

The Midwife.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK.

The plans for the celebration of National Baby Week in London, at the Central Hall, Westminster, are now well forward. There is to be a Mass Meeting on Monday, July 1st, at 3 p.m.; on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 2nd and 3rd, there will be a Conference, on Maternal and Infant Welfare, organized by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, opened by the Right Hon. W. Hayes Fisher, M.P., President of the Local Government Board, when the Sessions will be from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. each day; the Chairmen will be Sir Arthur Newsholme (Chief Medical Officer to the L.G.B.), Sir Francis Champneys (Chairman of the Central Midwives' Board), Mr. Harold Spender, and Mrs. Whitelaw Reid. The subjects for discussion are: "Ante-natal Factors in Infant Mortality," Dr. J. W. Ballantyne and Lt.-Col. J. G. Adami; "The respective advantages of Domiciliary and Institutional Treatment," Sir Arthur Newsholme, C.B., and Lady Barrett, C.B.E.; "Mothers' Pensions," Lord Willoughby de Broke and Dr. Harold Scurfield; and "What our Allies and Dominions are doing to save Infant Life," Dr. W. Palmer Lucas (Civil Branch of American Red Cross), Dr. Raimondi (Paris), Dr. Truby King (New Zealand), and Dr. Eugène Lust (Brussels).

There will also be a course of lectures organized by the same authority on the evenings of July 2nd and 3rd.

There will also be an Educational Mothercraft Exhibition, organized by the Child Welfare and Health Exhibitions Committee, N.U.W.W.

Applications for tickets for the Conference and Exhibition, and Lectures and Exhibition, price 3s. 6d., to be made to Miss Halford, 4, Tavistock Square, W.C. 1, and particulars as to the Exhibition only to the Secretary, Child Welfare and Health Exhibition Committee, 27A, Cavendish Square, London, W.C. 1.

THE WORKING-CLASS MOTHER'S POINT OF VIEW.

On June 10th, Mrs. H. B. Irving addressed a full meeting at Dr. Williams' Library, Gordon Square, W.C., under the auspices of the N.B.W.C., and proved herself a true champion of the working-class mother, by her understanding and sympathy of this little understood and often neglected class. She considered it to be the duty of women to study her. No one had ever defined the term "working-class woman." Might she not herself lay claim to it, seeing that she had borne children and worked for her living for twenty years? The conditions of war in relation to the price of food have greatly increased the difficulties of the poor mother. All were not munition workers, and all were not earning high wages. The price of food has increased 150 per cent. and clothes 200 per cent. An income of £3 5s. now goes no further than 30s. in

1913. Mrs. Irving had conceived the happy idea of getting the mothers themselves to express their own views in writing, from which she gave many quotations, many of which showed great intelligence and a most commendable breadth of mind. The women who attend regularly at the mothers' and babies' welfare centres, have been receiving a new education, which is stirring their minds into healthful activity. They now realize that the baby is a national asset and of definite value. "They have tasted," said the speaker, "of the tree of knowledge." One of the mothers suggested: "I think a school for fathers would be a splendid institution." One was a Eugenist and desired that the man and woman about to marry should be certified as fit, after medical examination. All made adverse criticisms of slum landlords responsible for bad housing conditions, and some made practical suggestions for a minimum standard of comfort for working peoples' homes. It was extremely interesting and enlightening to learn the working-class mother's point of view. In the discussion that followed, a gentleman in the audience said he believed that the influence of the woman's vote would be very beneficial in the important matter of better housing conditions for the poor. B. K.

LEFT SO LONELY.

The gentle baby died, mother, died when it was born.

He will never saddle horse, mother, nor eat the cakes of corn,

Or ride before his soldiers in the glory of the morn,
Nor chase the bitter tiger or the fleet and lovely fawn.

The gentle baby died, mother, died when he was born.

They wrapped him in a silken swaith and in a golden shawl,
And laid him 'mid the tulips, him the fairest of them all.

I saw him as a chieftain, magnificent and tall,
Riding red from combat or playing of the ball.
They wrapped him in a silken swaith and in a golden shawl.

And I am left so lonely, all in the twilight clear,
A-holding of my bosom where lay my tender dear,
A-watching of the tent door when the first stars appear,

Crying for my baby in the great desert near.

And I am left so lonely, all in the twilight clear.

—Old Tartar Song.

In the House of Lords on Tuesday the Earl of Crawford (Lord Privy Seal) moved the second reading of the Midwives Bill—a Bill to amend the Midwives Act, 1902. Its object is to elucidate and consolidate the law on the subject.

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