

teaching. Several mothers whose children had been ailing, or those with healthy children who had used the New Zealand books, offered her hospitality as a recognition of all they felt for the "Truby King" methods. The result of the work of the Child Welfare Societies in South Africa, and Miss Paterson's tour and work, was shown at the recent Child Welfare Conference held in Cape Town, when the Cape Province decided to ask the Government to help them establish New Zealand methods in South Africa.

As already stated in a previous issue, the South African Trained Nurses' Association early realised the value of this training, and the strong resolution in favour of establishing hospitals, Mothercraft centres, and nurses trained in New Zealand methods, sent in by the Western Province Branch of the Association materially helped to carry the motion. Other resolutions in favour were received from the Cape Town Division St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Nursing Section, and the A.C.V.V. (Women's Christian Union of the Dutch Reformed Church.)

A good deal of interest has been evinced in the press over Sir Berkeley Moynihan and Sir William Joynson-Hicks referring to the baby as economically of value to the State, at the Medical and Allied Services meeting the other night; this aspect of child welfare has been long recognised and discussed in New Zealand. There they are taught that the healthy-born infant is the nation's greatest asset, and is estimated as being worth £30 at birth, and if he reach the wage-earning and tax-paying age intact, he is worth £500 to the State. But if this asset, through ignorance in Mothercraft, is allowed to become the inmate of hospitals, asylums, or gaols, then the asset has been turned into a serious national liability.

"For every infant killed," says Dr. Truby King, "five or six grow up damaged, more or less seriously, for life. And almost every child who is damaged for life, or killed in the first two years of life, is damaged or killed by avoidable and unjustifiable malnutrition, indigestion, or diarrhoea.

"Child Welfare is no longer a matter of charity," he thundered out, at a recent meeting of the Society. "No longer a matter of sentiment, no longer a matter of expediency, but a matter of national existence." South Africa has realised this also. Some 18 years ago the infant death rate in New Zealand was 80 per 1,000; it is now reduced to 41.8, almost halved. Diarrhoea is the great scourge of infancy, scouring, as it is called in calves, and these are the only two mammals which suffer from this dread disease; they are also the only two which are consistently divorced from their mother's milk. The infantile diarrhoea death rate 16 years ago was 20 per 1,000 in Australia and New Zealand; to-day, in Australia, it stands at 18, while New Zealand has reduced her rate to three. The accompanying graph shows the Dunedin city rate, where the work began, and where the most intensive work has been done.

"How has it been accomplished? The United States of America sent over Dr. and Mrs. Woodbury to enquire. Their report, issued by the Children's Bureau, Washington, makes interesting reading. "No, it is not the climate,"

said Miss Paterson, "it has not changed in 18 years. But the mothers, all classes of mothers, have been taught mothercraft; all seek the advice of the Plunket Nurse; all classes visit the Plunket Rooms. Prevention is taught, and diarrhoea has almost been swept from the country. 'The Guide,' which costs 2s. here, is given free in New Zealand with the marriage licence.

"In this old country we have still to get the so-called educated woman to realise she is as ignorant of mothercraft as her less fortunately-situated sister. And—colossal task!—we must aim at uniform authoritative advice for all. I left this country convinced of the sanity and simplicity of the New Zealand system, and, having seen it working all over the globe, I return more convinced than ever that, be the baby a South Sea Islander (where I spent two months in 1922), or be he a South African, a New Zealander, or a Pole, he must be reared as a *human infant*, and not as the young of any other animal, and especially not as the calf."

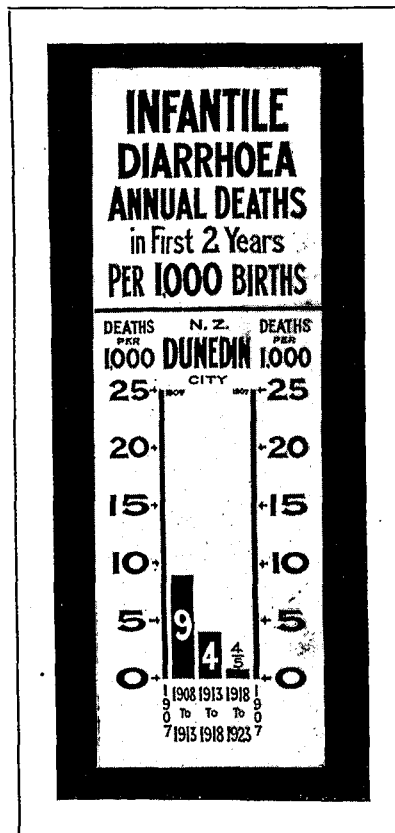


Chart showing the decline in the Death Rate from infantile diarrhoea in Dunedin.

THE HOSPITAL WORLD.

Westminster Hospital, which has practically been rebuilt, and which, Sir Robert Hudson, one of the Treasurers, states, will have 230 beds, and be equipped with every modern device for the treatment of patients, will, thanks to the generosity of Sir Harry Mallaby-Deeley, and the response of the public in claiming his conditional gift of £16,000, by subscribing a similar sum, be re-opened on July 15th, free from any debt incurred by the reconstruction, the whole of the £70,000, representing the cost of rebuilding, having been met by voluntary subscription. Those who pass through Broad Sanctuary will have noticed how the hospital has grown in beauty, with its dark bricks pointed to match its Portland stone facings, and its new sanitary turrets, which are not only in accordance with modern ideas of sanitation, but add greatly to the architectural appearance of the institution. The case of the upkeep of the hospital is still a cause of some anxiety, as investments are scanty, subscribers few, and it lives precariously on donations from day to day. Let us hope that the friends:

who have helped the rebuilding fund will continue their interest in the practical form of annual subscriptions.

Amid scenes of enthusiasm, the new Hartley Hospital at Colne, the gift of the late Sir William Hartley, of Southport, was opened with a golden key on June 25th, by his daughter, Miss Christiana Hartley, the Trust Deeds and Documents of Title being handed to the Mayor by Lady Hartley.

The foundation stone of the hospital was laid in September, 1921, by the late Sir William, and the only regrettable feature of Saturday's ceremonial was the fact that he had not lived to see the completion of his scheme, which, up to the present time, has cost £80,000.

Miss Riddel, a wealthy Belfast lady, who died recently, has bequeathed £10,000 to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

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