

work and activities, including attendance at lectures. This gives considerable practical experience plus a good deal of systematic teaching and the Ministry of Health allows expenses to be paid for a locum.

Enquiries and applications should be addressed to the Group Secretary, The Cheltenham Group Hospital Management Committee, General Hospital, Cheltenham.

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## Correspondence

### Feeding Bottle Colic

Sir,

I have read with interest the article on *Feeding Bottle Colic* by Dr G. W. Lewis of Leeds, in the March 1964 edition, particularly as I have a collection of infant feeding vessels, including some of pewter, some Spode, Wedgwood, as well as the more recent ones described by Dr Lewis. I have also made a study of this particular subject and have written articles which describe them even 4,000 years ago (our ancestresses had their feeding problems too).

Because of this, I feel that Dr Lewis's assertion that the "earliest feeding bottle consisted of a teat fitted to a beer or sauce bottle" is rather misleading, as vessels of various shapes had been used for centuries before ever the beer or sauce bottle came into existence.

Secondly, his assertion that rubber teats appeared on the market soon after Charles Goodyear discovered how to vulcanize rubber in 1850, is wrongly dated, as one was first patented in America in 1845.

Thirdly, the 'elaborate' bottle which he described as late nineteenth century would be better described as mid-nineteenth century as it was first patented on 19 April 1864. I have many examples of these including one (the original one) invented by Captain Webber in 1867. I also have the original letters patent for this one.

Fourthly, your editorial note at the bottom of this page, again gives the impression that feeding bottles and teats have only been used in the course of the last two centuries. In fact from very early times, there is evidence that fine linen was used to place over the spout of the vessel, and that other materials such as ivory, wood, silver, small pieces of parchment with marine sponge pushed up inside, and cows udders pickled in spirit, were used.

Fifthly, his assertion that the bottle he described fell into disuse overnight is an overstatement, inasmuch as the first 'boat-shaped bottle' was put on the market by Allenburys circa 1900 (I have one of the original models), and yet in 1917, the London milk clinics were exhibiting notices deprecating the old type and advocating the boat-shaped bottle. Obviously the old type were still being used even then.

Guildford

N. W. HUTCHINGS.