

seems to have arisen. Not only do merchant princes, venerable, solid and successful, occupy this position, but younger men are coming forward to use their energy, their wealth, their social gifts, in the interests of the country's poor. We are all acquainted with, and admire the work of Mr. Sydney Holland for the London Hospital. The burden of raising annually the enormous sum required might well crush anyone less buoyant and enthusiastic. Now we have Lord Ludlow as treasurer at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. It is needless to describe the type. It is written plainly on the portrait which, by the kindness of the editor of *Our Hospitals and Charities Illustrated*, we are able to present to our readers. It is good to undertake such an office when possessed of youth, vigour, and wealth. It is good to have a task before one which needs energy and force of character to carry through, and in undertaking the Treasurership of St. Bartholomew's at the present time, Lord Ludlow has set his hand to no light work. There is £500,000 to raise to rebuild the hospital, so that its work may be performed under the best conditions that modern science can devise, and which are essential if the best results are to be obtained. Till this is accomplished, the work of the hospital must be hampered.

Lord Ludlow has not taken over a work which is cut and dried. He has a great opportunity before him, and we hope that the new Bart's, which will hand down to future centuries the best traditions of the past, will be completed and opened during his tenure of office. May we be there to see. E. G. F.

THE INFANTS' HOSPITAL, HAMPSTEAD.

A meeting was quite recently held of the Infants' Health Society (in connection with the above-named hospital), at which were present among others the Viscountess Encombe, Mr. Almeric Fitzroy, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Fletcher, Mr. Reginald Garratt, and Dr. Ralph Vincent. Some account was given of the work of the hospital, which was opened nearly two years ago for the treatment of infants under twelve months suffering from diseases resulting from malnutrition. It was reported that the rate of mortality for 1904 was 163 per 1,000, which was only a little higher than the average rate among all infants throughout the country, and much lower than that prevailing in the large towns and districts. During the last year, 183 cases were treated in the wards; of these ninety-four were discharged, having made good recoveries, twelve were removed to general hospitals, and there were thirty deaths. The hospital is entirely under the management of a committee of the Infants' Health Society, which is responsible for its upkeep, and which endeavours, by means of pamphlets, leaflets, and meetings, to spread the knowledge of its objects and needs before the general public. One of the aims of the hospital is to give medical students and practitioners an opportunity of investigating and studying in detail the subject of infant feeding, and these are freely invited to accompany the physician on his rounds.

The great principle of the treatment in the hospital is the feeding. Each infant has two charts;

in one the precise composition of the food—the relative quantities of fat, casein, lactose, albumen, alkaloid and water, with amount and number of feeds—are shown; in the other the condition and progress of the infant are detailed. The composition of the milk is prescribed by the physician and carried out at the Walker-Gordon Farm, which supplies the hospital entirely. The milk at this farm is not sterilised, but pasteurised, and is refrigerated immediately on being drawn from the cow to a temperature of 40 deg. F.

The modified milk thus prepared by minute and delicate processes at the farm is supplied in sealed bottles, and the prescribed quantity for twenty-four hours delivered daily, the empty bottles being collected at the same time. In his medical report Dr. Ralph Vincent points out that in his experience the cause of mortality among infants who are crowded together in institutions is not contingency, but impure milk or inadequate feeding, and he holds that this same factor is responsible for the "epidemic diarrhoea" which recurs every summer, the direct influence of the heat being not on the child but in the decomposition of milk. In support of this theory he quotes the fact that, though last summer was extremely hot, not one case of "epidemic diarrhoea" developed in the wards of the Infants' Hospital, though on one occasion there were six cases of the disease brought in.

The hospital contains twenty cots, whose occupants represent a deplorable condition of infantile humanity. The weight of the infants on admission varies from 3 to 15 lb. All of them are undersized, emaciated pigmies; but so long as there is a vacant cot, no suitable case is refused admission, no matter how hopeless it may be.

The hospital appears to be efficiently staffed, with a Matron, three Sisters, and four probationers. These last receive one year's training, which, as the committee points out, is of inestimable value to many desirous of afterwards becoming children's nurses.

The hospital, with the aid of the Infants' Health Society, seems to be the embodiment of a practical effort in the spreading of knowledge and the systematic dealing with the chief factors prejudicially affecting the life and health of infants.

N. E. GLANVILLE.

At the Glamorgan Assizes held at Cardiff, Miss Margaret Jane Pugh, a Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute Nurse, sued John Cowley, one of the workmen of the Arael Griffin Colliery at Six Bells, for £500 for an alleged slander, viz., that she came with a false character, had been divulging medical secrets, had been sitting up with a doctor's assistant till two and three o'clock in the morning, and was a woman of bad character. After hearing the evidence, the jury awarded Miss Pugh £50 damages.

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