

The Midwife.

POST GRADUATE WEEK.

YORK ROAD HOSPITAL, S.E.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH.

The subject of the clinical lectures on Wednesday morning, June 28th, was the ever new and ever interesting one: "The Baby." Sister Cash and Sister Cullen conducted them. Everything concerning these interesting atoms is detailed upon the chart. The feeding, which, of course, comprises weight and other things, was fully described. There is no stereotyped rule about the intervals of feeding; some babies do very well on three-hourly feeds, while others require to be fed more frequently. If a baby is not doing well on the breast, it is put "on test," which is a simple, but efficient procedure. It is weighed before and after the meal. The test may prove that the baby is not able to take sufficient at one time, in which case it must be fed more frequently; or it may prove that the mother's milk is at fault, in which case she is given "Lactagol" and a higher standard of diet; and the baby is given cream. Sometimes it is necessary to supplement the mother's milk with the bottle. Sterilized milk and barley water are used in the proportion of one in three, in the place of Pasteurized milk which was formerly used.

PREMATURE BABIES.

The old-fashioned incubator appears to be out of favour and out of date, pretty generally. On the American continent, in up-to-date Maternity Hospitals, a specially constructed heated room is used. In York Road Hospital the same principle is followed. A clothes horse is requisitioned as the frame-work of a tent; it is draped with blankets, and an outer covering of sheets, a thermometer is hung inside, and a temperature of 70-80 is maintained. The babes wear a tiny suit of gamgee tissue with a cap of the same. They are rubbed with oil every other day. The first day they are fed on sterile water every three hours, followed later by whey, or dilute breast milk, or whey and cream. If mother's milk is not used, condensed milk, 1 in 16, is used, strength increased gradually. Peptonized milk is also used.

The "premature bottle" is used for these cases. In appearance like a test tube, with a pointed end, to receive the nipple, and an india-rubber cork.

The class was also shown a case of ophthalmia neonatorum being treated in the following way:—Boracic douche (one dram to the pint) every hour or hour and a half; boracic ointment is applied afterwards to the lids. Every two or three hours a drop or two of a 10 per cent. solution of argyrol or protargol is used.

THE BLOOD AND NERVE SUPPLY TO THE UTERUS.

Professor Arthur Keith's lecture on "The Blood and Nerve Supply to the Uterus" was much appreciated by the large number of post-graduates who assembled to listen to it on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 28th.

The lecturer began by saying that the subject was a dry one, but it was necessary that these nerves and vessels should be studied by midwives. No one present could be otherwise than fascinated by the subject, which, if it were dry, was made to blossom in an extraordinarily vivid manner by the learned lecturer. He illustrated his lecture by models which he filled in with the organs and vessels as he proceeded. He first described the course of the blood vessels and nerves in the normal condition, and then those when the uterus was at full term. The blood vessels were then enlarged six times. He explained and illustrated by the models the causes of pain in the back and down the leg, of which pregnant women so frequently complain and generally attribute to pressure.

At the conclusion Dr. Fairbairn, who presided, said that Professor Keith as a rule addressed learned audiences, who sometimes had a difficulty in following him. He congratulated him on the extreme simplicity with which he had presented the salient features of his subject, which was an extremely complicated one. The present day midwife differed from her predecessors. The old race had been thirsty; the new was also thirsty—but it was for knowledge. Later the class attended Dr. Fairbairn's lecture to pupil midwives and clinic on "Abnormal Cases," when he dealt with delayed and obstructed labour.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29TH.

On Thursday, June 29th, the post-graduates met at the hospital for the demonstration in the milk kitchen, where the infants' feeds were prepared with scientific methods and every precaution against contamination of the milk. Each bottle was made up according to prescription. The demonstration was given by Sister Cullen.

In the afternoon visits were paid to the Marylebone Infants' Clinic; the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square; and the Royal Sanitary Institute. At the Sanitary Institute they had a brief demonstration of drains, the various methods of purifying water, the value of certain foodstuffs, &c. They were especially interested in the beautiful slides showing micro-organisms and ideal sanitary conditions. The case showing the analysis of various milks is most dramatic and useful, and there are also some specimens of diseased tissues in animals, amongst them an udder invaded by tubercle. The midwives were urged to qualify either as sanitary inspectors or health visitors, if they wished to take better appointments.

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