

He looked forward to the prolonged education of girls in mothercraft.

The Duchess of Marlborough, in moving the resolution before the Meeting, which pledged the assembled citizens to enquire into the conditions responsible for the high rate of Infant Mortality and to use their influence to reform them, said that bad environment and neglect were contributory causes to the death of 1-4 infants. Public opinion should be stimulated, and pure milk and better sanitation and housing should be secured. These things were hindered by the desire to economise. Our first desire should be to economise in lives. We ought to show that we are willing to pay the additional  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the  $\frac{1}{2}$  to secure them. Poverty was the greatest of all handicaps. Hospital accommodation should be insured for complicated cases of pregnancy, and the services of skilled midwives should be available for every mother.

Mr. Ben Tillett made a fiery speech. He began by saying that it had been said that Socialism would be possible if it were not for the Socialists and he would add that morality would be possible if it were not for the moralists.

The English people were the most lovable hypocrites on God's earth, and the social evils were dealt with with a scented spray. He would glorify the mother and would maroon every busybody who injured her feelings. Then God and humanity would have a chance. Ten per cent. of the race were in a state of physical decadence. The facts of sex should be taught to every boy and girl.

There was too much sloppy sentimentality. God never made a greater thing than a mother. She was better than all the bishops, and a home better than any cathedral, though he wasn't allowed to say so.

If a woman were a materialist she would never repeat the process of becoming a mother. The poor mother was the most neglected creature in the country.

He respected and honoured Her Majesty the Queen, but he asserted that she had no more right to skilled attention than her poorest subject.

He would make all the fussy busybodies to be mothers under the same conditions as the poor if he had his way. He hoped legislation would punish the slum landlords, and that after the war no mother would be an industrial burden bearer.

The new President of the Local Government Board, the Right Hon. W. Hayes Fisher, said many infants were cradled in their coffins. We must not wait for new legislation, but begin at once to use the powers we have. We should not forget to thank those who are already doing the work so well.

Dr. Winifred Cullis gave some very interesting statistics bearing upon various areas in connection with mortality, and testified to the value of the mothers' schools. Those and the Health Visitors were most acceptable to the poor mothers, who felt that there were some who sympathised with

them. She urged her audience to go away and do something.

Dr. Eric Pritchard, announced that a Challenge Shield had been awarded to a new centre near Birmingham for the best original suggestion.

The mothers themselves had agreed to hold small parliaments to instruct and acquaint other mothers as to the value of the schools.

The second prize had been awarded to Worcester, where the mothers had signed a petition to the Mayor praying him not to fear to spend the ratepayers' money so that the work might be carried on.

The meeting terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

## NURSING AND THE WAR.

### THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

The following Matrons had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday, June 30th, when His Majesty invested them with the Royal Red Cross:—

FIRST CLASS.—Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service: Matrons Ethel Denne and Edith Lyde.

SECOND CLASS.—Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service Reserve: Matron Maud Hopton.

Subsequent to the Investiture they were received by Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House.

"The ship of the desert" has been brought into use in the transport of the sick and wounded, and trained for ambulance work in our Eastern Campaign. The camel in our illustration is seen carrying on stretchers two wounded "Tommies," who balance one another. High in the air as they appear, it will be remembered that the camel kneels to receive its burden, and then rises and strides away, covering the ground at a great pace, with a swaying movement which causes some people to suffer from sickness akin to sea-sickness.

The hot weather has now set in in Egypt, but several Sisters we know who have been working there for two years appear to have got acclimatised to it. One writes—"Even here we had more rain last winter than is usual here. Now all the beautiful eastern flowers are coming out, the orange blossom, oleanders and poinsettias, and lots of little plants with strong almost overpowering scents that grow in the sand. We get quantities of scarlet poppies, larkspurs, and gladiolas, but nothing so sweet as our own lovely primroses and violets, or little snowdrops with the smell of the wet earth and west wind. And yet I have grown to love the almost continual sunshine and can stand the heat well. It is now nearly two years since we left England. We greatly value the B.J.N., it helps to keep us in touch with things at home, where people seem to be feeling the effects of the war far more than out here. So far we have no food instructions. Sugar is plentiful,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)