

The Kentucky Committee for
Mothers and Babies, Inc.

VOLUME I.

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Nurse Fording the Middle Fork of the Kentucky River.

THE QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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THE KENTUCKY COMMITTEE FOR
MOTHERS AND BABIES, INC.

Its motto:

“He shall gather the lambs with his arm
and carry them in his bosom, and shall
gently lead those that are with young.”

Its purpose:

“To safeguard the lives and health of mothers and young children by providing trained nurse-midwives for rural areas where there are no resident physicians—these nurse-midwives to work under supervision; in compliance with the Regulations for Midwives of the State Board of Health, and the law governing the Registration of Nurses in Kentucky; and in co-operation with the nearest medical service.”

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THE KENTUCKY COMMITTEE FOR MOTHERS AND
BABIES, INC.

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**“Here shall you see no enemy
But winter and rough weather.”**

The work in Leslie County during the past quarter has been hampered, but not held up, by rough weather. From the first snowfall in October on through the winter, the nurses have worked under difficulties, with what Galsworthy calls “nature with a small n.” Miss Rockstroh came in one night literally frozen into her clothes and onto her saddle. It had rained and wet her through, then on her homeward ride it sleeted. Two men had to lift her off the horse, her hat was pried loose, and her poncho, stiff as a board, lifted over her head. So, loosed from her bonds, she emerged every inch a nurse.

Several times the river has frozen hard except at the rapids, near which one commonly finds the fords. The horses crashed through the icy banks to the open stream often with bleeding hocks, and sometimes a way was made for them by a chivalrous mountaineer with his ax. More than once the fords were too high for fording and the horses swam over with nurse, saddlebags and all. Upon one such occasion a kindly woman ran down to the bank to meet Miss Logan on her return, saying—“The river’s dangerous, let me carry you over in my boat and my man will take your horse.”

When the “tides” came the river was impassible on horseback, but the nurses met the calls from “yon side” by crossing a high swinging foot bridge, subject to collapse if its pillars loosened, and getting a stray mule, or else footing it in the storm. No weather arose during which the calls of the sick and the midwifery cases, of which thirty-nine have been registered to date, were unmet. Much of the public health had to slide, however, and several cases scheduled for the Louisville and Lexington hospitals had to be held over.

SPECIAL CASES

One of the most enduring things open to a remotely rural service like ours is the liaison it can effect between the needs of the rural section and the hospitals and specialists in the cities. This is best illustrated by specified cases.

SURGERY

The case of Dewey A., a four-year-old boy who had been terribly burned a year before. When we found him his right arm had grown to his side like a wing. We carried him over the twenty-five miles of mountain trail from his home to the railroad, and then the night's ride by train to Lexington. There he occupied the free room Dr. Barrow has endowed in memory of his son at St. Joseph's Hospital, and Dr. Rankin released the little imprisoned arm and grafted skin over the ruined tissue. After weeks of hospital care, followed by a visit at the country home of Mrs. Preston Johnston, ever open to our hospital cases, Dewey returned to Camp Creek, very brave as to appearance with a blue coat and brass buttons, and loaded with toys and love and good will.

MEDICINE

When we found Mrs. M. on another creek of that far country, she had ulcerated legs and other undesirable symptoms. On one of the passes so generously furnished by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, we got her to Lexington. Her husband and older children gladly made up the \$20.00 hospital charge for the two weeks she stayed there. Dr. Hunt, our first-aid for all cases, and Dr. Harvey, made her diagnosis and worked out her diet, and taught her to give herself insulin. Now she is back in the home where she is adored, with our help she follows Dr. Harvey's treatment, gives herself her own hypodermics of insulin, and instead of facing coma and death she lives to rear her younger children and leave behind her a brood as intelligent and gallant as herself.

EMERGENCY

John J., of Hurricane Creek, age sixteen, came to us with a crushed right hand. We hurried him down to Lexington. At first amputation was thought essential, but curetting and deep drainage under Dr. Massie's care, have saved the right hand and John is back again on Hurricane Creek, where he uses it powerfully and to some purpose, felling timber and preparing "rafts" to float down the river on the "tides."

PEDIATRICS

Denny, age ten months, came from Coon Creek, and we did not think he would live through the ride down, on a pillow on the pommel of Miss Rockstroh's saddle. The Children's Hospital at Louisville, received him, but later Mrs. Henning carried him out to her spacious place in the country and kept him there for six weeks with a special nurse. Dr. Bruce handled his case. He was covered with carbuncles, "utter Lazarus, heel to head," his torture patiently borne with old, sad eyes. Now Denny is a radiant toddling baby—

"God's sunshine asleep in his tresses
God's glory a gleam in his eyes."

MIDMIFERY

There has been no occasion yet to send out a case because of threatened complications—but Miss Caffin has three women whose motherhood has proved difficult or disastrous in the past, ready to go down in the spring for medical advice and such help as they need.

All of our cases go down on passes and are given the services of our leading doctors free of charge. Would these services have been possible for the people in that far country without a nursing organization to act as go-between? No, life would have gone out for Denny, Dewey would be a helpless cripple, John a one-armed man or dead from blood poisoning, and Mrs. M's younger children would have been motherless.

WENDOVER

Building has not been easy during the winter, but Wendover is nearing completion. Built of logs in the heart of a forest, with stone foundations and chimneys, and by native workmen, in the main, it is nursing center, administrative headquarters, and guest house for our friends. The two great difficulties have been hauling and rough weather. To get supplies from the railroad in winter has taken a team two and a half days and two nights for each load, going down and returning. And the storms have beaten down many things as fast as reared. The mountain, soaked with water and snow, slid on the house and

had to be ripped back. It fell on the chicken house, it slid into the reservoir, it sent foaming torrents through the cellar. The trails gave way with great rents and had to be repaired before cement and hardware and windows and bath tubs could be hauled over them. The river rose and carried away the logs left near its uncertain boundaries.

But Wendover is going strong at last and is one of the most useful places in the world. Vacant houses in Leslie County are almost non-existent and other centers for our growing work desperately needed. St. Donald of Abernathy is said to have lived in a hollow oak with his nine virgin daughters, and to have "lacked nothing." But the oaks and beeches and linns and walnuts of our Appalachians have shrunk to smaller proportions in these modern times. Even dryads and saints would find cramped quarters in them, and for nurses and dispensaries there must be cabins. We invite correspondence from anyone who would like to build a cabin.

LOOKING AHEAD

With future growth in mind, on wider fields of service, we have linked up with groups in New York and Boston. The nucleus of a committee has been formed in both cities, with the following members to date:

IN NEW YORK

Mrs. Francis Boardman	Dr. Henry Hamilton M. Lyle
Mrs. John C. Breckinridge	Miss Anne Morgan
Colonel Francis Gordon Caffey	Miss Margaret Parsons
Mrs. Cleveland H. Dodge	Miss Elizabeth Perkins
Mrs. Archibald H. Douglas	Mrs. A. de Acosta Root
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Dr. Ralph Waldo Lobenstine	Mrs. Henry Matson Waite
Professor C. E. A. Winslow	

IN BOSTON

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Miss R. Dexter	Mrs. Nathaniel Thayer
Mrs. Robert Lovett	Mrs. W. W. Vaughan
Mrs. Bassett Wendell	

A full financial report and list of subscribers will accompany our next issue at the close of our first fiscal year.

C. N. MANNING, Treasurer
 Security Trust Co.
 Lexington, Ky.

Dear Sir:

I subscribe

Quarterly \$..... Semi-Annually \$.....

Annually \$.....

to the KENTUCKY COMMITTEE FOR MOTHERS AND
 BABIES, Incorporated.

Name

ADDRESS

If you wish to make a special donation,
JUST REMEMBER THAT
 \$6000 will build a health center for the work of two nurse-
 midwives

- 700 will furnish a center
- 450 will equip the dispensary for the center
- 1800 is the yearly salary for one nurse-midwife
- 125 will buy a horse
- 360 a year will maintain a horse
- 20 will buy a saddle
- 13 will buy a pair of saddle bags for nurse's supplies
- 8 will buy a homemade press for dispensary supplies
- 2 will buy a split bottom chair
- 2 will buy a bridle or a horse blanket
- 1 will haul 100 pounds of equipment from the railroad
 to nursing headquarters

*Make cheques payable to C. N. Manning, Treasurer,
 Security Trust Co., Lexington, Ky.*

*For further information address the Director,
 Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, Hyden, Leslie County, Ky.*



