INFANT DEPOTS IN SHEFFIELD.

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ABSTRACT.

STERILIZATION of milk aims at prevention of acute disease. The establishment of depots for consultations has for its object the training of the mothers in the rules of good nutrition, and in this way the prevention and cure of chronic gastro-intestinal disorders, and a general raising of the standard of health.

Efficient staff of Health Visitors essential. They must win confidence of mothers, encourage maternal sense of responsibility.

Difficulties in use of cows' milk for hand-fed infants met by modification to suit particular infant. This means expenditure of time, thought, money beyond capabilities of mothers we want to help. Deficiency of diluted milk in fact serious, want therefore accessible standardised cream. In infants of poor parents, hand-fed, only a narrow margin of safety between malnutrition from indigestion (from excess of proteids) and malnutrition from starvation (from want of fat).

Milk after dessication more easy of digestion. Is its use followed by rickets or scurvy? Know of no case where rickets could be attributed to use of dried milk. While efficient home sterilization renders milk no longer anti-scorbutic, addition of raw meat juice or orange juice generally averts danger.

Aim at getting infants back to fresh cows' milk at earliest opportunity. This must be done very gradually.

Women inspectors instruct mothers in correct feeding from earliest. Only cases not doing well come to the consultation depots. Majority of infants first brought to depot have been fed on cow's milk, suffering from digestion disturbances. Sometimes from excessive quantities, again proportions and quantities irreproachable. Tedious to get back to right path on cow's milk, distinct advantage in use of dried milk. Cases cited.