

### BABY WEEK, ITS OBJECT AND ITS FUTURE.

Under this title Miss Alice Elliott gave an interesting address at 14, Gordon Square, W.C.—being the second of the series—which she punctuated by a few commonsense, practical pieces of advice, namely:—(a) The need for facilities for innocent amusement of boys and girls, young men and young women *together*; (b) the need for discouraging fancy and flimsy clothing, and to wear good, well-made plain clothing; (c) to encourage the young to choose productive occupations; (d) make it a duty to find out how many babies in your own district have been born within the year, how many have died, and what the Health Committees are doing; (e) see if there are sufficient Centres for treating venereal disease; (f) don't treat the unmarried mother as an outcast or she will become one.

"It is fundamentally true," observed the speaker, "that the nation that does righteousness is the nation that prospers." A lively and lengthened discussion followed. Many questions were asked and answered. The mind of one member of the audience was troubled, because, as he said, the poor did not always appreciate improved housing conditions; and in his opinion it was necessary first to produce a very great change of mind in the people before it was possible to make the best use of the machinery now in motion for their benefit. He enquired what suggestion could be made for their education. Dr. Eric Pritchard from the chair, recognised the difficulty, remarking that when one came to analyse the many causes which make for the ill-health of children, and the approximate causes are broken up into essential causes, one finds them reduced to two common factors, namely: (1) want of character, (2) want of knowledge; or both. It was admitted that, by degrees, the necessary education would come from Infant Welfare Centres. A medical woman in the audience remarked that doctors themselves were ignorant and were in need of instruction. This, the chairman generously admitted.

### EAST END MOTHERS' HOME.

In her charming report (included in the annual report of the East End Mothers' Home, 396, Commercial Road, E.), Miss Anderson, the Matron writes that though the needs of the Home are many, "let us keep on hoping, and like an old woman of Stepney, instead of dwelling upon our needs, we will count our blessings. She had three—a window plant, a cat, and no husband." We have hundreds, but outstanding are—the success of our babies and the restored health of our mothers and their never failing gratitude. An efficient staff that goes on from duty to duty gaily, helpfully, recking little of the mighty obstacles in the way. The energetic head of the kitchen, who is never tired of economising, and never weary of trying the new make-shifts and 'must-do's' of these trying times."

### THE WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

#### CONSIDERATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS AS REGARDS MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

The Women's Co-operative Guild has published a pamphlet of considerations and suggestions as regards Midwifery services. We publish below the summary of suggestions.

#### SUMMARY OF SUGGESTIONS.

1. That there should be a Public Health service of midwives, paid either a yearly salary or a fee per case by the Local Public Health Authority.
2. That the service should be free to all who desire to avail themselves of it.
3. That the free midwife should be available to nurse doctors' cases, and the doctor should see that a trained woman was engaged.
4. That medical assistance for midwives under the rules of the C.M.B. should be secured through the medical women attached to Public Health Maternity Homes and Hospitals, and by a panel of doctors willing to attend such cases, whose fees should be paid by the Local Authority.
5. That the cost of the service should be borne as to 75 per cent. by the Exchequer in most areas, and entirely by the Exchequer in "necessitous" areas.
6. That the Local Public Health Authorities should be responsible for training, which should include, in addition to the present training, more varied experience of cases and of general nursing, and a period of practice under supervision, and should comprise both institutional and district work; this training to be placed within reach of all by a liberal system of scholarships.
7. That the institutional training should be given in Maternity Homes and Hospitals provided by Local Public Health Authorities.
8. That inspectors and teachers of midwives should possess higher qualifications than the midwife, and that the powers of inspectors should be extended.

We hope to refer again to this pamphlet in a future issue. Meanwhile we may say that in our opinion the medical service which it is proposed to provide in Public Health Maternity Homes and Hospitals should not be limited to medical women but open to registered medical practitioners.

If training in general nursing is required of midwives, then such training should be thorough; "a hospital course of some months" is inadequate.

The pamphlet is obtainable, price 3d., from the Women's Co-operative Guild, 28, Church Row, Hampstead, London, N.W. 3.

An interesting set of 24 postcards in booklet form, price 1s. net (postage 1d. extra), illustrating the work of the Belgian National League for the Welfare of Infancy, is published by John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, for the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 4, Tavistock Square, W.C. 1. The League has Her Majesty the Queen of the Belgians as its patroness.

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