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INFANT INCUBATORS

THEY WILL PROVE A SOURCE OF SCIENTIFIC ENTERTAINMENT

White City Amusement Park, 63rd Street and South Parkway, Chicago, IL (1905)

This attraction is a great deal more than an exhibit - it is an educator. The Incubators are located in a beautiful structure at the southeast corner of the "Board Walk." This building is the only one on the grounds which has any color in it, being a dark red with white trimmings. It is built after the old colonial style and is most pretentious in its appointments.



It is safe to say that as large a percentage of interested visitors pass into this attraction as any other on the grounds. The tiny infants only a few days old, and born into the world from one to three months ahead of the natural time, are put into the glass ovens, which are kept at an even temperature, and supplied constantly with sterilized air by means of an automatic arrangement. The little ones seem thoroughly to enjoy their homes in the glass houses, and in the sweet sleep of infancy they create a fascinating



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picture. The boy infants have blue sashes and the girls have pink. To avoid confusion as to their identity each child wears a medal on which is stamped its initials and the date of its arrival, and such other information as bears on the treatment of the case. They are taken and fed at regular intervals, bathed and dressed with the greatest care, so that eighty-five per cent of the infants are saved for useful lives. There is a gain of nearly seventy per cent over the old methods, and an inestimable gain for the parents, who perhaps love them more dearly for their misfortunes. The Infant Incubator system had its origin in Germany, the home of many of the most advanced methods of modern medicine and surgery, and is conducted there under government auspices. It has proved a great success, and like results are being obtained in this country, where physicians welcome it as an invaluable adjunct to their own skill.



Infant Incubator Building

Thousands of precious lives have already been saved and it is only a question of time when the system will be universally adopted. Institutions similar to these will soon be set up in all the large American cities.



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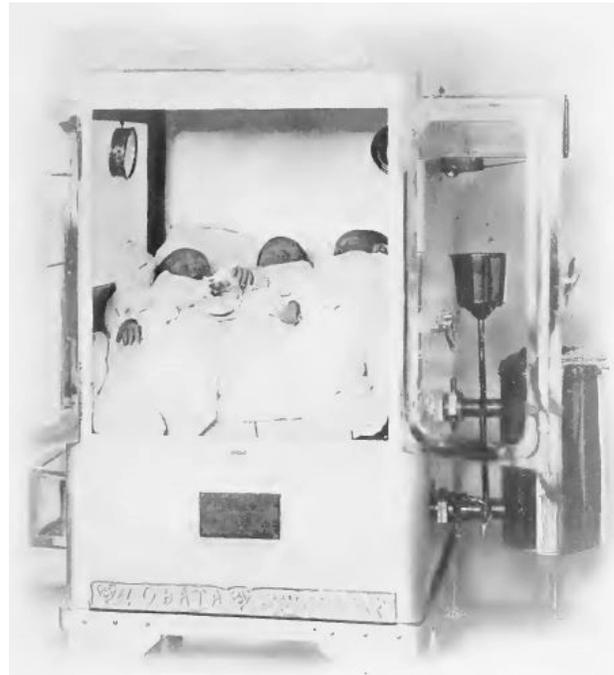
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The nurses who have charge of the infants as they graduate from the ovens of the incubators certainly have their hands full, as, with their wee charges on their hands, they have to soothe them to rest and place them in the dainty cribs.

The first attempt to substitute scientific treatment for the primitive methods that had for hundreds of years been used to save babies born prematurely was made by Dr. Crede, of the University of Leipzig. He constructed a box with double metallic sides and filled the space within with water, so as to regulate the temperature. This was sixty years ago, and it was not until eight years ago that the first institution was opened in Berlin, which won favor from the start because of the great success it made in saving the lives of the little ones.



The Celebrated Incubator Triplets

SCIENTIFIC AND HUMANITARIAN METHODS AT WORK TOGETHER

All the world loves a baby" might be a new and true paraphrase of the poet's notable saying concerning lovers. This is amply emphasized in the "Infant Incubator" Exhibit at White City. It is safe to say that as large a percentage of interested visitors will pass through the doors of this exhibit, as any other on the grounds. It is something more than an exhibit - it is an educator. The tiny infants, only a few days old, and born into the world from one to three months ahead of the natural time are put into the glass ovens which are kept at an even temperature, and supplied constantly with fresh sterilized air by means of an automatic arrangement.



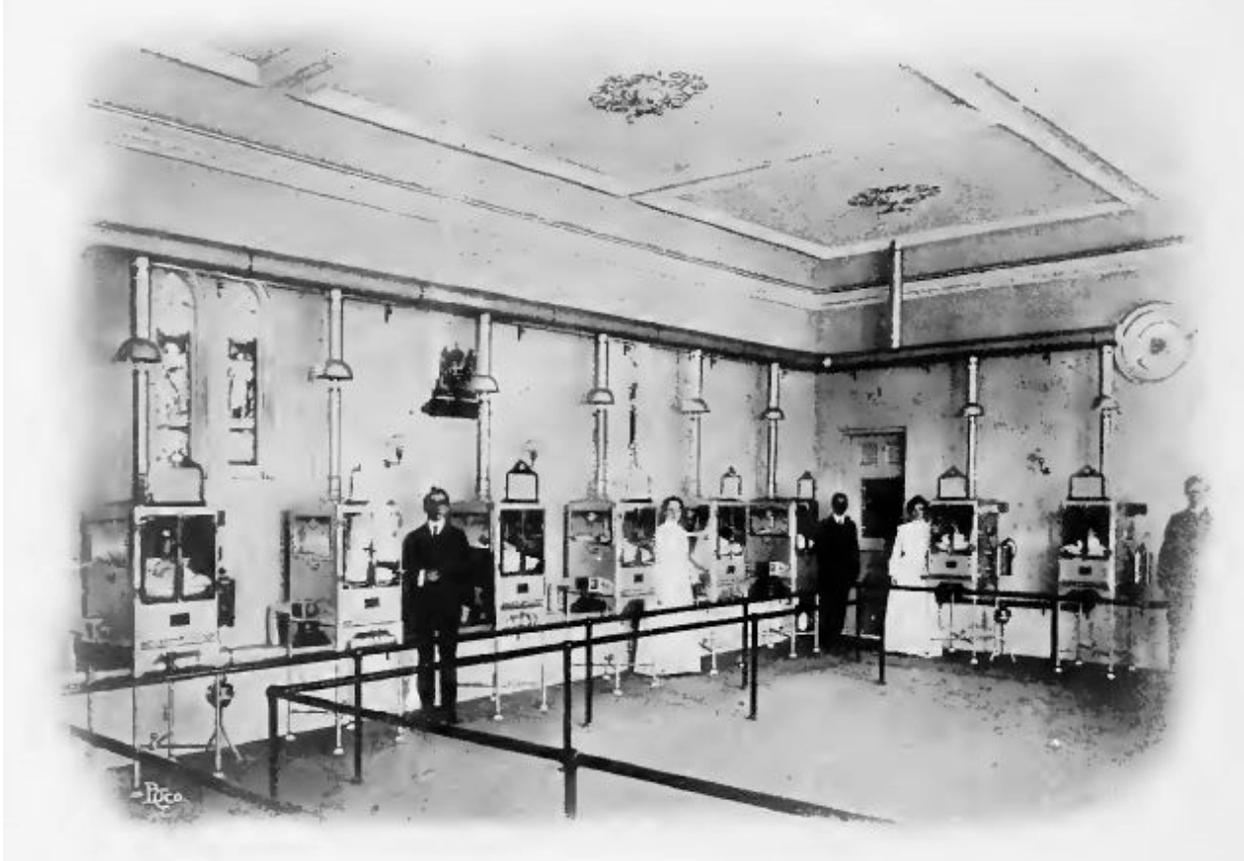
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Ward in Infant Incubator with Attendants

The little mites seem thoroughly to enjoy their residence in the glass house, and in the sweet sleep of infancy create a fascinating picture. The boy infants have blue sashes and the girls have pink. To avoid mixing or confusion of identity, each wears a medal on which is set down its initials and the date of its arrival, with such other information as bears on the treatment of the case. They are taken out and fed at regular intervals, bathed and dressed with greatest care, so that over eighty-five per cent of the infants are saved for useful lives. This is a gain of nearly seventy per cent over the old methods, and an inestimable gain for the parents, who perhaps love them even more dearly because of the misfortune that ushers them prematurely into individual existence.

The Infant Incubator system had its origin in Germany, the home of many of the most advanced methods of modern medicine and surgery, and is conducted there under



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government auspices. It has proved a great success, and like results are being obtained in this country, where physicians welcome it as an invaluable adjunct to their own skill. In Germany boys and girls, now eight years old, prove the efficacy of the system, and a careful record is kept of each child sent out. Thousands of precious lives have already been saved and it is only a question of time when the system will be universally adopted. Institutions will eventually be set up in all the large American cities.



Incubator Infant Receiving Bath

The nurses who have charge of the infants as they graduate from the ovens or incubators, certainly have their hands full, as with their wee charges on each arm they soothe them to rest and place them in the dainty cribs. It presents a picture of babyhood that is entrancing, and the only regret felt by the observer is that all infants cannot have such care to build up strong and healthy frames with which to fight the battles of life.

The press has found the Incubators a never ending source of "human interest" stories that appeals to a right minded man or woman more strongly than the subject of infancy? What theme strikes tenderer chords, or appeals more strongly to all that is gentlest and best in mankind?



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The first attempt to substitute scientific treatment for the primitive methods that had for hundreds of years been employed to save infants born prematurely was made sixty years ago by Dr. Crede, of the University of Leipzig. He constructed a box with double metallic sides, and filled the space between the walls with water so as to regulate the temperature. Later experiments were made in Paris, but were only partially successful. It was eight years ago that the first institution was opened in Berlin. It was a private institution and won favor from the start, so quickly did the public become convinced that here at last a sensible and scientific method had been formulated.

The public has been regarding the "Incubator Infant" with much sympathetic pity. They have looked upon the little fellow as a child of misfortune because he did not get a fair start in the world. They have felt that he was already handicapped in the race of life; destined to be a weakling and hence entitled to more careful and tender solicitude than is bestowed upon the average youngster.

But look at infants grown up. Every year the number of children treated at the parent institute in Berlin has increased, and each year a reunion of the little ones who graduated there has been held. At these reunions all these children have been carefully examined - physically and mentally - by governmental authorities, and the medical profession has been delighted with the positive proof thus afforded that children so introduced to the world are fully equal in every respect to those born and nurtured under normal conditions.

The first reunion of incubator graduates reared by Dr. Couney and this system in this country occurred in New York July 31, 1904, at which time there were forty children present, ranging in age from three months to six years.

After a visit to this institution one will feel amply repaid for having seen the quaint, delightful little fellows whose appeal to the sympathies is always stronger because of their utter helplessness. And mingled with this is a feeling of thankfulness for that genius that constantly broadens the scope of man's loving labor for his fellows. There is something in it all that makes you ask if times have not changed since the poet Burns, looking about him at the misery in the world, declared that "man was made to mourn."