

authority for the establishment of clinics providing for the facilities suggested by the deputation.

Sir Kingsley Wood emphasised that the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres were not ordinarily designed or equipped for general gynæcological work or as a place for the treatment of sick women. But if they were, the result might be that their preventive functions would be impaired by being mixed up with work which usually needed the resources of a hospital for its adequate performance. He did not, therefore, think that in ordinary circumstances it was desirable that a gynæcological clinic should be established at a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, though he recognised that some local authorities with their knowledge of local conditions, might feel justified in taking a different course.

Report Awaited.

As regards the encouragement of further gynæcological clinics, Sir Kingsley Wood said he hoped shortly to receive the Report of the last two years' investigation into the problem of maternal mortality. He had little doubt that one of their most important recommendations would relate to the need for an extension of post-natal clinics. At these clinics facilities would be available for medical examination and certain minor forms of treatment for women who had recently been confined, and birth control advice could lawfully be given there to any such woman in whose case pregnancy would be detrimental to health, but it was desirable that such advice should be given at a separate session. The establishment of post-natal clinics would no doubt show the need in many areas for providing gynæcological clinics for the treatment of disabilities and diseases which were discovered at the post-natal clinics and which could not be adequately treated there. These gynæcological clinics must be provided under the Public Health Acts, and they would be available for any woman suffering from gynæcological conditions, and birth control advice could lawfully be given at such clinics to any woman for whom pregnancy would be detrimental to health. He considered that the most suitable place for a gynæcological clinic was a women's hospital or a general hospital, but he would carefully consider all the deputation had said and as to what should be included in the circular he would in due course address to the local authorities following the recent investigation into maternal mortality, and particularly on the need of gynæcological clinics to supplement the work undertaken at post-natal clinics.

As regards the subject of abortion, he had no doubt the Report on Maternal Mortality would deal with this question, and he would have to consider what action was desirable in the light of the Report.

BRITISH HOSPITAL FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES.

A sum of £60,000 is still required to complete the extension of the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies, Woolwich, which will provide facilities for the attention to 1,000 additional cases each year, which at present have to be turned away through lack of this accommodation. The Countess of Stamford is receiving gifts for the hospital at 154, Grosvenor Road, S.W.1.

MOSCOW'S INCREASING BIRTH-RATE.

The birth-rate in Moscow has shown a marked increase during the past few months. In January the number of births registered by the Moscow Municipality was 8,650. This represents 2,856 more births than in January of 1936. During the first ten days of February, the number of births registered was 3,978, as against 2,092 in the first ten days of February, 1936.

"FLYING SQUAD" FOR MATERNITY CASES.

A new line of attack on maternal mortality has been initiated, says the *Public Assistance Journal*, at Birmingham, and already the experiment has proved of the greatest help in cases of emergency.

The scheme, which was referred to in the report presented at the annual meeting of the Governors of the Birmingham and Midland Hospital for Women, has for its object the bringing of a well-equipped maternity hospital right to the bedside of a patient gravely ill as a result of obstetrical shock or hæmorrhage. Help is to be taken to the patient, and not the patient to the hospital. By that means it is hoped that damage will be eliminated, as well as the delay and upset of the removal of patients from their homes to hospital.

To attain this end, the report explained that there had been established what was called a "flying squad," which had as its base the Birmingham Maternity Hospital and as its general staff a rota of consultants of that hospital. The apparatus consisted of a complete emergency outfit, equipped with every possible necessity for dealing with obstetrical emergencies, accompanied by a staff nurse who was a trained midwife of the hospital.

The scheme is being worked in conjunction with the Birmingham Corporation Health Committee and the St. John Ambulance Brigade, arrangements having been made with the Brigade for an ambulance to be available within a few minutes of receiving a call. The equipment is kept at the Maternity Hospital, and a member of the nursing staff is detailed to be available, whenever called, to take the whole of the equipment in the ambulance to the home of the patient, while the surgeon goes independently.

The Lord Mayor, who presided at the annual meeting of the Governors, expressed the opinion that the "flying squad" was an example of development which proved that the Maternity Hospital was keeping abreast of the times and was capable of imbibing new ideas.

FOOD REFORM IN THE NURSERY.

The Duchess of Hamilton presided at a meeting of the Health Education and Research Council, when Dr. C. V. Pink, Medical Officer, Stonefield Maternity Home, pointed out the importance of right diet in earliest infancy as affecting the health of the coming generation. He had seen 1,500 expectant mothers change their diet to a flesh-free one, including a large proportion of uncooked food; in all cases benefit resulted, and often very striking improvement in health. Most of their babies had been brought up on strictly vegetarian food, and some were now 16 years old. As a group they were above the average in health, being specially free from septic diseases such as mastoid abscess. When they caught measles the illness was often over in 24 hours, and was so slight that diagnosis would have been impossible but for the fact that infection was known to have occurred.

In speaking of the danger of tubercular infection from milk, he said that a considerable number of children had been reared without cow's milk. From the age of nine months infants could be educated to assimilate vegetable proteins, and those brought up on a milk-free diet had been remarkable for satisfactory teething, good physical development, and immunity from disease. They were unusually alert and enterprising.

A WORD FOR THE MONTH.

Beauty, strength, youth, are flowers but fading seen;
Duty, faith, love, are roots, and ever green.

G. PEELE, *Polyhymnia*.

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