

The School for Mothers.

An interesting At Home was held by the Women's Union of Social Service at the People's Hall, Charlton Street, on Friday afternoon, March 27th, a great feature being the School for Mothers which was on view early in the afternoon. Later, the Hon. Mrs. Bertrand Russell and Mrs. Barnes gave short addresses describing the objects of the Union and the work done.

Mrs. Barnes, Lady Superintendent of the School for Mothers, gave an account of the teaching given at The Welcome. She described the weekly "Men's Evening," with its Health Talk, given by a medical man, and urged that it was useless to educate the mothers while the fathers were left out of consideration, and were often undoing by their opposition, all the work accomplished with their wives.

With regard to the latter, Mrs. Barnes briefly described the course of teaching given at the Wednesday afternoon classes for Mothers. The first lessons are on the care of the woman's health before confinement, under which heading a good deal of general hygiene of the home (*e.g.*, Fresh Air, Cleanliness, Food Values, Temperance, etc., etc.) is introduced. The expectant mother is urged, also, to join the Provident Maternity Club, with the special object of laying by sufficient money to enable her to have such help in the home at the time of lying-in as shall obviate her having to do washing or scrubbing within a month of her confinement, and will also provide extra nourishment at the time with the view of enabling her to suckle her child.

The succeeding lessons deal more directly with the infant, and cover Feeding (with several full lessons on the superiority of breast feeding, evils of unsuitable food, drawbacks of patent preparations, best methods of avoiding premature weaning, etc.), Clothing (model garments being shown and made, as well as teaching on necessity of warmth and so on), Washing and Dressing, with actual demonstrations, and General Care, including sleep, exercise, habits, evils of baby's comforter, etc.

Mrs. Barnes pointed out that although the invaluable consultations, with weighing of babies, held bi-weekly at the Welcome, are dependent on the services of a medical officer, nearly all the remainder of the teaching might with a little care and study be introduced in connection with mothers' meetings, adult schools, etc., and she begged the ladies responsible for these and similar religious efforts to realise what unique opportunities they had as

health teachers and visitors. Already in the position of friend and confidante of the women with whom they deal, they have an infinitely easier task than the official Health Visitor, who usually has a district so large that she cannot get that all important personal connection with the mothers she desires to influence. Therefore, it was hardly too much to say that religious workers might do more in the prevention of infantile mortality than any other body.

The rooms in which the work is carried on were shown, the weighing room, which is decorated with charts, showing the nourishing capacity of various food stuffs.

The food cooked at the classes held is utilised for meals for the mothers at 1½d. per head, and the menu was most appropriate, and within the means of any workman's wife.

All interested in the welfare of the people should see the School for Mothers. May all success attend so worthy an effort.

The New President of the Irish Nurses' Association.

Miss L. Ramsden, Matron of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, the new President of the Irish Nurses' Association, belongs to Yorkshire, and passed the early years of her life among the beautiful hills and dales of that county. Being ambitious to become a nurse she first of all took the certificate of the St. John Ambulance Association, and then entered the Nightingale School of St. Thomas' Hospital for training, where she remained for nearly five years, when she was appointed Sister of the fever wards at the Monsall Hospital, Manchester. Miss Ramsden then entered the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, for her midwifery training, and afterwards held successively the posts of Gynaecological Sister, and Assistant Matron, and finally that of Lady Superintendent, a most desirable post to hold as the midwifery training at the Rotunda Hospital has obtained world-wide recognition for excellence.

"History of the Trouble at Ruchill Hospital."

A Memorandum relating to the circumstances which led up to the recent inquiry ordered by the Local Government Board of Scotland at the Ruchill Fever Hospital, Glasgow, has been issued, signed by the medical officers who had the courage to call attention to the mismanagement of the institution. We shall discuss the document next week.

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