

The Midwife.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK.

So great has been the demand for the tickets for the lectures for speakers that are taking place under the auspices of the National Baby Week Council that it has been found necessary to secure a large hall and the lectures are now being given at the College of Ambulance, No. 3, Vere Street, W. In addition to the speakers already announced, the following lectures have been arranged:—

Wednesday, June 20th, at 5.30.—"The Duty of the Citizen in the Promotion of Child Welfare," by Mr. Benjamin Broadbent, of Huddersfield.

Friday, June 29th.—"The Care of the Lying-in Woman, and the Role of the Midwife," by Miss Lucy Robinson.

A Speakers' Practice Class has also been arranged by the "Education as National Service" Training Centre. The Classes will consist of half-hour lectures, followed by practice, at 8 o'clock on Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 5th, 7th, 12th, 14th, 19th and 21st, at 11, Tavistock Square, W.C. Application for tickets (free of charge) should be made to Miss Elliott, 6, Holles Street, Oxford Street, W. 1, enclosing a stamped envelope.

Sunday, July 1st, is Baby Sunday. On Monday there is to be a Mansion House Meeting, with the Lord Mayor in the chair, when Lord Rhondda, the Duchess of Marlborough, and others will speak. On Tuesday, July 3rd, the National Baby Week Exhibition will be opened at the Central Hall, Westminster, the sections of which will include:—

Baby's bedroom.	Baby's food.
Baby's sleep.	Baby plays.
Baby's clothes.	Baby learns.
Where baby lives	Care of baby's mother.
Baby's ailments	Baby's advice bureau.
Healthy parentage.	Baby's shopping.

During the Exhibition there will be Conferences, arranged by Dr. Janet Lane Claypon, on subjects relating to infant welfare, and the week will close with National Mothercraft Competitions. The baby shows, pageants, and pram parades which will take place in nearly 300 provincial towns, should do much to arouse an intelligent interest in His Majesty the Baby, and to bring about the mobilisation of motherhood which Mrs. Lloyd George declares is needed.

Amongst many suggestions made for the observation of Baby Week is one that every house where there is a baby should hang out a flag.

On Friday, June 1st, by invitation of the National Baby Week Council members of the Press had an opportunity of seeing the film—

"MOTHERHOOD"

at the private theatre of the Transatlantic Film Company, 37, Oxford Street, W. Mrs. H. B. Irving who wrote the play gave a short address on the aims and objects of Baby Week, speaking

in a vivid and attractive way which will surely attract large audiences during the first week in July. No one, she said, had ever thought of a School for slum property owners. Nothing was easier than lecturing mothers, nothing more difficult than being really helpful to them. Children were an insurmountable objection in tenants to many landlords. Citizens were the only people who could really deal with the question, for after all the legislators only carried out their instructions. What was wanted was that the man in the street should realize his responsibility, and say, "This is my stunt." Then we should go ahead. The crusade was arousing opposition, and that was a good thing. You could not interfere with vested interests without doing so. In conclusion Mrs. Irving said that we could hardly pray for the fatherless children and widows "We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord" if we never lift a finger to help.

The other speaker was Judge Neil of Chicago, who claimed emphatically that when it became necessary for the State to aid a mother, in the support of children, it was not only humane but economical to pension the mother, so as to enable her to keep the home together, instead of placing the children in institutions.

The Trans-Atlantic All-British Photoplay "Motherhood," by Dorothea Irving, was then thrown on the screen, and was received with much interest and enthusiasm.

The story opens the year before the war with a typical courtship between John and Mary, railway porter and factory hand. Then comes marriage, poverty, and mean streets, and the failure of the factory hand, knowing little of housework and cookery, to provide appetising food for her husband. An evil influence appears in the person of a neighbour, Mrs. Jones, and a violent quarrel, threatens to wreck the happiness of husband and wife, when a Health Visitor from a neighbouring Maternity Centre appears, and peace is restored. Indeed, if all Health Visitors were as charming as Mrs. Irving who posed for the part, they would be irresistible. Then war breaks out, and Mary is left alone to await the woman's great adventure. Pictures of the ignorant untrained midwife and the trained nurse-midwife, are thrown on the screen. There can be no doubt as to Mary's decision, but we could wish the latter would put her cap on straight before she makes her bow to the public.

The brief "Cradle leave" granted to Jack when his boy is born is a source of much happiness to both parents. As a result of Baby Week, interest in the movement for better housing and the protection of maternity and infant life increases and when Jack returns after the war he finds his wife and children installed in a home at the same rent as the first, but with many conveniences, including a bath, and all ends well.

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