

Mothers and Babies Welcome.

ST. PANCRAS MISSION FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES, CHARLTON STREET, EUSTON RD.

Over the doorway, in white tiles amongst brilliantly-shaded green ones, stand out the words "Mothers and Babies Welcome." In the windows of this home-school for mothers, in large letters, the following announcements are made:—

Hours for Consultation.—Tuesdays and Fridays, 2.15 to 3.30. The lady doctor will attend, to weigh babies and give advice on their feeding, clothing, and general management. If baby is not increasing in weight there is something wrong.

Welcome Club.—Mothers are invited with their babies to join the Club. There will be a Provident Club for expectant mothers. Girls over school age may attend as visitors.

Dinners for Nursing Mothers.—To be eaten at the Club, at a charge of 1½d. a day.

Those of us who attended the Paris Conference will have remembered the great stress which French doctors are laying on the question of attention being given to mothers in childbirth, and the teaching and encouraging of mothers to nurse their own babies, and, better still, providing them with food to enable them to do so. This is a big question, and one which reacts on the nation, first with regard to infant mortality and second with regard to the future health of the nation and of the human race. To put it at its lowest valuation, it is false economy to allow the population of a country to diminish through infant mortality, and a worse one to allow a sickly race to grow up.

The mothers of the populace are poor and ignorant, and no better work could have been started than this Club, where the mothers are received with their infants, fed and taught how to nurse their babies. Little cots, made out of the wooden boxes in which bananas are brought to England, are placed in the room, and serve as an example to the poorest parents to provide themselves with one for their own infant. Another ingenious design is one made out of white calico and two bars of iron, and which straps on to the side of the mother's bed. Illustrations of the size of an infant's stomach from birth to 12 months old, will impress the mothers not to overfeed their babies. A clock painted in red, and over it the words "Feed it by the Clock" will draw their attention to punctuality, whilst a series of illustrated *Don'ts*, such as "Don't Give Baby a Taste of All You Eat," is a tactful way of teaching them many things

besides the lectures given by Dr. Bunting and her sister, who is in charge of the Club.

Any lady wishing to help this splendid scheme can do so by sending some of the following things which are still required:—Flannel, groceries, low chairs, plants and pictures, to Sister Bunting, Charlton Street, Euston Road. E. R. W.

League News.

The first Annual Meeting of the General Council of the Victoria and Bournemouth Nurses' League took place on July 3rd. It had been arranged long ago that it should be combined with tea and strawberries at Corfe Castle, and thither fifteen who were bold enough to dare the weather went. The meeting was very successful, inasmuch that every member took a real interest in the work and spoke her mind freely. The bye-laws drawn up by the Executive were passed with a few alterations, and a Benevolent Fund was started. This was proposed by a senior member of the staff, who thought we ought to continue care for those who were sick. With the social side of the League, it was also proposed and carried *nem. con.* that there should be a social meeting every month from October onwards.

The party much enjoyed the subsequent visit to the historical place whither Edward, King and Martyr, was stabbed by his stepmother, and the walls of which were destroyed by Oliver Cromwell in his wrath at being baffled by a woman's bravery and determination in keeping the castle for the King.

We congratulate Miss Christina Forrest on having got the youngest League well under way

Poor-Law Nurses and Registration.

The Council of the Poor Law Unions Association, composed mostly of Guardians of the Poor, like so many other employers of nursing labour, object to legislation and State protection for the worker. We cannot affect to consider the opinion of this Association of much importance, nor does it in any way represent the opinion of the nurses it employs. The truth is that Guardians often look upon Nurses as their paid servants, which they are not in any sense of the word.

Nurses working under the Poor Law must insist upon coming under any Act for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, otherwise their status will remain inferior to that of the hospital trained nurse.

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