

## SOCIAL SERVICE.

### SAVING INFANT LIFE AT DUXHURST.

Of all the branches of social service rendered to the community, none is of greater value than that which makes provision for the class of infants which is so frequently neglected, and surrounds them with wise and loving care so that they grow up sound in body and clean in soul, adding to the strength of the nation instead of being a drag and a burden upon it.

We have already given some account of the Babies' Haven at Duxhurst Village, Reigate, where unmarried mothers are able to leave their babies in the assurance that every care will be

kinds. The unmarried mother has now nowhere to place her baby in safety. The baby is either hopelessly neglected and dies, or she must, in order to support it, give up her work, and perhaps drift into a life of wrong-doing to get the money to maintain herself and the child—thus bringing about still greater disaster, and future and worse immorality. Hospitals, Homes for Girls and many other institutions confirm this statement.

"Babies are a national asset; in the years before the war eight-and-a-half million more babies were born in Germany than in England, and the mortality among children was much lower. This is surely significant, and should make us realise that every child in the land must be saved.



FEEDING TIME AT THE BABIES' HAVEN, DUXHURST.

given to them by skilled workers, in healthy surroundings.

We have received from Lady Henry Somerset, to whom we are indebted for the charming illustration on this page, an appeal for support of this excellent work which we hope will not only be widely circulated, but meet with a wide response. After pointing out that we are daily losing lives which might be preserved, that one baby dies every five minutes in the United Kingdom, that every year about 100,000 babies perish, and at least 50,000 of these could be saved, Lady Henry says: "This is a personal responsibility resting on us all."

"The reasons for this high death rate are many, among them the general disorganisation of home life, the employment of women in munitions and war work, and the entire absence of foster mothers, who are engaged in remunerative labour of all

"We (at Duxhurst) can do the work. We are longing to do it. We can take the babies who are waiting to be admitted, and whose cry is ringing in our ears, and they too can be saved. But we can only do this, if we are placed in a financial position which enables us to carry on the work.

"The unmarried mothers have their share of responsibility, and not only pay 5s. a week, but have to furnish the name of a guarantor, who, in case of non-payment, is responsible for the money."

Lady Henry pleads for the support which will enable her and her experienced helpers at Duxhurst to do this great national work, free from the constant anxiety which makes them dread the failure of an effort which is now crowned with success in the health and happiness of these little ones.

Donations may be sent to Lady Henry Somerset, The Cottage, Duxhurst, Reigate.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)