

A WISE POLICY.

The policy of the Ministry of Health, as detailed in its latest report, includes the extension of midwifery service, so that every woman may have within reach a competent midwife, provision of sufficient hospital accommodation for diseases of pregnancy, confinements, and illnesses of young children, and provision of maternity homes, and home nursing for maternity cases and illnesses of young children, especially ophthalmia neonatorum, measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhoea and poliomyelitis.

AN INTERESTING DOCUMENT.

The Annual Report of Sir George Newman, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, for 1920, is a very comprehensive and interesting document to which we have not space to do justice in this issue. An encouraging point is that there is a substantial rise in the birth rate, which is 25.4 as compared with 18.5 in 1919, and that the death rate shows a decline at most ages, being 12.4. There is still, however, a large mass of disability from trivial but neglected sickness.

BABY RULES FOR MOTHERS.

1. Bathe me every day. Oftener in hot weather. Test the heat of the water with your elbow. Pat me dry. Then I'll laugh and crow for you.
2. Keep me in a cool, clean, airy place. Dirt and heat make me ill and cross. Out of doors let me watch the sunlight and shadows dance, but shield my eyes from a direct light. It hurts them.
3. Let me sleep sixteen to twenty-two hours out of twenty-four. I detest waking to show auntie the colour of my eyes. When I sleep, I grow. That is my business.
4. Feed me *regularly* at three or four hour intervals. My stomach needs to rest between times. If you give me too much, I'll spit it up. I like mother's milk the best of any.
5. Let me kick and cry sometimes. I *must* get some *exercise*. Play gently with me, but do not toss me high. I may fall and break my back.
6. I love to cuddle in your arms, but please, mother, rocking me to sleep makes me dizzy. Turn me over often. I am vain about the shape of my head.
7. Let me hear soft tones of beautiful music. They soothe me. Sudden, loud or harsh noises get on my nerves. I love to hear you sing.
8. Support my head and back while I am tiny. *Please* let me take my own time in learning to walk. I want my body to grow straight and strong.
9. Do not expect me to talk too soon. It takes quite a while to learn your foreign language.

I can understand my own much better and I must think and think before I speak.

10. Protect me from persons who want to kiss my mouth. I am not strong enough to fight all their germs. Besides, it isn't done in the better babies' families.

Keep all these rules for me and some day I may do something for you.

"Hush a bye, baby, on the tree-top,

If grandmother trots you, you tell her to stop,

Shun the trot horse your grandmother rides—

It will work harm to your little insides.

Mama's scientific—she knows all the laws—

She kisses her darling through carbolised gauze.

Rock a bye, baby, don't wriggle and squirm;

Nothing is near you that looks like a germ."

From the Oregon Nurses' Bulletin.

THE SONG OF THE ANTI-DUMMY LEAGUE.

"Baby cries,
Nurse unwise
Rubber nipple pacifies.

No more riot,
Baby quiet,
Quite content with rubber diet.

Hearts like lead,
News is spread
Baby pacified—and dead!"

Makers of baby pacifiers please copy.

From Woman's Part in Government.

TREATMENT FOR ADENOIDS AND ENLARGED TONSILS.

At the Meeting of the British Medical Association at Newcastle-on-Tyne:—

Lieutenant-Colonel John Kynaston, London, urged that operating surgeons should revise their practice regarding operations for adenoids and enlarged tonsils, fully 90 per cent. of which, he alleged, were based on the wrong diagnosis of nasal stenosis instead of nasal sepsis. Operations were not invariably successful, and led to many deaths. Treatment should be on the lines of proper hygiene, dietary, and the cleansing of the nasal cavities by saline solution, followed by antiseptic inhalations.

A NEW SURGICAL NEEDLE,

A new surgical needle has been invented by Dr. H. S. Souttar, of the London Hospital. Hitherto one of the drawbacks has been the eye which has to be large to receive a considerable thickness of the sewing material.

Dr. Souttar's needle is an ordinary surgical needle which can be shaped in any way desired, but instead of the eye there is a small length of tubing fitted to the body of the needle within which the suture, or sewing material, is attached. This tube is exactly the size of the needle, so that no drag occurs in its use.

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