

## The Midwife.

### BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

On Monday, November 25th, National Baby Week Council is organising a Meeting at the Armitage Hall, 224, Great Portland Street, W. at 5 p.m., to discuss "The Ministry of Health Bill: Our Hopes and Fears." The following have already kindly consented to speak:—"Why We Need a Ministry of Health," Major Waldorf Astor, M.P.; "The Responsibility of Voters," The Viscountess Rhondda; "The Ministry of Health and the Poor Law," The Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton; "The Ministry of Health and the Racial Perils of Peace," Dr. C. W. Saleeby, F.R.S.E.

Admission to the Meeting is free, and all interested are cordially invited.

### WORKERS' SECTION, ASSOCIATION OF INFANT WELFARE AND MATERNITY CENTRES.

A conference will be held on Wednesday, December 4th, at 5.45 p.m., at 24, Underwood Street, Vallance Road, E.  
*Subject.*—The Ideal Health Visitor for Infant Welfare Work, and the Qualifications Needed.

*Chair.*—Miss Macdonald, Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association. *Speakers.*—Miss H. Walters, and others. Bus 25 and Aldgate Station. Tea at 5.30.

### EXTRA COAL RATION FOR MATERNITY CASES.

Mr. W. H. Gaunt, Secretary of the Coal Mines Department of the Board of Trade, has informed Miss Halford, Secretary of the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, that a claim could certainly be submitted for an additional allowance of coal on the ground of illness in the case of childbirth, and would be allowed for a reasonable period thereafter.

The maximum quantity of fuel that may be granted on such a claim is 5 tons, but the decision as to the actual quantity granted must depend on the circumstances of the particular case.

### A "FREAK" OF NATURE.

Miss Amelia M. Burke sends us from Bombay the picture of an Indian baby with a patch of white hair. No reason for this "freak" is forthcoming, although it has caused a fair amount of interest.

### TREATMENT OF ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL SYPHILIS.

Mr. John Adams, F.R.C.S., Medical Officer in Charge of the Thavies Inn Venereal Centre for Pregnant Women (the only hospital of the kind), gives an extremely interesting account of the results of the first year's work in the *British Medical Journal*, in the course of which he says,



A FREAK TUFT OF WHITE HAIR. AN INDIAN BABY.

in regard to the children, "the results are most encouraging. But the future treatment of ante-natal and post-natal syphilis cannot be allowed to remain where it has been in the past; and the treatment which is being adopted to-day will be improved on to-morrow. I am certain that the lives of thousands of syphilitic children have been lost unnecessarily in the past, while it would have been a blessing to themselves and humanity if many of those who have survived had never lived in misery to be a burden to the State. In the future such children may be made healthy and useful members of the community. . . .

"If I were to criticize my year's work I should say that, had the drugs been in bigger doses, the results would have been still better; but one had to tread with caution the unknown paths of research in the case of these newly born children, and, on the whole, I am of opinion that the means adopted are only the beginning of still greater progress in the future treatment of ante-natal and post-natal syphilis."

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