

- (5) Preventive measures will be taken; immunization secured as far as possible; cases of wrong feeding will be noted, followed up by visits in the homes and the results will be carefully charted.

The work as it stands now comprises:

- (a) Well-baby clinics with some immunization work; (b) Pre-natal work; (c) Home visiting; (d) Health supervision in schools; (e) Health talks in schools; (f) Mothers' meetings; (g) Bathing station for poor children; (h) Milk kitchen, including the making of bean milk; (i) Instruction course for nurses once a year; (j) Baby week once a year.

There is no place now that does not know what our purpose is, and the people also appreciate the value of the work. The fact that 700 well babies come to us speaks for the openness of the Korean mind to education. The problem of our work, when we first started, was to induce parents to bring healthy children; at first they nearly all had some ailment and needed medical care, but now there is scarcely a baby brought that is not well. The mothers want the best, and are very much interested in modern methods.

Although there are only five Korean nurses working in the city in child welfare work, yet they spare neither time nor energy. Often they are found visiting late in the evening—all this with very little remuneration, for a nurse's salary here averages forty yen per month, *i.e.*, twenty gold dollars. On this she lives, paying for food, clothing and shelter.

We are fortunate this year in having the assistance of Miss France Lee, a recent nurse student of the Public Health Department of the University of Toronto, and the first nurse in Korea to have received post-graduate training abroad. She is a graduate of the only Women's College in Korea; after finishing her nurse's course she decided to take up public health work, and so help her people to attain a higher standard of health. It was this desire that helped her to receive her education abroad.

The greatest hope of our preventive work lies in our schools.

The death-rate runs very high; it is considered that 50 per cent. of the children die before they reach the age of ten; yet among our 700 children last year we had only eleven deaths. Advice about feeding is an important item in the work of the visiting nurses, and practically all mothers are grateful for this instruction.

The really poor mothers seem to have neither the time, the strength, nor the means for keeping their babies well and strong. The majority of those who take advantage of the clinic facilities belong to the middle and upper classes, who have at least some degree of leisure.

In the milk station last year we fed 76 babies on milk prepared by formula. We were fortunate in discovering the use of the soya-bean milk, which is really very simple to make. The soya-bean is a native product and the milk is about five times less expensive than cow's milk and is equally palatable. It is very rich in protein and mineral content, which makes up for the high carbohydrate content of the rice diet and is a very satisfactory food for infants after weaning.

The principal effort of the Child Welfare Union is usually "Baby Week." At this time every possible means is employed to draw the attention of parents to health conditions in the home. The chief educational method used last year was window demonstrations, nursery furniture, bath tubs and baby clothing being displayed in such a way as to attract the attention of the passers-by. There were five such centres where continuous demonstrations were going on—bathing, feeding and dressing the baby.

On the last day of "Baby Week" the mothers with their children all gathered for the grand celebration; this included a fitting programme and wound up with the giving of prizes to the most regular attendants. The

children who had attended at least once each month, and who had come up to the required standard, received the first prize, given by Mr. K. S. Min, a well-known member of one of the oldest families in Korea. The prize was a silver spoon and was awarded to 112 children. It is to be called the "Min Prize," and will be given annually. The second and third prizes were a pretty bunny blanket and a much needed mosquito net. This day is always a most happy day for everyone concerned, although a very busy one also for the organizers.

#### NUTRITIONAL ANÆMIA OF INFANCY.

Nutritional Anæmia of Infancy is, says Dr. L. J. Witt in the *British Medical Journal*, most severe in premature and small babies, which come into the world with a poor store of iron. It is almost certainly an iron deficiency, due to the low iron content of the milk, and it is more severe in artificially fed babies, because cow's milk contains less available iron than the mother's. Anæmia which is so general might have been regarded as physiological had not Helen Mackay shown that it leads to an increased susceptibility to infection. Colds, otorrhœa, bronchitis and enteritis are twice as common in untreated babies as in those in which the anæmia is treated with iron. Iron should always be prescribed for small and premature babies, and there are few babies breast fed or artificially fed who will not benefit from it. It is given as iron and ammonium citrate  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 9 grains a day.

#### TRANSVERSE CONTRACTION OF THE PELVIS.

At the recent Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology held at the University of Birmingham, Prof. Van Rooy, as reported in the *Lancet*, read a paper on the obstetrical significance of transverse contraction of the pelvis. He cited the case of a vertex presentation with good flexion, a pelvis showing no abnormalities, and a true conjugate greater than normal. Labour starts and the head remains floating, dilatation proceeds and delivery has to be assisted. On investigation of such a case after delivery, Prof. van Rooy has found contraction of the transverse diameter of the brim. It was a symmetrical contraction, and had received scanty notice. Digital examination and pelvimetry were of assistance in measuring the other diameters. He agreed with Whitridge Williams that the transverse diameter of the inferior pelvic strait could not be measured in a living woman. He suspected this contraction if the ileo-pectineal ridges were easily palpable, and the external measurements, especially the posterior superior interspinous were diminished. Radiographic pelvimetry was a real advance in obstetrics; it was the only means by which one could measure satisfactorily the superior strait. He gave details of 43 cases in which labour lasted for 40 hours, with good uterine contractions there was delay in engagement of the head, instruments were applied, the true conjugate was greater than 11 cm., and the weight of the foetus was less than 3500 g. He had radiographed the pelvic brim in these cases and in 44 per cent. there was a diminution of the transverse diameter by 1.5 cm. Radiography in these cases revealed a hyperplastic state of the sacral wings. It was an open question whether the condition was one of abnormal congenital ossification or osteoarthritis of the sacro-iliac joints. The condition must always be suspected if there was non-engagement of the flexed head in the absence of obstruction and when the true conjugate was normal. Only by X-rays could it be diagnosed.

#### THE CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

At the August Examination of the Central Midwives Board 883 candidates were examined and 695 passed. The percentage of failures was 21.3.

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