of illness and disability due to child-bearing a much rarer event than at present.

Dr. Newsholme in his introduction points out that the war has increased the importance of work directed to secure the welfare of mothers and their infants, and that the continuance, under war conditions, of the Imperial Grants for maternity and child welfare work decided upon before the war, indicates further the importance attached to this work, which has been recognized by other combatant nations. The following French Announcement (*Revue d'Hygiène*) illustrates this:—

OFFICE CENTRAL D'ASSISTANCE MATER- NELLE ET INFANTILE.

DANS LE GOUVERNEMENT MILITAIRE DE PARIS.

Pours les Mères et Enfants du premier âge.
Parisiens,

Les Pères sont à la Frontière.

Défendons les Mères et les petits Enfants ;

A leur Aide—et Vite—

L'Office Central, fondé sous le haut patronage de Mme. Raymond Poincaré et la présidence d'honneur de Mme. la générale Michel, accepte

* Supplement to Report of Medical Officer of Health, L.G.B., 1914-1915. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.

avec reconnaissance tous les concours, tous les dévouements et tous les dons.

Sauvons nos Bébés.

Les dons de toute nature sont reçus au Siège social, 64 bis, rue du Rocher, de 9 heures à 11 heures et de 2 heures à 5 heures.

Vu : Le Préfet de la Seine,

M. DELANNEY.

Générale MICHEL.

UNQUALIFIED PRACTICE.

The *Times* reports that at Bow Street Police Court on November 22nd, Mrs. J. E. M. Walter, of Defoe Road, Tooting, was fined £40 with 10 guineas costs for attending women in childbirth otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner, she not being certified in pursuance of the Midwives Act, and for failing to give notice to the county council that she had undertaken for reward the maintenance of a child under the age of seven. It was further reported that there was no doubt that the defendant had been carrying on a baby farm, and that the infants were sent away when they were only a few days old and farmed out to a confederate, to whom the defendant paid a small sum.

THE MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

The Bill to secure the better training of midwives in Scotland, and to regulate their practice, passed its second reading in the House of Commons on November 25th.

It is provided that the Central Midwives Board for Scotland shall be composed of: (1) Three persons to be appointed by the Lord President of the Council, two of whom are to be certified midwives practising in Scotland; (2) Four persons to be appointed, one by the Association of County Councils for Scotland, one by the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland, one by the Scottish Branch of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, and one by the Society of Medical Officers of Health of Scotland; (3) Five registered medical practitioners, three appointed by medical corporations, and two by the Scottish Committee of the British Medical Association.

Provisions of interest are that the Board or the Local Supervising Authority may, if they think fit, pay a midwife who has been suspended such reasonable compensation for loss of practice as under the circumstances may seem just.

That the Board may pay all or any part of the expenses incurred by any midwife required to appear before them in her own defence.

That the Board where it decides upon the removal from the Roll of the name of any midwife may, in addition, prohibit her from attending women in childbirth in any other capacity.

That when in a case of emergency, as defined by the rules, a midwife calls in to her assistance a registered medical practitioner, a sufficient fee shall be paid to him by the Local Supervising Authority.

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