

## PUBLIC HEALTH

### BIRTH CONTROL.

The Minister of Health, in a circular letter addressed to Local Authorities, in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare, refers to Memorandum 153/M.C.W. dated March 1931, and Circular 1208 of the 14th July 1931, which deal with the provision under the Public Health Acts of clinics for women suffering from gynaecological conditions, and with the conditions necessary to obtain Departmental sanction to the establishment of such clinics.

The Memorandum stated that these clinics "will be available only for women who are in need of medical advice and treatment for gynaecological conditions, and 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."

The present circular letter states: "The Departmental Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, in their final report published in 1932, called special attention to the importance of the avoidance of pregnancy by women suffering from organic disease, such as tuberculosis, heart disease, diabetes, chronic nephritis, &c., in which child-bearing is likely seriously to endanger life. The Committee considered that advice and instruction in contraceptive methods should be readily available for such women.

"It was pointed out in the Memorandum and Circular of 1931 that the powers which the Public Health Acts confer upon local authorities for the provision of clinics limit their availability to sick persons, but the Minister is advised that there is nothing to prevent the local authority from rendering such a clinic available for women suffering from forms of sickness other than gynaecological conditions. After careful consideration of the recommendation made by the Departmental Committee, the Minister is of opinion that where a local authority has provided a clinic at which medical advice and treatment are available for married women suffering from gynaecological conditions, and at which contraceptive advice is afforded to married women so suffering in whose cases pregnancy would be detrimental to health, it would be proper also for married women who are suffering from other forms of sickness, physical or mental, such as those mentioned in the Report of the Departmental Committee, which are detrimental to them as mothers, to be afforded contraceptive advice at the clinic if it is found medically that pregnancy would be detrimental to health. What is, or is not, medically detrimental to health must be decided by the professional judgment of the registered medical practitioner in charge of the clinic."

### SAFER MOTHERHOOD CAMPAIGN.

At a dinner presided over by Mrs. Stanley Baldwin in support of the Safer Motherhood Campaign at the Goldsmith's Hall, E.C., Sir E. Hilton Young stated that there were two lines of advance along which success might be achieved, the education of the mother in ante-natal care and the development of those services which rendered assistance to the expectant mother. Lady Maureen Stanley, emphasised the need for ante-natal care and attention, and Lord Dawson of Penn said that it had needed Mrs. Baldwin's great campaign to rid the world of the false notion that the use of anæsthetics for women in childbirth was injurious.

Mrs. Baldwin said that one of the proudest moments in her life was when her appeal to the City of London for a fund to provide anæsthetics for poor mothers proved successful, resulting in a sum of £250,000 which formed the nucleus of the fund which bore her name. She announced that £3,523 had been raised as the result of the dinner.

### PLAYING FIELDS DAY.

Lord Derby, presiding at 71, Eccleston Square, at the Annual Meeting of the National Playing Fields Association, reported that the "Playing Fields Day" instituted last month had been a great success. The gross collections and other receipts would certainly exceed £12,000, and might reach £13,000. The Playing Fields Day was instituted because of the successful policy of helping people to provide themselves with adequate playing sites and must be continued if the resources of the movement were to be built up again. The playing fields movement was a national one of vital importance to the health and happiness of the whole community, and it would be admitted that the Association was worthy to be placed on the list of those causes for which flag days were permitted. It was obviously of as great importance to keep young people fit and healthy and to improve their health and moral as it was to endeavour to mend in hospitals broken bodies and unsound minds.

Lord Derby was re-elected Chairman of the Association, and it was decided to hold another "National Playing Fields Day" next year between April 27th and May 4th.

### MEDICAL SECTION FOR BRITISH INDUSTRIES HOUSE.

It is announced that Dr. Alfred Cox, who until recently was Medical Secretary to the British Medical Association, a position which he held for twenty-one years, has agreed to act as Chairman of an Advisory Council to a Medical, Dental and Hospital Equipment Section, which is being formed at British Industries House, Oxford Street, London.

"The need for a centre where people buying hospital equipment can find under one roof a representative selection of what they want has long been felt by our hospitals," said Dr. Cox in an interview. "An opportunity of obtaining it is being offered by British Industries House, which is to give buyers from all parts of the world an opportunity of seeing a selection of the best products of British Industry. "I hope very soon," said Dr. Cox, "to have the co-operation of an advisory council representing medicine, surgery and pharmacy."

Why not add Nursing ?

### NESTLÉ'S MILK.

#### Bacterial Purity.

The extreme susceptibility of milk to contamination must be a matter of great anxiety to all concerned with the feeding of infants. Apart from the constant presence of a large number of bacteria which, although giving rise to souring, are generally regarded as harmless, there is always the possibility of a more serious infection of far-reaching consequence. The use of Nestlé's Milk offers complete security from this danger.

The rigidly controlled process of manufacture ensures a complete freedom from pathogenic and undesirable bacteria. Even the highly resistant tubercle bacillus cannot survive.

Nestlé's Milk, therefore, provides all the benefits of a fresh milk diet, but does not incur the attendant danger of infection with the germs of milk-borne disease.

### PASSING BELL.

Many of those who worked for the movement for State Registration of Nurses will regret to learn of the death of Mr. John Whieldon, the cousin of Sir Richard Barnett, and, as his secretary, so closely identified with his work. He was, says a contemporary, "a fine example of the English citizen at his best; always working for righteousness; always outspoken in denunciation of evils; but always brim-full of humour and of hope." The sort of man who found happiness in association with the work of that valiant knight Sir Richard Barnett.

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