

Trustee of Freedom, whether to resist such armed assaults as to-day's or, as we may hope, for great campaigns of peace to come."

The lectures on "Infectious Diseases" by Dr. J. D. Rolleston, on "Monstrous and Diseased Pregnancies," by Dr. Arthur Keith on "The Prevention of Ear and Throat Troubles in Infancy" by Mr. Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S., and on "Venereal Disease in relation to Dead Birth and Infant Mortality," by Dr. Eardley Holland, should all be carefully studied.

The book is published by the National League for Physical Education and Improvement, 4, Tavistock Square, W.C., price 4s. 6d. net (postage 5d. extra).

### WHAT TO DO IN EMERGENCIES.

Dr. Mildred Burgess delivered a very interesting lecture upon the above subject, in the Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, on Monday, April 10th, the last of the present course under the auspices of the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality. She classified her subject under two main headings, namely:—

1. Emergencies which come from within;
2. Emergencies which come from without, or medical emergencies and surgical emergencies.

In enumerating common illnesses which call for the attendance of the doctor, she mentioned feverishness lasting *over* 24 hours. Slight temporary feverishness, she explained, was very common, and did not necessarily indicate anything serious; long duration was sometimes of more importance than a really high temperature, which was especially common among children of the dirty poor. She instanced the case of a child brought into the ward with a temperature of 104 degs. The simple treatment of a warm bath, cleanliness, ventilation—in short, the simple hygiene of the ward, was sufficient to bring down the temperature and cure the child!

Rash and severe pain were other symptoms requiring the immediate attendance of the doctor. Dr. Burgess did not recommend the frequent use of castor oil; but in cases of diarrhoea, it was useful for the purpose of quickly clearing the bowel of poison. She explained at some length the causes and treatment of *fits*, which she said were symptoms of diseases and not a disease. The two kinds of fits are (1) Those occurring soon after birth; and (2) those due to rickets, the former kind being the most serious, and caused by some brain trouble, and lasting sometimes through life. The exciting cause in the latter kind is usually either teething, bronchitis, or indigestible food. The child should be quickly undressed, placed in a hot bath in a warm room, and cold water should be applied to the head. For any sick child, pending the arrival of the doctor, a hot bath is safe treatment; the child should then be placed in a warm blanket and put to bed.

Dr. Burgess urged the necessity of keeping the child on low liquid diet. "A child can be kept alive for two or three days *without* food, if plenty of fluid is given," she said; it is a mistake to suppose that a sick child needs much feeding.

*Epilepsy*.—There are two kinds of this more serious form of fit:—

1. The Petit Mal.
2. The Grand Mal.

To recognize symptoms and recognize them quickly is the first step in the treatment of emergency illness. In Petit Mal, there is no twitching of the body, but the white face and the staring eye indicate the mischief. The clonic stage, in which all the muscles are in a state of spasm, and the breath drawn in, followed by a state of coma, are the serious indications of Grand Mal. In both cases the child falls down. The clothing must be loosened, fresh air given, and—in the latter case—the usual care given to prevent the tongue being bitten.

The three forms of Croup were next dealt with, namely: (1) Spasmodic; (2) that which occurs with acute laryngitis; and (3) the more serious form of diphtheritic croup.

That all persons having the care of children should have some knowledge of children's complaints is self-evident. Dr. Burgess gave an example of the seriousness of ignorance in this respect. A school boy received an injury in the playground which caused unconsciousness. "We had the greatest difficulty in keeping him propped up against the wall," was explained to the doctor!

In the treatment of burns, the lecturer emphasized the greater danger of *shock*, which should be treated *before* the burn, as the treatment of the burn first might increase the shock. The treatment of cuts, bruises and other injuries, was also dealt with, and receptive minds must have stored much useful information.

Dr. Robertson, Medical Officer of Health for Birmingham, speaking at the Annual Meeting of the Birmingham Maternity Hospital, appealed to the public for more generous support. One of the hospital's most important functions, he said, was in training midwives and maternity nurses, and thus not only the poor women of Birmingham and district benefited, but also women throughout the land by being able to secure thoroughly trained attendants. He hoped that now greater attention would be given to this subject than ever before, because as one result of the war they would have between 4,000 and 5,000 fewer babies born in Birmingham this year than in a normal year.

The Association of Infant Welfare and Maternity Centres desires to make it known that the use of the name of the Association in connection with the Child Life and Welfare Exhibition, which is to be held in London in June, is unauthorised. This matter had merely been under consideration by the Association, and it was decided that no part should be taken in the Exhibition.

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