

NATIONAL BABY WEEK.

National Baby Week will be held this year from July 1st to 7th. The "William Hardy" silver challenge shield is offered by the National Baby Week Council for competition among girls in public elementary schools studying Infant Care. The "Gwen Geffen" rose bowl will be awarded to the school winning second place.

The competition, conducted by the Council in co-operation with the Association of Teachers of Domestic Subjects, takes place on June 14th.

Postcards entitled "Please," "Milestones in Baby's First Year," "A Catechism for the Parent of the Five-Year Old" and "The Sum of Perfection," can be obtained from 117, Piccadilly, W., price 6d. per dozen.

FATHERCRAFT.

A pamphlet, "Modern Aspects of Fathercraft," by Dennis H. Geffen, M.D., D.P.H., and William D. Hyde, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., is also available, and is concerned with the attitude of the father to his children throughout his life.

It is suggested that the prospective father can make certain preparations in the home before the birth of the child. While his wife is filling in the months of waiting by quietly preparing garments for the baby, he can also busy himself in some useful pursuit or hobby in the home; in many cases a good washing down of paintwork or repainting will be one of his jobs.

A father must not advise his wife to discontinue breast-feeding, the benefits of which he should be so well aware, that he will allow nothing to interfere with this natural and wholly beneficial function.

Fathers must realise that babies require peace and sufficient rest, and should not insist on having the wireless set blaring forth to the detriment of the child. It is harmful, moreover, for children to be in an atmosphere laden with tobacco fumes.

By encouraging his wife to use the local health services he will be able to follow intelligently the progress of the child, and having had his attention drawn to any ailment or infirmity, he can take steps to have it corrected, before it is too late.

If his work permits of his being at home before the child's bedtime, he ought to spend an hour or so playing with it. A father must not be held up to his children as some "bogy-man."

Juvenile crime is in many cases attributable to lack of parental guidance. There may be children who, in spite of good upbringing, find their way to criminal Courts, but their number could be markedly reduced if fathers were wiser and more interested in the welfare of their children.

VERY GOOD WORK.

About this time of year, if we can spare a few shillings, it is time to make up our minds how best they can be

spent. Personally, holidays claim our sympathies for city dwellers who may long for the sight and smell of the sea, and wardens of boys' settlements are clamouring for support for the good work they have in hand. From Mansfield House, University Settlement, Fairbairn Hall, London, E.13 (dockland), comes a reminder that help is urgently required.

"I do hope," the warden writes, "that, in spite of these terribly anxious and difficult times, you may feel able to continue your help to some of our boys."

"The camps and all the other manly club activities in which we have pioneered for so many years are of untold benefit to the physique, and even more to the spirit, of the younger generation, giving as they do freedom with reasonable discipline, healthy and simple food, and the happiest comradeship."

"I know you will not mind my asking you once again for your help on behalf of our large family of all sorts and sizes."

Wisely, this kind man encloses a photo of two sunny-faced lads who, we feel sure, deserve a lovely time. So please if you can help, do.



SUNNY-FACED BOYS.

THE DEAR ANIMALS.

District Nurse to Farmer's Wife.

D.N.—"Your daughter Dora tells me she would like to be a nurse."

F.W.—"Well, I'm agin it. She's joining the Royal Red Cross; all the nobbs belongs hereabouts."

Dora.—"What I really want is to be a 'vet.,' so as I can help the dear animals, as died for us in thousands in the Great War and no national monument as I've heard tell of."

D.N.—"A splendid idea. You must join the Land Army."

HEN BATTERIES.

Cruelty which the Purchaser of Eggs can Suppress.

The Animal Defence and Anti-Vivisection Society has issued a pamphlet appealing to the public to "put an end to a practice which causes suffering and disease."

The pamphlet explains that "Commercialisation of animals and birds has resulted in highly specialised industries in which the exploitation of living creatures has been brought to a fine art. They are bred and reared with the object of securing the minimum amount of outlay and labour. Mass-production methods are here, and with them all natural ways of living have disappeared. The latest of these abominations is the hen battery."

All batteries have a wire netting floor, to make the process of cleaning the cages easier; also the floor slopes to allow the eggs to roll away for collecting. Water is kept at a low level to avoid splashing, and often troughs will hold a week's supply of food. The hens never reach the floor and never go outdoors.

The birds have now an average life of eighteen months.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)