

## BABY-FARMING.

*The Australasian Medical Gazette* of September, 1885, gives details of a case which has brought to light an establishment carried on by a midwife named Mary Anne Baker, at Lane Cove, near Sydney, for the care of children, principally illegitimate, whose parents find their charge inconvenient. One having died, an inquest was held, and it was discovered that Mrs. Baker was in the habit of leaving her establishment to the charge of a deputy. So complete was the state of isolation in which the Lane Cove Branch was kept by the direction of Mrs. Baker, that it appears in the evidence that Charlotte Wells, the deputy, was, with the children in her charge, two days and two nights without fire, she having had no matches, and having been told by her employer on no account to go near her neighbours on any excuse whatever. The cause of the death of the child appears to have been natural, and to such effect was the verdict of the jury, who added a rider stating that the jury recommended that the said baby-farm be suppressed, and attention was also drawn to a former recommendation to the same effect. At the same time, it became known that another child, two months old, the offspring of Charlotte Wells, had died without having been attended to by a medical man. It was buried as still-born, under the authority of the following certificate from Mrs. Baker: "I certify that I delivered Mrs. Wells, of Crown Street, of a male child, *primævi*, M. A. Baker, June 15th, 1885." This certificate, by no means unique in New South Wales, did not even certify that the child was dead, much less give any cause for the death, yet it was received and acted on by the cemetery-authorities with the utmost simplicity and faith.

## A SMALL INFANT.

SIR,—In the Obstetric Memoranda of the JOURNAL of November 14th, Dr. S. Jebb Scott has reported a case of a living female child weighing only 2 lbs. 8 oz. at birth; and, as he is anxious to know "whether there be any evidence of so small a child on record, excepting the children of dwarfs," I send the following case which occurred in my own practice.

On the morning of the 12th April last, I was summoned to attend a lady who was at the end of the seventh month of her third pregnancy. On my arrival, I found that she had, without any warning, been suddenly delivered of the smallest living child I had ever seen. The child was a female, and so small was it, that I thought it quite impossible for it to live; however, after it had been washed, I wrapped it carefully in cotton-wool (as it was too small to be dressed), and placed it in bed with its mother, until the arrival of the nurse.

Owing to some superstitious notion, the child was not weighed at its birth, but I feel confident that its weight could not have been more than 2 lbs. At the end of the first month, the child was carefully weighed, when its weight was only 3 lbs. 4 oz. At the end of the second month, it was again weighed, and its weight was then 6½ lbs. The child has again been weighed to-day, November 18th, and now weighs exactly 13 lbs. She is now between seven and eight months old, and has just cut her first tooth.

The treatment of the child was as follows. For the first week, it was kept in cotton-wool, either before the fire or in its mother's arms. I also ordered the child to have three drops of brandy in a teaspoonful of milk, two or three times a day. After the third day, it began to suck the breast, the mother being a healthy woman, with a good supply of milk. It is now a perfectly healthy child.

I may add that the nurse, without my orders, rubbed the child with brandy whenever she found it cold or looking blue. The small doses of brandy and milk were given internally for the first six weeks, in addition to its natural food, and then discontinued. The parents are young, healthy, and of average height.—I am, etc.,  
T. J. BURROUGHS, M.D. BRUX.

Orondall, Hants.

## LEPROSY.

SIR,—Brigade-Surgeon Dr. Carter's memorandum, recently published by the Bombay authorities, must be as interesting as it is important to all residents in countries where this horrible and loathsome disease is prevalent. India, unhappily, is not our only colony where it exists. In the West Indies and Guiana, its ravages are fearful. It is to me a matter of surprise that Government measures of an eutrotic nature are not initiated wherever the disease exists. Dr. Carter says, "so far from leprosy in Norway showing a natural tendency to subside, there is ample evidence of a present activity equal to that displayed by the disease twenty-five years ago." Believing, too, as he does, that "the leper is himself the source of ill to others," how can he reconcile his third protective (?) measure with such a view of the contagious nature of the disease? I think it is an accepted doctrine among the practitioners of British Guiana that, until these leper-colonies are fairly established, under far more rigorous rules and regulations than the local government has ever thought fit to adopt, there is no chance of eradicating the disease, or diminishing it to a far greater extent than at present. Its unhappy victims are the most loathsome and pitiable objects of human affliction it has been my lot to witness.—Your obedient servant,  
R. J. W. O.

MEM. BRIT. MED. ASSOCIATION.—Please submit your statement to the other side, in order that we may not have to give an opinion upon an *ex parte* statement. Both sides should be agreed as to the facts.

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## BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Transactions of the Academy of Medicine in Ireland. Vol. III, 1885. Dublin: Fannin and Co. 1885.  
The Transactions of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society. Vol. X, 1884-5. Edinburgh: Oliver and Boyd. 1885.  
King Solomon's Mines. By H. R. Haggard. London, Paris, New York, and Melbourne: Cassell and Co. 1885.  
Treasure Island. By R. L. Stevenson (Illustrated). London, Paris, New York, and Melbourne: Cassell and Co. 1885.  
Little Folks. A Magazine for the Young. London, Paris, New York, and Melbourne: Cassell and Co. 1885.  
For Fortune and Glory: a Story of the Soudan War. By Lewis Hugh. London, Paris, New York, and Melbourne: Cassell and Co. 1885.  
Bound by a Spell, or the Hunted Witch of the Forest. By the Honourable Mrs. Greene. London, Paris, New York, and Melbourne: Cassell and Co. 1885.  
The Magazine of Art. Vol. VIII. London, Paris, New York, and Melbourne: Cassell and Co. 1885.

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