

After demonstrating the influence of the common house-fly on infant mortality and the diminution of the deaths from diarrhoea with the adoption of anti-fly methods, he said that since ignorance was the chief cause of disease it was necessary first for those who wished to enlighten ignorance to themselves acquire such knowledge as is available. If, as he hoped, the nurses of the Federation were coming into the work of infant welfare, they should themselves first receive the instruction which they would have to impart, and in this connection it had recently been wisely decided that all probationers in training should have a longer course of training, and that special attention should be given to infant care in the extended period of training. Clearly the blind could not lead the blind without danger, and therefore the would-be teachers must first be taught. The question of infant welfare was one of the most important of national problems. Indeed, it was a military problem of the future.

Mr. John Burns had said that "Health is more than wealth; physical strength and moral courage must go with organised and individual culture. For this the parents must be cleanly wed, and the children nobly bred, wisely fed, and firmly led." If the parents were cleanly wed, many of the ante-natal causes of still births and immaturity would be eliminated as well as the worst cases of inflammation of the eyes of the newly born, which endangered eyesight. The next direct work with regard to child welfare was largely in the care of the midwife, and although the Midwives Act had already effected much improvement, all would agree that there was yet scope for further improvement.

LECTURES ON INFANT CARE.

A special Course of Lectures on Infant Care for Nurses and Midwives, arranged under the auspices of the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and for the Welfare of Infancy, will be held from May 8th to June 23rd. On Mondays from 3 to 4 p.m., by kind permission of the Royal Society of Medicine at 1, Wimpole Street, W., and on Fridays from 3 to 4 p.m., by kind permission of the College of Ambulance at 3, Vere Street, W. Medical practitioners and Students may attend any or all of these Lectures.

An examination for which there will be no extra fee will be held at the close of the course, and certificates awarded. Fees for the whole Course of Lectures, 5s.; for a single lecture, 1s. Tickets which are not transferable must be purchased in advance. No tickets, whether for the whole Course or for single lectures, can be paid for at the door. Application should be made to Miss Halford, Secretary, National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 4, Tavistock Square, W.C.

The lectures at the Royal Society of Medicine will be on Monday, May 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, and June 5th and 19th, and at the College of Ambulance on Friday, May 12th, 19th, 26th and June 2nd, 16th, and 23rd.

THE LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE MIDWIVES ASSOCIATION.

The Leicester and Leicestershire Midwives Association, of which Miss E. Pell Smith is President, although a young association is able in its second Annual Report to announce steady progress in both town and county, and an increasing interest shown both by the members themselves, and by others interested in midwifery and infant welfare in its work.

In spite of difficulties arising from the war many most helpful and instructive addresses have been given, and the monthly meetings, and the discussions on these addresses have shown how fully the midwives have entered into and followed the subjects lectured on.

These subjects have covered a wide field including "Cancer in Women," by Dr. Bessie Symington; "The Aim of Midwives Work," by The Lady Mary Glyn; "The Opportunities of a Midwife," by Lady Beaumont; "Practical Points in a Midwife's Work," by Dr. Wykes; "Flies," by Miss Titley; "Child Life and the War," by Nurse Prior; "Midwifery in Ireland," by Miss Bacon, &c. The Association has also had much hospitality shown it, and the members have thus been able to enjoy very pleasant social intercourse.

Owing to her increasing duties, Miss Howe has resigned the office of Secretary and Mrs. Sneesby (née Fisher) has been appointed in her place. The Association lost by death during 1915 Mrs. Brant, a midwife of the best type, and the report records the gratitude of the association for her example. Two of the members represented it at her funeral, and a wreath was sent from the members.

In October a library was started for the use of the members. The books are kept at the Maternity Hospital and may be taken out at any time and kept for a month, or longer if no one else wants them. Donations have been received from Dr. Bond and Dr. Lilley, and gifts of books from the Central Institute, Mrs. Hedley Neale and Miss Canty, so that the Association has the nucleus of a very valuable library which, it may be hoped will be added to as it is increasingly needed.

Like most societies managed by women the Association closed its financial year with a balance in hand, £3 4s 2½d. in the general fund, and a shilling in the library fund.

We hope the Association will flourish and increase, and do much good work for the profession at large besides being a source of pleasure and inspiration to its members.

The objects of the Association are:—

1. To promote the honour and interests of the Midwives Profession.
2. To take such steps as may be advisable to improve the education and usefulness of Midwives.
3. For mutual help and encouragement.

A three-fold cord is not quickly broken.

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