

The Midwife.

A REMINISCENCE OF THE ORIENT.

By A CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.

A is the Advent—"Please, Nurse, do come quick!"
 B is the Bag which is ready on tick.
 C is the Cloak, taken down from the peg;
 D the Departure—"Don't stop me, I beg."
 E stands for Energy—there without fail.
 F Nurse's Figure—a ship in full sail;
 G is the Greeting—"How are you, my dear?"
 H is the Hurry—"Get the room clear!"
 I is the Iodine, she brought along.
 J is the Jostle of women who throng;
 K is the Kindness, which all neighbours know.
 L is the Linen, O! quite a poor show!
 M is the Mother, so anxious and worn.
 N is the Ninth (it will be when born);
 O is a letter much used in the dawn.
 P is Post Partum—patient quite weary;
 Q "Fetch the doctor, without any Query."
 R the Relief, when he comes through the door;
 S a Surprise for poor mother in store.
 T there are Twins (she may deem it a bore).
 "As you are the Umpteenth babes on my list,
 'Vale,' my dears," and the infants Nurse kissed.
 W and X and Y and also Z
 All stand for quiet words which Father said
 When he observed *two* babies in the bed.

MIDWIFERY ON CANAL BOATS.

Some interesting facts are recorded in the Report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Minister of Health, under the chairmanship of Mr. Neville Chamberlain, to inquire into the practice of living-in on canal boats, and its effects on the health and morals of the bargee population, recently issued through the Stationery Office.

Contrary, probably, to the preconceived ideas of many people, the Committee state that the consensus of opinion is that, so far as health, cleanliness, morality, feeding and clothing are concerned, the bargee and his family are fully equal, if not superior, to town dwellers of a similar class.

"Life on board these boats appears to be of an almost patriarchal character, and there was general agreement among the witnesses that the presence of the wife and mother on board helps to preserve a high standard of morality among the men and a kindly but efficient discipline among the children."

About 50 per cent. of the children are born on the boats under conditions quite unsuitable to mother or child in cases of confinement, yet one nurse with considerable experience of these cases asserted that she had never known of a case where a mother died in confinement, and only one where a child was born dead.

A NEW INFANT FEEDER.

A new feeder for weak and premature infants has recently been introduced, says the *Modern Hospital*. It has a capacity of one ounce and is graduated in eight parts, each part representing one dram. The bulb fits into and not over the syringe barrel, and is very much easier to remove and attach, whenever this is necessary, for the purpose of sterilising than an ordinary bulb.

The feeder will also be found very useful for removing the cream from the top of cow's milk. It is only necessary to remove the nipple, compress the bulb, insert the lip of the feeder into the milk bottle, and draw the excess cream into the glass barrel.

COMPLETE FOOTPRINT OUTFIT.

The same journal states that a very definite hospital problem, particularly for maternity institutions, has been the proper identification of babies. The Chicago Lying-in Hospital was probably the first to devise the footprint method, as one of the very definite means of identification. Authorities agree that one method of identification is not sufficient, and that two or even three different methods should be followed to ensure absolute security. As a result given to the footprint method, as adopted by the Chicago Lying-in Hospital, a manufacturer has recently introduced a complete outfit, including all necessary material for the making of footprints. The routine in this permits making one footprint for hospital record, and giving the patient a duplicate copy.

A CLEVER MOTHER.

The waterhen, referred to on page 130, is a bird who is alert and quick in her movements, trim and neat in her attire, and she is possessed of sound theories on infant welfare. For, before the eggs of the waterhen are completely hatched, she has ready for her expected family a beautiful new nest and, by methods best known to herself, removes them immediately to the clean, fresh "day nursery."

LIBERTY FOR THE BABY.

Time, 5 a.m. Artisan father, to eight months' old baby who has been screaming unattended for half-an-hour, and who has spent quite one-fourth of her short life in pitiful crying: "Cry away, my ducky, if you *want* to cry you *shall* cry, and if they knock at the wall next door we won't take no notice of them!"

Tenant on the other side of the thin party wall reluctantly decides that to get up early would be the lesser evil.

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