

THE MIDDLE-CLASS BABY'S HANDICAP

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me who had been put on to a bottle and, fortunately, was even more ill on it than when previously nursed by her. I pointed out the risks of bottle-feeding, and showed her that her failure was due entirely to over-feeding (every two hours), not, as she thought, to her having insufficient milk or to it disagreeing. It took me just over half an hour to examine her baby, get its history, habits, etc., and instruct the mother; but that half-hour may mean a healthy citizen, instead of, conceivably, a dead baby or a chronic dyspeptic.

By means of test feeds—that is, weighing the baby before and after a feed—we were able to assure her that she had sufficient, with the result that though the infant had been on a bottle some weeks, it is now a peaceful, happy baby on four-hourly feeds, allowing the house-

results in his efforts to ensure successful feeding. In one case, a mother, being unable to nurse her own baby, was enabled not only to do so, but to help altogether about twenty other infants. Dr. King came over from New Zealand during the war in order to help the "Babies of the Empire." Previously a mental specialist, he came to the conclusion that he would do better work by beginning with the babies and their mothers, and getting thus a sound mind in a healthy body. In spite of its hot summers, New Zealand had at one time, and, as far as I know, has now, the lowest infant death rate in the world, after previously having about the highest. What New Zealand has done, we can do; but it is up to us to see that it is not only the derelicts of society that are saved to propagate the race. The child is the father of the man, but



Topical Press, photo, London

A HASTY WEDDING—ACTRESS WEDS FIFTH HUSBAND IN MID ATLANTIC

Miss Nora Bayes, the famous American actress, was married by the Captain in mid ocean to Mr. B. L. Friedland on board the "Leviathan." Our photo shows Mr. and Mrs. Friedland after their wedding.

hold to sleep in peace. The mother told us naïvely that she never dreamt that she could come to such a place as an Infant Welfare Centre.

Why should middle-class babies run so much graver risks than the poorer ones? That they do is obvious from the statistics in a mixed district, where it has become the fashion for the better-class mothers to attend the clinics. If the babies not attending, the infant death rate is 110 per 1000—fairly low for an industrial town; but of those babies who attend, only 27 per 1000 die. In this district there is no doubt that the kindly co-operation of one of the leading doctors is a help, as he always advises the mothers to bring their babies to us. One of my first cases sent by him was a small mite weighing about 3½lb., whom he sent with the assurance that if anything could be done we should do it. We worked hard, and eventually, after despairing several times, we got another mother to give of her abundance an occasional feed. The baby slept six hours the first time, and never really looked back. Dr. Truby King got some marvellous

the baby is as certainly the grandfather. The great middle class threatens to be squeezed out of existence by the high price of living, the shortage of houses, etc. Their families tend to become smaller. At any rate let us conserve what we have got. Surely the middle-class baby is as well worth saving as his poorer brothers, and Infant Welfare Centres should be started for the middle-class mothers and babies, where they would have the advice of a trained staff. The objection is raised that we are taking away work from the general medical practitioners. Speaking as a general practitioner of ten years' standing, I hold this is untrue, except in the sense that we keep the children from getting ill in a great many cases when they otherwise would. It is much more dramatic to do a big surgical operation than it is to prevent the necessity for it ever arising. One can conceive a Utopia in which doctors and dentists will no longer exist, much less surgeons.

In general practice, mothers will not bring their babies to us as a

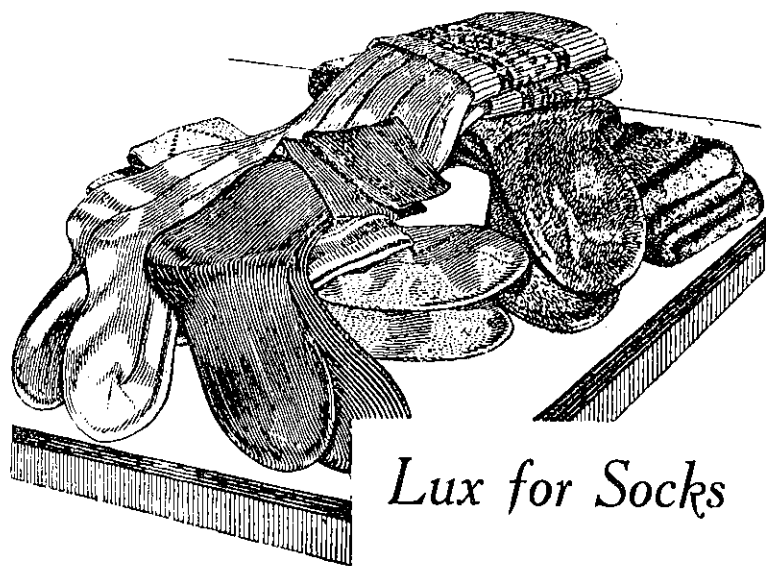
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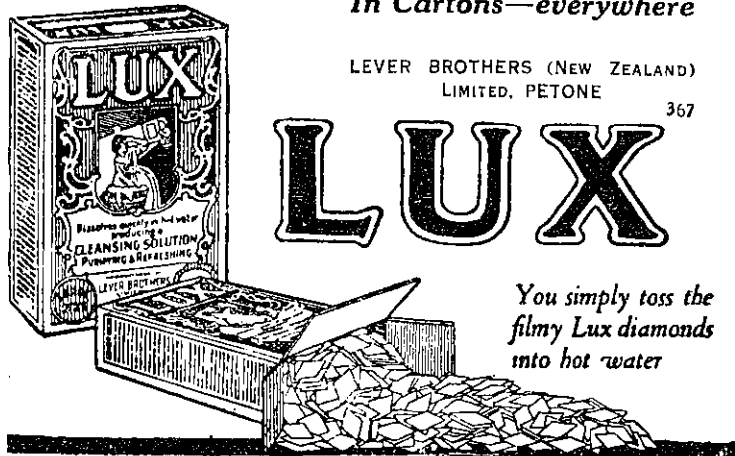
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