

is expended directly upon provision of services that immediately affect the welfare of mother and infant.

### VERDICT OF WILFUL MURDER.

The adjourned inquiry as to the cause of the death of Kenneth Cedric Goodman at the Sydenham Infant Welfare Centre, on July 19th, was resumed by Mr. H. R. Oswald on Tuesday at Lewisham.

Miss Payne, the Superintendent of the Centre, explained that the worst kind of wasting and prematurely-born infants were taken, and those suffering from digestive disorders; no other diseases were admitted. Had she received Nurse Thompson's references before engaging her she would not have done so.

The medical officer at the Centre, Dr. Gladstone, said after his attention was called to Goodman's case he discovered the double fracture of the skull spoken of by Colonel Toogood in his evidence last week.

Nurse Eva Grace Thompson, who was cautioned by the Coroner, stated that she had charge of Goodman and four other children during the night of June 4th. She denied striking the child on the head. When she handed him over to the day staff on the morning of June 5th he was quite normal, and she could not account for the fractures of the skull and the three bruises. She denied that she took drugs or intoxicants.

The Coroner informed the jury that in the early days of June six children were found injured at the Centre, and four had died—one from double pneumonia. Another, still alive, had a fractured skull, and the sixth, also alive, had a fracture of the arm and a dislocation of the collar-bone.

The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against Nurse Thompson, who was arrested in court and committed for trial.

### £300 DAMAGES FOR MIDWIFE.

Damages were assessed by a Sheriff's jury at £300 at Green Street Courthouse, Dublin, as reported in the *General Advertiser*, in a case in which Mary Anne Herbert a midwifery nurse of Rush, claimed £1,000 damages from M. Sigman, 40, Lower Clanbrassil Street, dairy proprietor, for injury to herself and her bicycle by the negligent driving of a horse and trap on January 20th. Mr. Gavan Duffy (instructed by Messrs. Corrigan & Corrigan), for the plaintiff, said the plaintiff's right arm was broken, and the defendant made no defence or offered no apology. Dr. M'Elhinney, Meath Hospital, said the plaintiff would not be able to do her duties for two years.

### LECTURES TO NURSES ON VENEREAL DISEASES.

The course of free lectures to nurses on Venereal Diseases at St. Paul's Hospital, Red Lion Square, by Mr. Leonard Myer, F.R.C.S., met a great need, judging by the large and increasing numbers of nurses who attended each week.

### NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

In our last issue we drew attention to the fact that an interesting meeting of the National Baby Week Council took place at the Armitage Hall last week. The point of greatest interest—to which, for lack of space, we were unable to refer at the time—was the following resolution:—

"That the National Baby Week Council, whilst approving the objects of the Maternity and Child Welfare Bill, deplores the continued sacrifice of the nation's present health and future life, to *Departmental Vested Interests*, calls upon the Government to establish a Ministry of Health without further delay, and at no distant date; and that the Council approach its affiliated organisations with a view to a free discussion of this important subject, and to carry on a co-ordinated propaganda and campaign in favour of a Ministry of Health during the coming autumn."

The italics are ours. The important and significant point about it is, that although one member suggested as an amendment, that the words "*Departmental Vested Interests*" should be deleted, as being too strong, and another seconded it, when the Chairman put it to the vote the meeting was solidly in favour of having the words retained. We see in this the first fruits of the movement for social and political purity, and are encouraged thereby. Those who are awakened have begun to "*march breast forward*."

### AMERICAN HELP FOR MOTHERS.

The American Red Cross has allocated the sum of £5,000 to the National League for Health, Maternity, and Child Welfare, to promote the establishment of maternity centres and day nurseries in areas where much war work is being done.

Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, chairman of the London Chapter of the American Red Cross, on July 24th, opened the new buildings for the crèche at the North Islington Maternity Centre, arranged by the Committee of the American Infant Welfare Centre. The buildings are at 9, Manor Gardens, Holloway Road, Islington.

### THE BEST.

"We all have held in fee one woman's heart:  
Have all been pillowed on one woman's breast,  
Have knelt and worshipped at one woman's knees—  
A mother's. If this be the only part  
We have learned of woman's love, it is the best."

A. G. SHERRIFF.

From "*A Sonnet to Mother-love*."

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