

## AN APPRECIATION.

DR. TRUBY KING, C.M.G.

*(Director of the State Bureau of Infant Welfare,  
New Zealand)*

By A FORMER STUDENT.

Dr. King came to England, in 1916, at the invitation of a Committee of which the late Lord Plunket (formerly Governor of New Zealand) was the President; and, under the auspices of the Babies of the Empire Society, started the Mothercraft Training Centre at 29, Trebovir Road, Earl's Court. He remained in this country till 1919, when he returned to New Zealand; on the way, at the invitation of the Australian Government, Dr. King made an extended tour, lecturing in different towns. During the last few months of his stay in London, Dr. King was appointed by the Australian and New Zealand Governments to make arrangements for the proper feeding of returning soldiers' children going to that country. Many medical officers and nurses, who were to accompany the transports, were sent to the Centre to study his methods of feeding. The staff of the Centre manufactured hundreds of pounds of special emulsion used on the voyage by children who, unfortunately had to be artificially fed, and all artificial feeding was properly graded, according to the requirements of the child, and the percentage necessary to render artificial feeding as nearly natural as possible.

Some years ago, the New Zealand Ministry of Health officially published Dr. King's book, "The Expectant Mother and Baby's First Month." It is to be hoped the British Ministry will ere long follow this example, and put a cheap standard work in the hands of the mothers and public health workers.

The culmination of years of work was reached lately when this champion of infants was made Director of the Bureau of Infant Welfare recently established by the New Zealand Government.

Already in England many nurses who were students under Dr. King in London are working as Health Visitors, for example, in Durham, Isle of Wight, Derby and Greenwich; while others are Superintendents of Infant Clinics, as at the Middlesex Hospital; and yet more are using this priceless knowledge in their midwifery practice, private nursing or district work, like the Plunket nurses in New Zealand.

It is to be hoped that those responsible for the training of nursery nurses will realise the value of this training, so that such nurses may be able intelligently to carry on the work begun in the early weeks by the nurse or midwife trained in Dr. Truby King's methods of the feeding of children.

And so the truth spreads; within a few weeks of the arrival of Dr. Truby King, health visitors, nurses and medical men visited the Earl's Court Centre to hear more of the methods whose chief charm is their simplicity and accuracy. The Charts and Records to be seen at the Centre testify to the results; those of special interest being the Breast-

feeding Charts, demonstrating the successful management of almost every kind of difficulty in this connection—namely, overfeeding, under-feeding, depressed nipples, milk of supposed wrong quality, the premature baby, &c.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.  
REPORT.

The Report on the work of the Central Midwives' Board for the year ended March 31st, 1920, and presented to Parliament by command of His Majesty, has just been published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, and may be obtained through any bookseller, price 2d.

On March 31st, 1920, the Midwives' Roll contained the names of 45,960 women, a nett increase for the year of 1,794 on the total number appearing on the Roll. There is an increase of 380 in the new names added to the Roll after Examination, as compared with the corresponding figures of last year. The trained midwives are 37,056 in number, and the untrained 8,904. The percentage of trained midwives who practise as such is relatively small.

## THE INDIGENOUS DAI AT WORK.

The current issue of *Nurses Near and Far*, the organ of the Nurses' Missionary League, contains many interesting articles, amongst them one signed "A.R.S." writing from Multan, Panjab, on "The Indigenous Dai at Work." The writer was called to a case in the Bazar where she found the maternity patient sitting on the mud floor on a piece of dry cow-dung, and a heap of dirt brought in for the occasion. A relative was supporting her from the back, and a *Dai* (who, by the way, was a woman who had attended a course of instruction on midwifery) was sitting on a low stool, in front of the patient, conducting the case. The only garment she was wearing was a piece of fine butter muslin draped round the waist, not nearly reaching her knees, her hair dyed red, in imitation of the prophet's beard, and wearing long gold ear-rings and bracelets—no sign of soap, brush, lotion, or even water to be seen.

When the baby came the mother was told to raise herself; the child was received by the relative sitting behind her. She was then dragged along the ground a little further back and the child laid on the earth floor in front of her. It was then left to itself and the *Dai* and relatives turned their attention to the mother, rubbing the poor unfortunate woman's abdomen with all the strength they possessed. In vain she cried for mercy; neither the mother nor the placenta was to have any peace until it was expelled, and eventually they took the patient's hair, which she was wearing in a long plait, and put as much as possible of it into her mouth, and then gave her one mouthful of sugar, after another, for the same purpose. Hours had been spent in teaching those *daïs* how to conduct a case, and this particular one was supposed to be one of the best and most intelligent!

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