

Mother's Day Brings Campaign to Reduce Childbirth Mortality

Wilmette Branch of Infant Welfare Society Explains Service Given Mothers

(By Infant Welfare Society)

Fully 10,000 of the 16,000 mothers who die each year in the United States from childbirth causes are sacrificed needlessly. This year Mother's Day, May 14, is the occasion of a nation-wide campaign by educators, physicians and public health organizations to bring that fact forcibly before the general public.

That at least two-thirds of the maternal deaths in the United States would not occur if the mothers had adequate maternity care is proved conclusively by the records of public health organizations which have a comprehensive program for care of the expectant mother. Notable among such organizations is the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago whose prenatal program is unique in this community. Wilmette and Kenilworth have a special interest in this matter of saving the mothers because of the support which we give to the Infant Welfare society's prenatal work at Alice H. Wood station and the Seward Park station, respectively.

Station Has Fine Record

Adequate maternity care for the women of America will save 10,000 of the 16,000 women who annually die in childbirth, according to Sara B. Place, R.N., superintendent of the Infant Welfare society. "This is proved," Miss Place states, "by the experience of the Infant Welfare society over a period of sixteen years with women in the poorest districts of Chicago. In this group the maternal mortality rate in 1932 was reduced to one death per thousand births or only slightly less than one-fifth what it was among women in the entire city of Chicago. Alice H. Wood station had a perfect record as to maternal mortality last year as there were no deaths among the 235 expectant mothers whom the Infant Welfare society had under its care at this station.

"What is adequate maternity care?" It is the observation, care and instruction by doctors and nurses of pregnant mothers from the time the woman thinks she may be pregnant until she is able to care for her new baby and resume her regular activities.

Educate Mothers

The Infant Welfare society cares for mothers in the overcrowded sections of Chicago by holding conferences where doctors examine those patients who would otherwise have no medical supervision; by sending public health nurses to visit mothers in their homes to teach them how to carry out the instructions received from the doctor at the station. In this way the mother learns what to eat, what to wear, and how to care

for herself and prepare for the new baby.

Nurses urge each mother to register as early as possible with the private doctor or hospital physician who will attend her so he may direct the care during pregnancy and know all about her when it comes time for the delivery. Each mother is helped to select, from the facilities available, what is best suited to her condition.

The nurses see each mother at regular intervals during pregnancy to:

1. Help with every question or problem that may disturb her peace of mind or happiness or interfere with the health of the other members of the family.
2. Detect any discomforts, abnormalities or complications in time to have them corrected before they can hurt the mother or the baby.
3. Teach the mother and father about:
 - (a) The mother's hygiene, diet, rest, exercise, elimination, bathing, clothes, care of breasts, care of teeth, and how these items may be fitted into the daily regime of the home.
 - (b) The preparation for the baby including clothes, bed, toilet supplies and care of them.
 - (c) The care of the baby—bath, rest, exercise, food, habit formation—and how the best daily regime may be secured without disrupting the family life.

Watch Child for 6 Years

When the time comes for the birth of the baby the Infant Welfare society helps to arrange for the hospitalization of the mother or for service of a private physician. After the birth of the baby the mother comes again to the society's prenatal conference for final examination and her baby is brought to the infant conference for continuing medical supervision for a period of six years.

When the mother begins to care for her baby, the nurse is right there to explain again all the points—each so important—that the mother has learned at the Infant Welfare station and from the nurse in her home visits. Then she helps the mother plan her day's work so she can have time for rest and other things and still give the baby the best of care.

The nurse makes sure first, that the mother has been her doctor for the last examination that is so necessary to detect and correct at once any bad effects of the pregnancy; and second, that the baby is registered with the Infant Welfare society for regular health supervision and instruction until he goes to school.

The death rate among mothers who have such care, even among Chicago's neediest families where the economic level is most unfavorable, is two-thirds lower than among mothers of all classes who do not have this care. If every mother in this country could have the care she needs, the United States would no longer have a maternal mortality rate higher than that of Denmark, the Netherlands, Great Britain, and Canada—countries certainly of no greater average intelligence than our own.

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ANNOUNCE MARRIAGE

Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Welch of 623 Eleventh street, announce the marriage of their son, Charles Leroy, to Estelle Jacqueline Brockman, daughter of Mrs. Stella Brockman of Marysville, Cal., on August 22, 1932, at Virginia City, Nev.

Mrs. Henry C. Hall, 500 Central avenue, is leaving the middle of this week for St. Joseph, Mich., to attend the Blossom Week festivities there. She expects to be away for several days. Mr. Hall, who recently returned from a business trip to New York, is now in Toledo on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Lind, 417 Fourth street, are the parents of a son, Robert Carl Ivan Lind, born April 25, at the Evanston hospital. The Linds have two daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Weedon, 110 Third street, entertained their bridge club at dinner Saturday.

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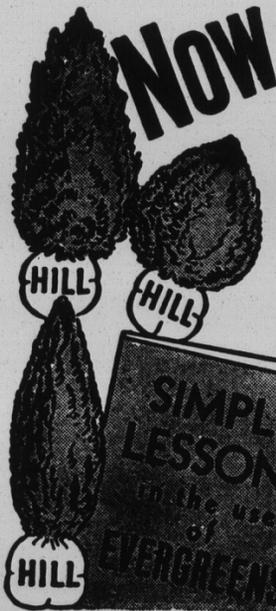
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SUNDAY SERVICES—11 A. M.

WEDNESDAY — TESTIMONIAL MEETING — 8 P. M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL EXERCISES — 9:45 A. M.

MAY 14, 1933

Subject: "MORTALS AND IMMORTALS"

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