

The Midwife.

THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES' BOARD.

Mr. John Shields Fairbairn, M.B., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., has been elected Chairman of the Central Midwives' Board, and the following ladies and gentlemen as members of the Board for the ensuing year:—

By the Ministry of Health.—Miss Edith Greaves, Miss Ada Davies, M.B.E., Dr. William Allen Daley, D.P.H., and Mr. A. B. Machlachlan.

By the Incorporated Midwives Institute.—Mr. John Shields Fairbairn, M.B., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., Miss Anna Albertina Isabella Pollard, and Miss Edith M. Doubleday.

By the Royal College of Physicians.—Mr. Comyns Berkeley, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.

By the Royal College of Surgeons of England.—Mr. Victor Bonney, F.R.C.S.

By the Society of Medical Officers of Health.—Dr. J. J. Buchan, Medical Officer of Health for Bradford

By the Society of Apothecaries of London.—Dr. T. V. Dickinson, M.R.C.P.

By the Association of Municipal Corporations.—Councillor W. J. Laxley, J.P.

By the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.—Mrs. E. Richmond.

By the County Councils Association.—Miss K. J. Stephenson.

BIRTH CONTROL.

We have received the following official communication from the Ministry of Health.

1. The Minister of Health is authorised to state that the Government have had under consideration the question of the use of institutions which are controlled by Local Authorities for the purpose of giving advice to women on contraceptive methods.

2. So far as Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (including Ante-Natal Centres) are concerned, these Centres can properly deal only with expectant mothers, nursing mothers, and young children, and it is the view of the Government that it is not the function of the Centres to give advice in regard to birth control, and that their use for such a purpose would be likely to damage the proper work of the Centres. At the same time the Government consider that, in cases where there are *medical grounds* for giving advice on contraceptive methods to married women in attendance at the Centres, it may be given, but that such advice should be limited to *cases where further pregnancy would be detrimental to health*, and should be given at a separate session and under conditions such as will not disturb the normal and primary work of the Centre. The Minister will accordingly be unable to sanction any proposal for the use of these Centres for giving birth control advice in other cases.

3. The Government are advised that Local Authorities have no general power to establish birth control clinics as such, but that under the Notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915, which enables Local Authorities to exercise the powers of the Public Health Acts for the purpose of the care of expectant mothers and nursing mothers, it may properly be held that birth control clinics can be provided for these limited classes of women. Having regard to the acute division of public opinion on the subject of birth control, the Government have decided that no Departmental sanction which may be necessary to the establishment of such clinics for expectant and nursing mothers shall be given except on condition that contraceptive advice will

be given only in *cases where further pregnancy would be detrimental to health*.

4. Under the Public Health Acts, Local Authorities have power to provide clinics at which medical advice and treatment would be available for women suffering from gynaecological conditions. But the enactments governing the provision of such clinics limit their availability to sick persons, and the Government have decided that any Departmental sanction which may be necessary to the establishment of such clinics shall be given only on the following conditions:—(1) that the clinics will be available only for women who are in need of medical advice and treatment for gynaecological conditions, and (2) that advice on contraceptive methods will be given only to married women who attend the clinics for such medical advice or treatment, and in whose cases pregnancy would be detrimental to health.

"LACTOGEN."

We have pleasure in drawing attention to a dried milk prepared by the Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co., 6-8, Eastcheap, E.C.3, the advantages of dried milk being constancy in composition, digestibility, purity, portability, keeping qualities, and ease in preparation.

It is claimed for "Lactogen" that it not only possesses these qualities but others of equal importance. It is not merely a dried milk powder—it is cow's milk scientifically modified by the addition of cream and lactose to provide the correct balance for the human infant, *i.e.*, to approximate as closely as possible to maternal milk in composition. It contains nothing but the normal constituents of human milk, and is entirely free from starchy matter.

"Lactogen" may also be used with advantage at a suitable strength in the dietary of invalids and convalescents. We commend it to the attention of our readers.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The latest addition to the new buildings of Queen Charlotte's Maternity Hospital in Goldhawk Road, Hammersmith, are the laboratories, which are equipped to facilitate the scientific investigation of puerperal fever and other diseases which contribute to maternal infantile mortality.

AFTER-PAINS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—In a recent letter from Peru I am informed that my friend who is the mother of three children, and her friend, the mother of two children, all born in Peru, did not understand what was meant by after-pains, as they had never experienced them.

They had been comparing notes with someone newly arrived from England.

During the conversation it had transpired that in Peru they were delivered in the Dorsal position, whilst in England the left Lateral position was used.

I was taught to deliver in the latter position, and was aware that the Dorsal position was preferred in European countries, though I had never understood on what grounds.

Can any of your readers confirm this experience? I shall be glad to hear other opinions on the matter. With kind regards to yourself and grateful appreciation of your many services. I am, Madam,

Yours faithfully,

MARIA DUGDALE, M.B.C.N.

Higher Chapel Hill,

Rawtensall, Rossendale.

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