

nurse. She can carry the work directly into the home. She should take the stand that no one need expect to retain good health with a pathological oral cavity.

A clean mouth is necessary for good health. Unhygienic conditions in the mouth may go along apparently unnoticed for years, and then suddenly show their result in some severe disorder.

A seed of some poisonous weed lies dormant, then sprouts, grows to blossoms, then to seeds, which in turn scatter far and wide and each takes root.

Oral neglect is like the poisonous weed. It would have been easy to destroy the first seed, but impossible to root out the great crop of weeds.

To you nurses I leave this message. Each day drop some little word of advice or teaching as to the care of the mouth.

Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do.

Do not wait to shed your light afar.
To the many duties ever near you now be true,
Clean up the corners where you are.

ALCOHOL AND MOTHERHOOD.

At a meeting of the Society for the Study of Inebriety, held at 11, Chandos Street, W., on the 10th inst., at which Sir William Collins presided, a paper by Dr. J. W. Ballantyne, Physician to the Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, was read on the effect of alcohol in relation to ante-natal life.

Dr. Ballantyne is of opinion that alcohol falls into line with other poisons as one of the causes of ante-natal morbid effects, and is a danger to ante-natal health, and that there is no time under the sun when it is suitable or safe to court intoxication. The expectant mother should be protected from it both for her own sake and that of her offspring. All intending parents should protect the germ cells, the most precious of all earthly things, from all evil influences, as they would their own lives, and so give a great gift (none greater) to future generations.

BABY FARMER SENTENCED.

At the Central Criminal Court last week, before the Recorder, Margaret Jane Richardson pleaded guilty to the theft of a bracelet, and to obtaining money by false pretences from three people who had entrusted infants to her care. Evidence was given by the police to show that the prisoner received money for the care of infants, and in one case left the child with another woman for a few hours, and never returned, while in another instance the child disappeared, and the prisoner had persistently refused to give the mother any information about it. She was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. Any woman who, in order to make money, traffics in little children, can scarcely be dealt with too severely.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

THE RULES.

The rules of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland have, in accordance with the Scottish Act, been submitted to the Privy Council for approval. The rules having been considered by their Lordships, and the General Medical Council having made no representation with respect thereto, have now been approved for a period of five years from August 26th, 1916.

The Rules are substantially the same as those of the English Board, and rightly so as it is evident that the two Boards will have to work in close touch with one another. They are published by George Robb & Co., 16, Clyde Street, Edinburgh, price 6d., by post 7d., and it behoves all midwives working in Scotland to obtain them, and to get a clear grasp of the regulations under which they will henceforth have to work.

The Scottish Rules contain on the first page a list of the members of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland, a precedent which might well be followed by the English Board in future editions. Few midwives purchase the Midwives Roll, while if they are wise, they will possess the rules, and midwives have a right to know who constitute the Board, and by whom its members are appointed.

It will be remembered that provision is made in the Scottish Act for the inclusion of two certified midwives practising in Scotland, who are appointed by the Lord President of the Council. This is a distinct improvement on the English Act, in which no provision is made for the inclusion of one midwife, and the appointments of Miss A. H. Turnbull, Superintendent of the Deaconess Hospital, Edinburgh, and Miss I. L. Scrimgeour, Matron of the Cottage Nurses Training Home, Govan, Glasgow, have given general satisfaction. So far on neither Board is there any provision for the direct representatives of the midwives, a provision which must be included before the composition of their governing bodies can be considered satisfactory by certified midwives.

The Chairman of the Central Midwives Board for Scotland is Sir John Halliday Croom, M.D., F.R.C.P., and the Deputy Chairman Dr. James Haig Ferguson, M.D., F.R.C.P., the Secretary, Mr. David Lewis Eadie, and the Office, 50, George Square, Edinburgh.

We note that under the Scottish Rules provision is rightly made for defraying the expenses of the members of the Board.

A MIDWIVES ACT IN VICTORIA.

A Midwives Act is now on the Statute Book in Victoria, Australia, and it is necessary for all persons practising midwifery in the State to be registered under the Act. There is not one midwife on the Governing Body set up under the Act.

There appear to be no inspectors appointed to see that the rules and regulations are put into practice.

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