

The Midwife.

MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE.

We welcome the announcement that Lord Rhondda, President of the Local Government Board, has decided to introduce legislation to give further powers to local authorities to provide for maternity and infant welfare work. The attention now being given to ante-natal care, in conjunction with the above work, affords hope of a healthier and stronger race in the future than in the past, when a young mother, ignorant of the first principles of mothercraft, although keenly desirous to do her best for her infant, has too often gained her experience at the cost of the health and even the life of her first-born.

The form that this legislation will take is not yet made public, but it is reasonable to suppose that it will follow somewhat along the lines recommended in the Interim Report of the Department Committee on Food Prices, issued in September last.

That Committee recommended "that in the present emergency all local authorities should be urged to start a sufficient number of maternity centres, baby clinics, and child nurseries, and should be empowered to provide a certain supply of milk to children under the age of five and dinners to expectant and nursing mothers; that doctors in charge of maternity centres, crèches, baby clinics, or nursery schools should be authorized to order milk and dinners for expectant or nursing mothers, for babies that cannot be nursed by the mother, and for children under the age of five; and that the cost of milk as well as that of dinners to expectant and nursing mothers, if incurred at such institutions on the certificate of duly-qualified medical men, should be allowed as part of the expenses towards which special grants are made by the Local Government Board and the Board of Education."

ALLENBURYS' FOODS.

The decision on a reliable substitute for an infant's natural food when its mother is unable to nurse it, is one of the most momentous that can be made in regard to its future, for the baby's good or ill-health in future life, and even life itself depends upon that decision. It is most important, therefore, to obtain a substitute from a firm of high standing, whose products are absolutely reliable, and Allenburys' Foods, supplied by Allen & Hanburys, Ltd., 37, Lombard Street, London, fulfil both of these qualifications. Their Foods are supplied in three grades—milk food—No. 1, from birth to three months; milk food No. 2, from three to six months; and malted food No. 3, from six months upwards. "The Allenburys'" Malted Rusks, may be used with advantage at the end of ten months in dieting an infant.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Speaking at the National Economy Exhibition at Dulwich, Dr. R. Murray Leslie urged that the Local Government Board should spend not £40,000, as at present, but ten times that amount if necessary for the establishment and upkeep of infant welfare centres and crèches, and advocated the placing of women on all municipal health committees, so as to deal practically with the great question of infant and child welfare.

CARE OF BLIND BABIES.

The Council of the National Institute of the Blind has for some time past been considering how the blind baby can best be dealt with, and at a Conference, to be held at the Armitage Hall, 224, Great Portland Street, on Monday, February 5th, in connection with "Baby Day," Miss Walker Finlay will discuss what it is possible to do for blind children under school age. There could scarcely be a more important subject.

THE BLIND CHILD.

Her baby brother laughed last night,
The blind child asked her mother why;
It was the light that caught his eye.
Would she might laugh to see that light!

The presence of a stiffened corse
Is sad enough; but, to my mind,
The presence of a child that's blind,
In a green garden, is far worse.

She felt my cloth—for worldly place;
She felt my face—if I was good;
My face lost more than half its blood,
For fear her hand would wrongly trace.

We're in the garden, where are bees
And flowers and birds and butterflies;
One greedy fledgling runs and cries
For all the food his parent sees!

I see them all; flowers of all kind,
The sheep and cattle on the leas;
The houses up the hills, the trees—
But I am dumb, for she is blind.

From Collected Poems by William H. Davies.

CRIMINAL NEGLECT.

Louisa Alice White, Matron of the Christian Mission Maternity Home, Whipps Cross, certified midwife, was indicted, at the Central Criminal Court, for manslaughter of an infant, by alleged criminal neglect. Also for neglecting five other children. She was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

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