

CROONING OF 68 BABIES WELCOMES VISITOR AT BABY HOME

BY EDITH KNIGHT HOLMES.

SIXTY healthy, happy babies are crooning and gurgling and enjoying life at the Baby Home, while there is gladness in the hearts of the management, of the nurses, physicians and attendants, for in 16 months there has not been a single death in that splendid institution. And, think of it, the members of this wonderful family are all "bottle babies"; many of them came into the world with a heritage of frailty, misfortune and neglect. The fact that these mites of humanity should be received, cared for so thoroughly and be given a chance to begin life right is in itself interesting.

There is, back of all the success in keeping the babies in this excellent state of health, a marvelous system that governs the preparation of the foods and the care of the children from the day they enter; there are officers and directors who give untiringly of their time and efforts for the benefit of the Home and a staff of nurses who are devoted to their work. Above all in importance must be mentioned the physician who has instituted the system and the superintendent who carries out the plans.

Babies Kept in Open.

Entering the big building at East Thirty-seventh and Ellsworth streets on a bright sunny day one finds clean, attractive rooms, but, as the sign over the door says, "Baby Home," one naturally looks for the babies. They are all out in the open air rooms, getting the sunshine and fresh air and keeping healthy and growing just as babies should. The wee mites are in their miniature white cribs, all in a row in the fresh air room. Those who are big enough to roll about a little are put in a big bed with a white fence all round the edge, so that they can't possibly fall, and there they play with their rattles and smile at the visitors and have the most glorious time.

There is one baby now in the receiving-room claiming special interest, for she is the least of the big family, having been born just a few days ago. She will remain in this apartment where there is a cosy fireplace for about a month or maybe a little longer, and then she will graduate into another room and probably make room for another like herself, for there always seems to be a supply of babies in the world.

All day long the dormitories where the little ones sleep, are deserted and the windows are opened to let in all the sunshine and air possible. The infants get their bottles out in their beds in the fresh air. The toddlers sit up at a table for their dinner, which consists of bread and milk, bread and milk pudding and mashed potatoes, varied at times with other simple and nutritious foods.

Big Babies Enjoy Swims.

The children who are between 2 and 3 years old are allowed to play in a little yard in which is a sand box and a big safely constructed swing. It is a wonderfully interesting sight to see these children at play. The older ones look after those who are a few months their juniors. They build mountains in the sand, roll in the grass and play happily in the lazy swing. They are well fed, well-kept kiddies out on the lap of Mother Nature, having a good time as only little people can. If these children were the sons and daughters of millionaires they could not get a better chance to grow and be healthy.

Round the outside of the playground's fence there grows a border of bright-hued asters; huge trees shade the adjacent lawn and the whole scene is one of rare attraction.

Upstairs there are more dormitories all fitted up with rows of tiny white beds, all light, airy and absolutely clean. Fire hose and other protective appliances are ready in case of fire and there is a sun porch that is screened over the windows and can be used in the winter as an ideal playground and nursery.

Soothing Syrups Not Used.

Each attendant is in charge of eight or nine babies; to feed and care for, and the work is so well done that every little one is clean and sweet and, actually, these babies rarely cry. Imagine taking care of a family of nine, all practically the same size! The thought would bring dismay to most women. But then we must consider the things that makes the task possible. System, scientific feeding, pure clean milk, fresh air and sunshine and loads of that uncommon attribute, common sense—these are the secrets of it all. No "dope," no paregoric, no soothing syrups are used in this baby home. They aren't needed.

The preparation of the babies' food is a feature that claims special mention. The cows first of all are of fine stock, well fed and cared for. Before milking time they are thoroughly washed and are then taken into the barn, which is as clean as a marble table.

The barn is absolutely sanitary, finished within in smooth cement with stall divisions made of metal and every precaution taken to insure against the carrying of germs. Dr. D. W. Mack, City Dairy Inspector and expert in all matters pertaining to milk and

sanitation, says that he considers the Baby Home's cow barn the best in the state.

Precautions are taken to do away with flies, one of the great pests usually found in the vicinity of barns. The man who attends to the milking is dressed in a clean white suit. The milk is placed in a sterilized pail and taken into the cooler immediately. After the various formulas are mixed it is put into the bottles, each one of which is labeled with a tiny celluloid tag bearing the name of the child for whom it

means of keeping the babies in their excellent state of health.

It is admitted by authorities who know that 50 per cent of the bottle babies of America die, while only 7 per cent of the naturally nursed babies die. If this be the case, is not the record of the home remarkable, when one considers that all of the babies there are bottle fed?

The youngsters who are big enough to toddle about are anxious to be noticed, and if one is spoken to the others must come in for their share of at-

nuts or home-made biscuits, but there were no such wares in her basket. Lifting the lid, she disclosed a tiny newborn babe—her daughter's child, that had made its appearance into the world a few hours before and had immediately been stowed in the basket and taken on a journey of three score miles, over a rough road. All this didn't tend to improve the baby's looks or general welfare. The poor little thing surely got a bad start in life. Born of a young mother whose family would not keep the child because of what the

will be one of the most interesting features. They will have a ward and department showing how they care for their babies and it will be a great educational feature. I consider the physicians and nurses at the home, by their splendid system of milk formula and charts and general attention to the children, have in a large measure solved the infant mortality problem. Their methods are equal to or better than those of any of the first-class institutions in the United States."

Miss Georgia Morse, superintendent of the home, is a remarkable young woman, with a fund of gentleness, firmness, patience, ability and good sense. She is a graduate of Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, and has been with the Baby Home for several years. She always seems to know how to meet a difficulty and her fund of ideas seems never to diminish.

Addition Is Needed.

"We get along beautifully, but we do need an addition terribly," said Miss Morse. "If we only had a little more room and a few more fireplaces—well, someday they will come, when someone realizes how much they are needed."

Miss Helen Robertson, one of the nurses has had the advantage of training with some of the specialists of England. She was connected with Dr. Barnardo's hospital in London. Miss Ella Cahill, the night nurse, has been with the home for five years and is an efficient helper.

Not to be forgotten in the list is Abe Kam, the presiding elder of the laundry and garden. He takes great pride in his patches of vegetables and fruit and in the place where all the washing is capably done. Abe Kam has been with the home more than 20 years and is at all times faithful in his trusts.

Two Hundred Babies Placed.

During the five years of Mrs. D. C. Burns' presidency 200 babies have been placed. The splendid co-operation of all the officers and employees, together with the good work done by the physicians, has made the duties of the presiding officer a pleasure. In the last 16 months 188 babies have been handled. There have been recently at the institution 27 under four weeks old entered and 13 who were under 24 hours. Four of these have been premature infants, weighing as low as four pounds each.

The board of directors of the Baby Home includes: President, Mrs. D. C. Burns; vice-president, Mrs. Harry Meyer; secretary, F. S. Akin; treasurer, A. L. Keenan; corresponding secretary, Mrs. G. B. Cellars; Mrs. Herman Hopner; Jacob Kanzler, C. H. Dodd. Mr. Keenan is also chairman of the board of trustees and has given unstintingly of his best thought and efforts for the sake of the home and its little inmates.

The board of physicians, to whom credit is given, is, besides Dr. Bilderback, Drs. Frederick Kiehls, Ralph Davis and J. C. Elliott King.

Stronuous Is Task.

It is no easy task to be president of a charitable institution of any kind, and it is especially strenuous to be head of a baby home. If things go well, there is little comment and no thanks, but in case of the least trouble or friction, the president is blamed immediately. In all her years of service, Mrs. Burns has gone about her work steadfastly endeavoring to make the Baby Home a model institution. She has been assisted by the best of board members, by nurses and doctors of high standing. If the home has accomplished, as Mr. Callaway says, solution of the problem of baby feeding and care, it has done a great service to the community.

Last year there were 2,243,953 babies of the civilized world who died, and it is admitted that nearly all of these were bottle babies and the cause was that "the food didn't suit." This statement is heard so often. Mothers everywhere are yearning for formula for their bottle babies. The modified milk used in this Portland institution surely must come very near to the ideal, when it has been so excellent a food for the little waifs of humanity who are being cared for at the Baby Home. As the institution grows, as there are more babies to be housed, there is felt the great need for an endowment fund. The money to carry on the work has been raised in the past at tag days and various affairs, and the public has responded generously, but to give a feeling of stability the officers realize that the endowment is the only thing. They are not going to give a tag day this year and are now beginning to devise some way of raising money to meet the every-day demands. The home gets state aid, but aside from this has no income.

Pathetic Stories Told.

Hundreds of pathetic stories come to the superintendent and officers of a baby home. It is difficult often to know just what to do to be helpful. There are so many of the girl-mothers who have been led from the path that they knew was the only right way, and until the whole order of things shall be changed there always will be these poor, unfortunate, little mothers, and, in spite of all the talk and all the efforts of philanthropists, divo and reform clubs, there will be some little babies whom nobody wants—or of whom everyone is ashamed—and these bits of humanity must be aided. If they get their start in a good, well-regulated home, if their bodies are nourished and their manners so directed that they are inspired to good behavior, surely the work done by the institution is worth while.



is intended, and then after corking with absorbent cotton, the bottles are put into the refrigerator ready for use. Of course, a slight warming is necessary as a final preparation.

From the day the babies enter the home their record is kept showing how they progress with regard to weight and general condition. Each little one has a chart that is faithfully marked every day and by this the attendants know when and how to regulate the infant's food. Each child is studied individually, for a formula that agrees with one may not be the best thing for another. The system was introduced by Dr. Joseph Bilderback three years ago when he returned from Germany, where he did a great amount of research and clinical work in the Finckelstein Children's Hospital in Berlin. Dr. Bilderback's attention and devotion have been in a large measure the

reason for the success of the institution. Nellie, aged about 15 months, is an exceptionally attractive mite. She has pink-tan hair, lovely eyes and skin and a radiant smile that takes a hold of the heartstrings as firmly as the little lady herself grips the visitors' fingers. Dudley is fully 2½ years old and he says "goodbye" like a little gentleman. Phyllis wants to be loved, and before you know it if you go to see her she will climb into your lap and will be followed by half a dozen others, and you will have to love the whole motherless bunch and let them see your ring and hear your watch tick, and when you get up at last to go they will wave their baby hands and say "bye-bye."

Baby Brought 60 Miles.

To the Baby Home there came the other day a country woman carrying a covered market basket. She looked as though she might be selling dough-

world would say, this babe, like many others of its kind, found in the Baby Home a refuge where it will be cared for and given three years of mothering, scientific feeding and careful training.

There is a history connected with every babe in the institution. These little ones are not responsible for their existence; some one must care for them and at the home they certainly get the best that modern thought can devise.

Home Will Exhibit Milk.

City Chemist Callaway, in speaking of the milk provided for the little inmates of the Baby Home and of the approaching milk show, said:

"The bacterial count of the milk at the home is low, less than 10,000 to the cubic centimeter. It is as clean as the best certified milk on the market. The exhibit of the home at the milk show

