

## Babyland at Olympia.

Of all the exhibits which go to make the attractive Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia, the one which will have the chief interest for nurses is the Babyland Section in the gallery. Probably never before has a crèche in full working order been seen at an exhibition before, and the one arranged by the National Society of Day Nurseries, in the personal charge of Muriel, Viscountess Helmsley, with a Matron and staff of nurses from the Norland Institute, is sure to attract many visitors. The children, varying in age from five weeks and upwards, appear to have taken kindly to their new surroundings, and to be as happy as possible in the kind charge of the nurses, who evidently understand and care for them.

### THE CRÈCHE.

If one penetrates to the receiving office and bath-room, which is behind the combined dormitory and play-room, one finds the reason for the cleanliness and sweetness which characterise the babies. All children brought to this crèche, and to any of those affiliated to the National Society of Day Nurseries, are received by the Matron, who records their names, addresses, and state of health—the latter after a medical examination. They are then undressed and bathed, and their own clothes are stored in a special disinfecting cupboard and daily fumigated with formalin. After the bath the children are dressed in the clothes provided through the kindness of the Duchess of Marlborough, and thus, with the care they receive throughout the day, are kept absolutely sweet and wholesome. An interesting feature in this exhibit is the "Aseptic Bed," lent by the Aseptic Beds Syndicate, Limited, which is being shown in this country for the first time. It is worthy of the notice of hospital authorities, and of all who are concerned in the care of chronic and infectious cases, as by its means the use of hair mattresses, always difficult to disinfect thoroughly, is entirely obviated. By means of an ingenious system of springs a metal mattress has now been arranged, which adapts itself to the form of the body in the same way as an air-bed. It can readily be disinfected as often as required, and it can be rendered surgically clean by the application of a torch dipped in alcohol. It can also, when this is not necessary, be thoroughly washed, as the metal of which it is composed is galvanised and rust proof. The advantage of such a mattress in a crèche is obvious. The National Society of Day Nurseries is doing a humanitarian work in providing wholesome and bright surroundings for the children of hard-working parents, while the mothers earn their livelihood during the day, and inasmuch as the care bestowed on these babies must have an important influence for good upon their health in later life, the work of the Society is truly national, and worthy of all support. It is noteworthy that twice a day the crèche is disinfected with Izal.

### THE HOSPITAL WARD.

Another very interesting exhibit is the section

of a hospital ward in charge of two ward sisters from the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. The methods now employed in the sterilisation of dressings and instruments are exemplified, and it is instructive to observe that as these methods get nearer to perfection so they approximate to simplicity. The elaborate technique of former days has vanished; in its place the aim of all concerned in asepsis is absolute cleanliness, which, in a surgical sense, means sterility. Therefore, on the glass-dressing waggon, which is taken from bed to bed during a round of surgical dressings, are drums containing sterilised towels, a fresh one being taken out for each case, sterilised bowls, which, as required, are removed from the drum with forceps, and flasks of sterilised water, but the water being absolutely beyond suspicion there is no need for the addition of disinfectants.

### INFANTS' FOODS.

Amongst other exhibits in this section were "Glaxo," which is now recognised as a useful infants' food. Messrs. Joseph Nathan and Co., of 83, Gracechurch Street, E.C., to whom the Glaxo stand belongs, present to visitors an attractive little booklet, "The Glaxo Baby Book," which gives a full account of this preparation. The Miol Manufacturing Company, Ltd., of 82, Southwark Bridge Road, are exhibiting their well-known preparation, which is a palatable substitute for cod-liver oil and its emulsions. A novel method of advertising its virtues is the exhibition of a baby which was wasting away, and, after a course of Miol, was successful in winning the first prize at the Hemel Hempstead Baby Show.

### THE IXI SPRING-FRAME APRON.

An interesting exhibit to nurses in another part of the exhibition was the Ixi Spring-Frame Apron, an ingenious contrivance for obviating the need for buttons, springs, and pins. The apron is adjusted with magical quickness.

### THE ROLAMAT.

The "Rolamat," manufactured by the Roll-up Metal Matting, Limited, Narford Road, Clapton, N.E., is to be commended to the attention of hospital authorities and institutions. Not only is it useful and hygienic as an ordinary door-mat, but may be used for a variety of purposes, for placing in front of sinks, for instance, and as a stand for kettles and saucepans. The mat is made of crimped, flat, galvanised iron strips, hinged together with galvanised steel rods, so that it can be rolled up like an ordinary piece of matting, and is self-cleaned when so rolled up. The objection to it from the vendor's point of view, which is not that of the purchaser, is that it is practically indestructible.

### THE HYGIENE OF COMMON LIFE.

Bedford College for Women has decided experimentally to institute a course for the instruction of teachers on the "Hygiene of Common Life," in which a large amount of attention will be devoted to the scientific principles involved in the laws of health. The inaugural lecture was given by Dr. Edkins on Tuesday.

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