

The Midwife.

EXPECTANT MOTHERS TO BE REMOVED FROM RAID AREAS.

The Local Government Board has informed the Metropolitan Boroughs Standing Joint Committee that it has agreed to a proposal of the Bethnal Green Borough Council to send expectant mothers to friends or relatives out of the raid area at the cost of public funds. It was intimated, however, that this expenditure must be borne by the borough council as the maternity grant of the Local Government Board is not available for such a purpose.

A POWERFUL GALACTOGOGUE.

Dr. Edward Cornell, in the *New York Medical Journal*, draws attention thus to a new and powerful galactagogue:—"In treating a case of mastitis by means of auto-therapy, that is by injecting subcutaneously the filtrate of the discharge from the nipple, it was noticed, in addition to curing the mastitis quickly, that the quantity of milk rapidly increased until it became more than the patient, a multipara, had ever previously given. This treatment is particularly applicable in cases where the delivery has been recent, and in which the supply of milk is quickly diminished. The technique consists of injecting one c. cm. of the mother's own milk into her subcutaneous tissues, under strict asepsis. This is repeated in two days, and, if necessary, in five days again. Under ordinary conditions the results are sure."

THE RECEPTION AT THE OVERSEAS CLUB, ALDWYCH.

The oak-panelled room was crowded to the limits of its capacity on the afternoon of May 9th with men and women of the Empire, who had assembled to do honour to Dr. Truby King, C.M.G., founder of the "Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children." Lady Plunket, wife of a former Governor of New Zealand, acted as hostess. After a quite satisfying and delicious war-time tea, served at small tables adorned with exquisite crimson tulips, giving just the note of colour and brightness that was needed, the first verse of the National Anthem was fittingly sung. Some solos followed. An Irish song and "Negro Lullabys," by Mr. Piggott, were greatly appreciated; not more, however, than "My Ships," sung by Miss Golding in a beautiful mezzo-soprano voice. Mr. Evelyn Wrench then acted informally as chairman. He made apologies for the absence of Mr. Hayes Fisher, who was hindered at the last moment from coming.

"Dr. Truby King is one of the great men of the Empire; he is consumed with the fire of interest and enthusiasm for his cause." In this brief

biography we had from the Chairman the character of the man, and the secret of his great success. Dr. King, in rising to speak, modestly disclaimed what had been said of him, but his manner and his words plainly showed the "fire which consumed." It was gratifying to hear him say that since his last visit to England four years ago he had observed wonderful progress made in the work for the health of women and children in London. Infant mortality had been reduced by 9 per cent. On his way to this country he stayed five weeks in the United States, where every facility was given him for enquiry and inspection of the work done there. He found everywhere great activity and splendid work being done. Washington had almost pledged itself to save ten thousand babies this year.

Dr. Josephine Baker, of New York, is the greatest authority on Infant Welfare; she has been working at it for nine or ten years. She works on the lines—not of stemming disease, but of preventing sickness, and to that end she has established "Health Nurses." It was fascinating, observed the speaker, to watch the perfect organisation. There are forty-five doctors and a hundred nurses working on these lines. During the summer in New York three hundred nurses are at work to cope with infant diarrhoea; they are reinforced by School Nurses who give part-time service during the vacation. The work of saving the babies, the speaker urged, was one of transcendent importance, and if we are to have a great race, infinite care must be taken of the health of children up to four years of age. Another point of great importance he pressed was that this form of education should be open to all classes. In returning to conditions that obtain in New Zealand, Dr. Truby King stated that so keen was his Government upon this matter of great national importance that it subsidised it by 2s. to every £1 of money raised. Part of the fine work done in this connection in New Zealand is the erection of baby hospitals where mother and child are admitted; by this means the mother is able to learn mothercraft, and so she spreads the knowledge, and—as the speaker poetically phrased it—she "hands on the lamp of life." The doctor feelingly alluded to the terrible loss of young male life in this war, and for that reason he was the more insistent that it is imperative that every effort should be made to ensure perfect health and survival, and in the performance of this work the women of the Empire could best show their effectual patriotism. Under the auspices of the Over-Seas Club a "Babies of the Empire" Society has been founded, with these laudable aims and objects, the main and fundamental purpose being, "to uphold the Sacredness of the Body and the Duty of Health."

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