

### FOOD AND FOOD VALUES.

Dr. Eric Pritchard lectured on Food and Food Values at the Royal Society of Medicine on Monday, March 27th, in connection with the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality.

In dealing with the relation that food should have to the output of energy, he said that it should be approximated to work done, the body being unable to put out more energy than was put in.

Papers containing tables of food values—of energy requirements in different employments—the composition of milk in various animals, &c., were distributed among his hearers, and were of great assistance in aiding them to understand the complicated subject of the relative values of different foods. That human beings required and were able to digest a mixed and varied diet he accounted for by their ancestral inheritance which had in turn been carnivorous and fruitarian.

### ANTE - NATAL CONSULTATIONS AT ABERDEEN MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The good work done by the Aberdeen Maternity Hospital is well known, and Lord Provost Taggart, who presided at the annual meeting, referred in highly appreciative terms of the work carried on by the hospital.

A development of that work was announced in the annual report, in which the board stated that they had had under consideration the question of providing means for giving free consultations to women before confinement and to mothers and guardians with infants up to one year old—a subject which has been engrossing the attention all over the country of those deeply interested in the means to be adopted for the preservation of infant life. The necessity for such may be gathered from the statement made by Professor M'Kerron, at the conference held in Aberdeen, that not less than 13,000 children under the age of one year die annually in Scotland. On this subject the Board received very full information as to the steps being taken in other cities to deal with the matter, and it has commenced an Obstetric Dispensary and Infant Consultation Scheme in connection with the Maternity Hospital for expectant mothers and mothers and guardians with infants up to one year old. A room has recently been set apart in the hospital for this purpose, under the superintendence of Professor M'Kerron.

### THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

Colonel Rev. James Smith, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the relation of the National Insurance Act and the societies under the Insurance Act to the Maternity Hospital had been receiving attention. There was great need for improvement in this direction. It was hardly right that people who obtained maternity benefit should have the option of going into their institu-

tion without paying a farthing. An important step for the preservation of infant life had been taken in the passing of the Midwives Bill for Scotland. It would have a salutary and beneficial effect.

### MIDWIVES REGISTRATION IN VICTORIA.

An Act to provide for the Registration and Better Training of Midwives, and to regulate their Practice, came into operation in the State of Victoria on December 1st, 1915. The Midwives Board consists of three members of the Public Service of Victoria appointed by the Governor in Council.

The following are some of the principal points in the Act:—

The name of midwife is not to be taken by a woman not registered. Penalty for infringement, Twenty pounds.

No man or unregistered woman to attend cases for gain except in a case of emergency. Penalty, Twenty pounds.

No woman to be registered under the Act until she has attained the age of twenty-three years.

Registration under this Act does not confer upon any woman any right or title to assume that she is authorised to grant any certificate of still birth.

The Act provides for reciprocal treatment of midwives registered elsewhere in His Majesty's Dominions provided that the standard of training and examination required in such other part of His Majesty's Dominions is, in the opinion of the Board, equivalent to the standard prescribed in the pursuance of this Act.

The Board may compensate a midwife temporarily suspended from practice, if such suspension appears necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The Penalty for disobedience of an order of Board, or for a contravention of any regulation save as otherwise expressly provided is a fine not exceeding Twenty pounds.

In a case of emergency as defined in the regulations—

(a) A midwife is required to call to her assistance a medical practitioner; and

(b) the Board is bound to pay to such medical practitioner a sufficient fee according to the prescribed scale, such fee to cover one subsequent visit, with due allowance for mileage.

The Board may recover the fee from the patient or her husband (liable under the Marriage Act, 1915, for her confinement expenses, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Board that the patient or her husband is unable by reason of poverty or ill-health to pay such fee).

The Board may from time to time publish reports and advice concerning the preservation of infant life.

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