

The Midwife.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFANT WELFARE.

We have in various issues of this Journal referred at some length to the three days' Conference on Infant Welfare, which took place at the Kingsway Hall, London, in July, when the Minister of Health occupied the Chair at the opening Session. The official Report of the Proceedings is now published, price 1s. 6d., and may be obtained from the National League for Health Maternity and Child Welfare, 4, Tavistock Square, W.C.1., and is of considerable interest, gathering between the covers of one booklet, not only the many valuable papers then presented, but also the interesting speeches made in the discussions which followed. To quote an example: Dr. H. Scurfield (M.O.H., Sheffield) spoke of the great importance of instructing children—beginning with the very young children—in matters of sex. He said:—

"I am in the position of being a parent, so I think I can say to other parents that there really is no difficulty in these matters. The time has gone when we ought to keep up these old fables to young children about little babies being found under gooseberry bushes and such like things. I believe that a child of a very few years of age will understand that the babies grow inside their mothers, and understand it in quite an easy way, and in fact quite a reverent way. I think you will find that if a boy goes to a preparatory school, say at the age of eight, and has grown up in a natural way, and his mother has answered his questions, he will go there so well informed that when the other boys talk what is called "smut" he will have a contempt for them, because he knows all about the things in a proper way. He will look upon motherhood from a different point of view. It is of the utmost importance that we should get a higher reverence for motherhood, a higher respect for the sanctity of family life and everything that is meant by motherhood; and I think we shall only get that by beginning with the young children, and getting them to appreciate these matters in a gradual and natural manner as they grow up. I would like to give examples of two communities which seem to me to achieve these ends successfully.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

The first is a small community, the Society of Friends. You will find in one of their official books—the "Book of Discipline"—that it is insisted upon as one of the most important duties of both parents to instruct their children in matters of sex and the origin of life; and I believe that the members of the Society of Friends carry out those instructions. You will find, I think, as the result, that family life is a very sacred thing among the Quakers. You will also find that the boys and girls being treated on an equal footing

brings about a better state of things, that there is very little abuse of alcohol among the Quakers, and none among the Quaker women, and there is practically no venereal disease among them.

THE JEWS.

The second community which I should like to mention is the Jews. I am told that the Jewish father specially speaks to his boys when they reach the age of puberty and when they are going to marry, and that the Jewish mother does the same by her girls; and I think you will find that there is a very high standard of morality among the Jewish women, very little venereal disease and a very low infant mortality; and that all Jewish women in every slum in this country breast-feed their children. If we could arrive at a standard of family life like that of the Jews we should have very little trouble in dealing with the two racial poisons which we have been talking about this afternoon—alcohol and the venereal diseases. I believe there is a society for converting Jews. I hope that when the Jews are converted they still retain their high standard of respect for family life and for motherhood."

Midwives and Nurses have special opportunities of bringing before parents the need and duty of such instruction being given to children, whether by the parents themselves or by teachers.

HAMMERSMITH MUNICIPAL MATERNITY HOME.

The Hammersmith Municipal Maternity Home, has now been formally opened by Lady Downham.

Lord Downham (formerly President of the Local Government Board), who mentioned that he had had the honour of piloting the Maternity and Child Welfare Act through Parliament, said that there were too many empty cradles, and motherhood must be made healthier and more attractive.

C.M.B. EXAMINATION PAPER.

NOVEMBER 3, 1919.

1. How do you recognise a breech presentation? Give your methods of managing a normal breech case throughout, giving your reasons for each successive step you take.
2. What are the causes of ante-partum haemorrhage occurring after the seventh month of pregnancy? What treatment can you carry out in such a case until the doctor arrives?
3. How would you artificially feed an infant from birth and how would you satisfy yourself that the means adopted were satisfactory?
4. What are the causes of sapraemia? What symptoms would lead you to suspect a patient was suffering from this trouble?
5. Describe the exact treatment of the umbilical cord. What trouble may arise if careful treatment is not carried out?
6. What do you consider are your duties to your patient during her pregnancy? What dangers may arise if the patient is not seen during this time?

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