

The Midwife.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFANT WELFARE.

A National Conference on Infant Welfare will be held as part of the National Baby Week celebrations at the Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C. 1, on Tuesday, July 1st, Wednesday, July 2nd, and Thursday, July 3rd, from 10-1 and 2.30-4.30. The President of the Conference is the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, M.P., M.D., President of the Local Government Board. The following subjects are to be discussed:—(a) Antenatal and neo-natal mortality and its prevention; (b) the work of the midwife in relation to antenatal and neo-natal mortality; (c) the industrial employment of mothers in relation to infant mortality; (d) the illegitimate child.

The inaugural address will be given by the President of the Local Government Board. The Chairmen of Sessions will be Sir Arthur Newsholme, K.C.B., M.D., Sir Malcolm Morris, M.D., Sir Francis Champneys, Bart., M.D., Mrs. Scharlieb, C.B.E., M.D., Sir John Kirk, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher.

The racial poisons and the racial prospect will be discussed by Dr. C. W. Saleeby and others, and Mrs. Gotto, O.B.E., and Dr. Whitley, M.O.H., Swindon, will present papers on criminal abortions and abortifacients.

The fee for the Conference from Local Authorities and members of the general public will be one guinea, but concessions will be made in the case of certain midwives, members of local health societies, and trained nurses, to whom a fee of 10s. will be charged. Further information may be obtained from the Secretary, National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 4 and 5, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.

TEETH FOR THE TOOTHLESS.

The National League for Health, Maternity and Child Welfare (4, Tavistock Square, W.C. 1) is about to try an interesting experiment, made possible by the generosity of Miss Gibson, who, out of a donation of £2,000 to the League, has asked that £500 be spent on facilitating the provision of dentures for mothers attending Infant Welfare Centres in London and Greater London. A whole-time dental mechanic is therefore to be engaged, and a workshop fitted up for him, where dentures ordered by the dentists engaged at Dental Clinics attached to Mothers' Centres will be made, only the cost of the materials being charged.

Since the charge for labour is the most expensive part of dentures, it is hoped in this way to reduce the present high cost of teeth for necessitous mothers, thousands of whom are poisoning their babies through their mouths being in a septic condition. The Children's Jewel Fund is contributing £250 towards the scheme, which should also encourage the establishment of more dental clinics for mothers, now greatly needed.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

The Annual Report of the Midwifery Training School for the year ending December 31st, 1918, states that the effects of the war on the training school were severely felt during the past year, especially in the reduced number of women entering for training in midwifery and monthly nursing. Towards the end of the year, there was some improvement and since the demobilization of large numbers of medical men and nurses there has been a very large increase in the number of applications and vacancies have been filled for some months ahead. In addition to the large number of trained nurses who are now entering for training, many women who are proposing to take up Child Welfare and other similar work are entering for the special training which the hospital provides. During the year 103 pupils obtained the certificate of the Central Midwives Board. There was again a serious deficiency in the income and expenditure account of the training school caused largely by the decrease in the entries as compared with the years before the war. It was not possible to deal with this situation by raising the fees during the war, but steps in this direction will be taken early in the ensuing year.

AN INTERESTING EXHIBIT.

One of the most interesting stands at the Nursing and Midwifery Exhibition was that of the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, presided over by Miss S. Marsters, Superintendent of the Paddington and St. Marylebone District Nursing Association. We hope that many nurses and midwives noted the sensible clothing, designed by Miss Marsters, for the long clothes baby. The flannel binder used for keeping the dressing of the cord in place is just tucked in snugly—no stitching is necessary—as if properly applied it keeps in position. A little knitted vest under the back flannel keeps the baby warm, and is sensible as well as hygienic. What mother in the practice of a district nurse will forego the binder outside the back flannel? None, so far as we know? Miss Marsters has, therefore, compromised, and instead of the stiff cotton binder beloved by working class mothers, has attached a short flannel binder to the free side of the back flannel, which is folded over. The binder is passed round the child's back, and brought round to the front and tucked in. It is harmless to the baby, and satisfies the mother, so that it is an excellent arrangement.

ROBINSON'S PATENT GROATS.

Robinson's "Patent" Groats are invaluable for making gruel for nursing mothers and invalids. It is easily and quickly prepared, and with its help mothers whose supply of milk is failing have found that they are able to nurse their infants.

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