

The Midwife.

MIDWIFERY AND NURSING IN PARLIAMENT.

NURSING IN PRISONS.

In the House of Commons, on July 28th, the Right Hon. Edward Shortt, K.C., Secretary of State for the Home Department, gave the following written answers to Major Hills in reply to his questions as to nursing in prisons:—

BAGTHORPE GAOL, NOTTINGHAM.

Major Hills asked the Home Secretary whether his attention has been directed to the birth and death of a child in Bagthorpe Gaol, Nottingham; whether Bagthorpe Gaol has a resident trained and certificated maternity nurse; and if she was in attendance at the birth?

Mr. Shortt: A certified midwife was employed and was present at the confinement. In such a small female prison there would be work for a "trained and certified maternity nurse" only on rare occasions and the services of a certified midwife are obtained from outside when necessary.

PRISON HOSPITALS (NURSING STAFFS).

Major Hills asked the Home Secretary what regulations are in force in prisons to-day in regard to the training and qualifications of nurses; whether the staff of prison hospitals are permanent officials; and if they come under the Superannuation Act?

Mr. Shortt: Before an officer can be appointed to the hospital staff of a prison the Regulations require that he or she must undergo a special course of training at a prison hospital training school and must be reported as fit in all respects for the duties. These hospital staff officers are all permanent officials and come under the Superannuation Acts. It is sometimes necessary in exceptional cases, such as that referred to in the previous question, to call in special assistance from outside the prison service.

Major Hills asked the Home Secretary the number, qualifications, and status of the nursing staff at Holloway Prison?

Mr. Shortt: A duly trained hospital staff is in course of formation. It will consist of—

- 1 Hospital Lady Superintendent.
- 2 Principal Nurses.
- 48 Nurses.

Particulars of the qualifications and status of the hospital staff have been given in reply to another question by the hon. and gallant Member.

At present we understand the intention of the Commissioners is to form a special Training School at Holloway Prison for female permanent officials, giving them a six months' training under a hospital lady superintendent in this school, followed by a further three months at the London Hospital. It is intended that there shall be at least one nurse

at each female prison, and there will be a reserve at Holloway for duty at any moment at any prison where emergency may arise, for nursing either male or female prisoners.

The report of the Penal Reform League says in this connection: "We hope the Nursing Societies will press upon the Commissioners the need for developing this scheme until we have a service of fully trained nurses in our prisons, not wardresses with 'a little knowledge.'"

The qualification for appointment to the nursing staff at Holloway should be that of "Registered Nurse." The training school in the prison could then be utilized for giving special instruction in prison nursing.

GLAXO AS A FOOD FOR INFANTS.

The value of Glaxo in Infant Feeding, when breast feeding is impossible, is well recognised, for during the last 14 years Glaxo (155-157, Great Portland Street, W.1), has successfully provided a full-cream milk. Clinical experience has shown that most normal infants can take a Full Cream Dried Milk perfectly well, practically from the earliest days of infancy, certainly after the first three months of life, but there are some babies who show a marked intolerance of fat, and others, such as premature infants, who do not thrive immediately on a milk with a high fat content.

To meet these cases, at the request of several authorities, Glaxo has now been produced in a Half-Cream form and a Three-quarter-Cream form, giving the analyses shewn below. The former is known as Glaxo No. 1 (Half-Cream) and the latter as Glaxo No. 2 (Three-quarter-Cream). The second has been utilised with success for infants between the ages of 2 and 6 months in tropical climates such as India, where it has been demonstrated that infants thrive better on a milk with a lessened fat percentage than on a Full Cream Milk. An infant, owing to the risk of a deficiency in the anti-rachitic factor, should not be kept on the Half-Cream Milk for a long period, but this preparation should only be used temporarily until the fat tolerance is established and Full-Cream Glaxo can be utilised.

ANALYSES.

	NO. 1 GLAXO (½-cr.) per cent.	NO. 2 GLAXO (¾-cr.) per cent.
Fats	14.00	20.00
Proteins	29.80	26.90
Carbohydrates	46.50	44.00
Mineral Matter	6.50	5.90
Moisture	3.20	3.20
	100.00	100.00

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