

point to remember is to cut off the flow entirely, as a few drops of fluid are always retained and these might trickle into the trachea, causing strangulation or even aspiration pneumonia. It is always well to watch the baby for a few moments after a feeding, especially if it be a very weak infant.

Sometimes we are called upon to give a baby a gastric lavage, and if we know the principles of gavage feeding it is not a difficult procedure. We use the same sized catheter and funnel, and the babe is left lying on his back in his crib, or, if preferable, on a table. Plain sterile water is used, unless otherwise ordered, and the same rule is observed as in any other lavage: to wash until the returns are clean, sometimes as much as three pints being used. The amount of water put into the stomach at a time depends entirely upon the age of the child, and when we remember that the stomach capacity, in ounces, is the number of months the child is old, plus two, it is easy to know how much to use. The funnel is lowered before it is quite empty and the siphonage is easy. If the flow stops, before the water has all returned, change the position of the tube a little. We do not measure the returns because we know that a great deal of the water passes through the pylorus, and then, too, the occasion where lavage is employed is usually where there is persistent vomiting, and a good deal of the water is ejected during the procedure.

The use of the tube for any purpose is not a pleasant one for the baby, and he enters his protest in no uncertain terms until the nurse may feel it to be a most difficult task. But the baby is philosophical, and after a few sittings he takes it as a matter of course, swallows the tube like a gentleman, perhaps even without restraint, chews it and coos and smiles while it is down, and the nurse feels it is not so difficult after all.—*American Journal of Nursing.*

#### LUCRATIVE SCOOPS.

The Baby Welfare Competition announced by the *Daily Sketch* has met with some expert criticism in the *Morning Post* and other papers, and we are entirely in sympathy with the views of Mrs. Graham Wallas on "Baby Shows" and "Pram Parades" run by enterprising newspapers for advertisement purposes, and we have previously expressed the opinion that to participate in such methods is not calculated to increase the prestige of the National Baby Week Council. If nothing is to be sacred to the Press in its keen competition for lucrative "scoops," it will lose the little confidence of the public it still retains. The Nursing Profession has not yet recovered from the indignation aroused by utilising the name of the "Nation's Nurses" as an excuse for the now notorious "Victory Ball" for the heartless recreation of criminal "dopers" and their congenial companions, when we were—as we are still—tending sick and wounded men, shattered, broken, blind and mad in saving the soul of the

Empire alive. "It was an insult we are never likely to forget, or forgive."

#### THE EFFECT OF MATERNAL INTEMPERANCE.

Dr. W. C. Sullivan, Medical Superintendent of the Bampton State Asylum for Criminal Lunatics in his evidence before the National Birth-rate Commission on Monday, said (to quote the *Times* report) that with regard to the effect of maternal intemperance during pregnancy and lactation, it was not disputed that alcohol could pass through the placenta, and that excessive drinking by a pregnant woman might lead to abortion or still birth, or to conditions of defective vitality in the child. The excretion of alcohol in the milk appeared to occur only when very excessive quantities of alcohol had been consumed by the nursing mother, and even then the amount excreted was probably too small to be of much account.

Before the war one of the most striking and characteristic features of the statistics of deaths of infants from suffocation was the fact that a very disproportionate number of these occurred on Saturday nights, when drunkenness was also notoriously more frequent. Now the convictions of women for drunkenness in 1918 showed a fall of no less than 80 per cent. as compared with the standard of 1913. And, coincident with this decline of drunkenness deaths of infants from suffocation fell from 1,266 in 1913 to 557 in 1918, a decrease of over 56 per cent., and the excessive incidence of such deaths on Saturday nights, which was prominent in 1913, has practically disappeared in 1918.

It was probably safe to assert that at the present moment more could be done to combat degeneracy, especially as manifested in feeble-mindedness and in certain types of insanity, by the prevention of alcoholism than by any other means.

#### NESTLÉ'S MILK.

Nestlé's Milk may not only be used with advantage as a substitute for Mother's Milk when this is unattainable, but it may be used for a variety of purposes, as is being demonstrated at the Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition now being held at St. Andrew's Hall, Newman Street, W., where a book of recipes for Dainty Dishes prepared with Nestlé's Milk is being given away.

It will be remembered that in August last we described the process by which Nestlé's Milk is prepared, after having paid a visit to the Aylesbury Condensery of the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company whose headquarters are at St. George's House, 6 and 8 Eastcheap, London, E.C. The process by which the milk is first raised to boiling point in copper pans from which the air is exhausted, by which method the vitamins are not destroyed, but a considerable portion of the water in the milk is converted into steam, and removed as such, is extremely interesting. The only addition is pure sugar, and in the "Ideal" brand this is omitted.

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