

Meetings and Reports

DOMESTIC

Dominion Council on Public Health.

The recommendation of the health branch of the commission on conservation for the establishment of a national laboratory and the creation of a Dominion council on public health has been approved. The chief object in establishing the laboratory is to secure cheaper and purer supplies of vaccines, anti-toxines, etc. The duty of a Dominion council will be to advise both Dominion and Provincial Governments as to matters affecting public health.

Progress of Fort William's Campaign Against Infant Mortality.

The report of Dr. Robert E. Wodehouse, medical health officer of Fort William, recently submitted to the City Council, is as follows:

Chairmen and Members of the Board of Health:—

Gentlemen,—I beg to report progress in the campaign against the mortality of infants in our city. The principal factor that is working to improve conditions this year is the health visiting nurse's work whom your honorable board saw fit to provide for in this year's estimates. The effect of her work and the good spirit in which the mothers receive her visits and advice have greatly exceeded our anticipations. The second feature contributing to our success this year is the publicity granted by the press to all helpful matter for publication.

The nurse has visited the home of everybody born in Fort William during the past 12 months. She has given me a complete report of each place visited as to sanitary condition and methods inside the house, plumbing and drainage, sanitary condition outside the house and in the yards, lane and street adjoining. This part of Mrs. Williamson's report has been

the cause of the trough ditches in the coal docks being flushed with hose once a week and other earth ditches made to drain themselves, also the cleaning up under the sanitary inspector's direction of (25) twenty-five different addresses.

The reports also tell me how many babies have been born to mother, how many have died, how they were fed and how the present baby is being fed and if artificial feeding, of what nature and whether by a doctor's order or not. The reports to date cover (411) four hundred and eleven babies.

Three hundred and forty babies are breast fed. These need no further attention from us.

Forty-four babies have been breast fed a few months, but are now mixed fed. In 17 of these the change was made without doctor's advice.

Twenty-seven babies have been artificially fed since birth, six of these babies being so fed without a doctor's order. The last two classes will be revisited as often as possible by your nurse. In the last group the cow's milk is kept on ice in two cases.

Some interesting information has been obtained. Three children of one mother have died of diarrhoea before reaching the first year of age, all artificially fed.

One child, breast fed two months, afterwards fed bread and milk, is very sick with diarrhoea.

Mrs. Williamson has anywhere from 7 to 12 babies under her care daily whom she visits and carries out the doctor's orders, and she has not had one single baby under her care for diarrhoea which was being breast fed.

So far this year we have lost 12 babies; this time last year we had lost 33 babies. July mortality was 25 p.c., or one-fourth of July, 1910.