

1-1-11-45 APO 689. Indian baby 2 miles north-east of camp. M holding this three day old infant. We had stopped to share some candy and cookies with this family group when we soon recognized that something unusual in the yard. The mother was sitting on a bed which had been placed out in the sun and when she moved did not react with the same vitality and agility as the rest of the women. The young one, which still retained the shedding skin, was lying on some dirty rags on the bed with one of them covering the head to keep out the direct rays of the sun. Noticed particularly the filth of this young ones surroundings. Even the blanket like covering used to hold the baby smelled with a peculiar odor. The skin of the body still retains many features which sloughs off at a later date. The umbilical cord had been cut and tied with a piece of very crude and brown string. One of the most pathological things about this baby was the abnormality of the feet being both clubbed inward, a condition which they were quite concerned about. At the mention of a medical hospital they frowned with a nine! nine! Apparently not putting too much faith in our modern medical ideas. One of the first thing they do with a new born child is to slap a bracelet or two on the arm with enough expansion room to allow the ring to properly fit the arm when mature. It then becomes impossible to remove this bracelet unless cut from the arm. To see young babies when visiting these Hindu homes is in not an uncommon site and when M has the chance she will almost instinctively want to get the baby into her arms. This same feeling is also keen for anything young such as baby goats and dogs, chickens, cows etc. We are informed by certain British that 50% of all deaths occur before the age of 5 because of poor unsanitary conditions, improper knowledge of handling at birth thru quack midwives and thru the many common diseases that run rampant thru the villages. The cause, as I could readily see were in evidence on all sides.