



THE MIDWIVES' UNION SECTION

Hon. Secretary—Miss S. M. Round (Sister Sallie) All Saints' Dispensary, Panvel, Dt. Colaba, Bombay.

Members are asked to send any helpful notes of cases, and articles for this Section to the Secretary.

A CASE OF PLACENTA PRAEVIA

The following has been received from a Nurse training for the C. M. B. at the Leeds Maternity Hospital:-

The patient, a frail looking woman of 41 years, was a ? placenta praevia. It was her fourth pregnancy, the other three having been normal full term deliveries. She was admitted to the Leeds Maternity Hospital at 38 weeks with a history of having had a sudden gush of blood on getting out of bed that morning at 7.0 a. m. There was a continuous trickle of blood for a hour, and she stayed in bed, but at 3.0 p. m. on getting up to pass urine she had another gush and it was then that her doctor ordered her to hospital.

On examination the position was L. O. A. foetal heart heard and the head free. Nothing abnormal was noticed on rectal examination and the patient's general condition was good.

At 6.30 p. m. a vaginal examination was performed by one of the Honorary Obstetric Surgeons. This revealed the cervix to be one finger dilated and a central placenta praevia. An external podalic version was performed under anaesthetic, the cervix dilated to two fingers and a leg was with some difficulty brought down. The leg was then tied to the foot of the bed and 1 lb. weight put on. There was now very little bleeding.

At 11.30 p. m. the leg began to move further and I was to told to scrub up and if I was lucky I'd get a breech delivery. The Surgical Tutor was hovering around all this time waiting for things to happen. He sent for all the students as it was going to be an unusual case, so you can imagine what an audience I had!

When the leg was as far down as the knee, the placenta arrived with a leg sticking through it, then the rest of the baby followed enveloped in membrane. The Surgical Tutor said he had never seen one quite like it. The baby was stillborn, but I believe the chances of a live infant in a case of central placenta praevia are nil. The mother is doing well now.

I felt very thrilled to get this delivery because all breeches are delivered by the doctor.

CARE OF THE BABIES' EYES

By the Health Visitor, Gosha Hospital, Madras.

Among all the organs of the body the eye is one of the most important. Therefore the care of the eyes is very essential.

In this country young and old men and women suffer from many diseases of the eye. Some lose the sight of the eye and hence

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they are blind. The person to blame for this in the case of babies is the mother. The mother should take care of the babies' eyes at the right time and at the right age.

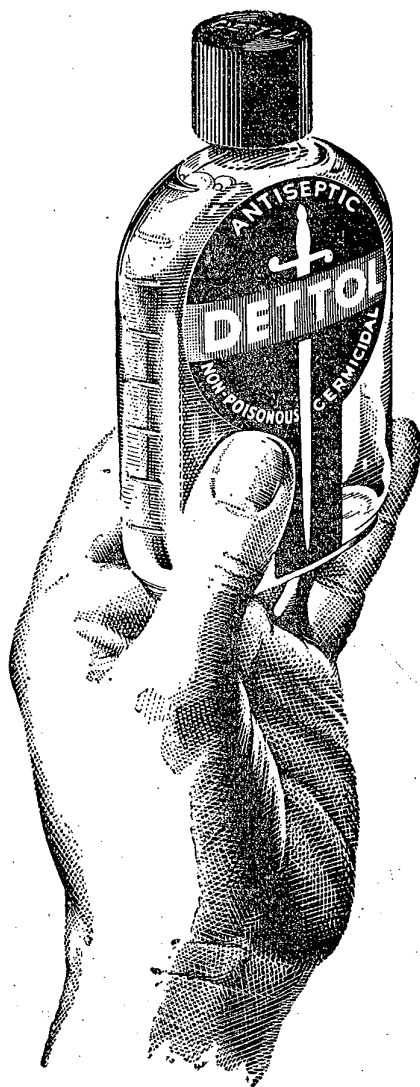
The care of the eyes begins not after the child is born but when it is in the very womb. When any expectant mother notices purulent vaginal discharge and when she has got burning micturition she must at once consult a doctor or attend a child welfare centre where proper steps will be taken. Then the mother engages a trained midwife at the time of delivery. By so doing she saves the baby's eyes from getting ophthalmia neonatorum. Many babies suffer from this dangerous disease and lose the eyes finally all because of untrained midwives who may not know the importance of taking care of the baby's eyes at birth and also because of the ignorant mother who was not sharp enough to notice the above mentioned signs in her when the baby was in the womb and get the disease treated in time.

After this the mother may think that the part of her duty is over with regard to the care of the baby's eyes. No, not yet; now the infant is born and he is sleeping the major portion of the day. He does not know to take care of himself or to keep away the flies that hover over his eyes and infect his eyes from infected persons. So the mother must place the infant under a mosquito net or she must take care that the flies do not sit over his eyes and carry infection.

Again the mother's part of the duty is to protect the baby's eyes from any other infection that would arise by cleaning the eyes with dirty rags or her own dress sometimes. She must use clean rags or linen to wipe the eyes. By so doing she prevents many diseases of the eye from occurring. The careless mother who uses the dirty cloth to clean the baby's eyes, unnecessarily causes the child to suffer. The child gets infection and the mother, not knowing what to do, pours irritant remedies into the eyes trying to cure the disease. By so doing she puts the child into further danger of losing the sight and perhaps the eye itself. So the mother should not attempt to treat the child's eyes even though the disease may be very slight. She must keep the part clean by washing the eyes with clean boiled and cooled water and take the child to the hospital or again to the child welfare centre.

Now our hero the infant has come to the stage of taking mixed diet or otherwise he may be called a toddler. The mother must select such articles of diet that will give strength to the growing baby's eyes. The articles of nutrition are eggs, milk, codliver oil, butter and fruits.

In our country many mothers forget the dangers of the glare of the sun. Babies are allowed to roam about as they like in the midday sun when the sun is at its highest degree in heat and glare. Babies ought to be allowed to go out when the sun is pleasant in the morning and in the evening but not in the midday.



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Mother's duty is to keep him indoors at that time and allow him either in the morning or in the evening.

The best part of the play that should be played by the mother is that she should select such articles for the child to play with. He does not know whether it is pen or penknife, stick or scissors which will cause injury to the precious eyes which had been guarded so carefully and so far. So mother again keeps such dangerous weapons beyond his reach. Blocks of wood and blunt play things are harmless. Picture books and sand buckets are very good.

The last but not the least part of the duty of the mother is to protect the child from the hideous disease small pox. She must see that her child is vaccinated without delay and without the least hesitation. Then, when she has done all the above mentioned duties of a mother, she and her child may be expected to enjoy perfect health and happiness, and the latter will prove himself a healthy citizen.

WORLD'S YOUNGEST MOTHER

Sent by Miss D. Hartley from a London paper

News of the birth of an apparently healthy baby to an Indian girl aged a few months less than five years was received here from Lima (Peru) today.

Both the child-mother, Lina Medina, whose birth certificate shows she was born on September 23, 1934, and the 6lb. baby boy are said today to be in excellent health.

Sixty doctors, among them a commission which had undertaken to prepare a report on the case for international circulation, saw a Caesarian operation on the girl performed at a Lima maternity home.

Dr. Hipolito Larrabure, chief surgeon at the hospital, said today that the condition of the child's teeth proved her under five years old.

She is the daughter of an Indian farmer living near Lima.

The family believes the child has been afflicted by a mythical evil spirit which, according to Indian superstition, is capable of causing pregnancy.

The Medical Correspondent writes: The Lima mother is the youngest on record. The normal limit is ten; the warmer the climate the lower the age.

However young the mother the baby is generally normal size.
