

THE MOTHERCRAFT TRAINING SOCIETY.

Most of our readers are acquainted, either theoretically or practically, with the good work done by the Mothercraft Training Society at Trebevoir Road, Kensington. Now at Cromwell House, Highgate, it has a larger and therefore an increased sphere of usefulness.

The first object of the Society is: "To uphold the Sacredness of the Body and the duty of health; to inculcate a lofty view of the responsibilities of maternity, and the duty of every mother to fit herself for the perfect fulfilment of the natural calls of motherhood, both before and after childbirth, and especially to advocate and promote the breast feeding of infants."

To hand on the torch of life, to bear healthy children, and so to rear them that they will pass through life in the enjoyment of good health, without the handicap inseparable from physical disabilities, to teach them to fear God, and honour the King, to be loyal citizens, and to share in the duties and responsibilities of the community. What higher destiny can a woman desire? And yet, though many women have the desire to discharge these duties aright, how many have the knowledge which will enable them to do so when they enter upon the estate of marriage? That an increasing number do so is due mainly to the work of societies formed for the purpose, of which the Mothercraft Training Centre at Cromwell House, Highgate, founded and carried on on the principles taught by Sir Truby King, is so conspicuous and shining an example.

It is the aim of the Society to acquire accurate information and knowledge on matters affecting the Health of Women and Children, and having acquired it to disseminate such knowledge; to train specially and employ qualified Nurses, whose duty it will be to give sound, reliable instruction, advice, and assistance, on matters affecting the health and well-being of women, especially during pregnancy and while nursing infants, and on matters affecting the health and well-being of their children; to train probationers and students in infant care and mothercraft; and to educate and help parents and others in a practical way in domestic hygiene in general—all these things being

done with a view to conserving the health and strength of the rising generation, and rendering both mother and offspring hardy, healthy and resistive to disease.

A more suitable or desirable location for the purposes of the Centre could scarcely have been secured than Cromwell House. In the midst of a large population it stands at the top of Highgate Hill with a large garden at the back over which fresh breezes sweep. The garden expenses, be it noted, are almost entirely met by a special fund, initiated

by Mrs. Leslie Harris, and supported, amongst others, by Miss Jentie Paterson by the sale of foreign stamps. In a long shelter entirely open in the front to air and sunlight, the babies can lie out in their cots all day and sometimes at night also, and, thanks to a grant of £200 from the *Daily Mirror* Queen Alexandra Memorial Fund, a complete Sunlight Apparatus has been installed on the Sun Balcony, so that if the sun hides his face the babies can still have the benefit of sunlight all the year round.

The beauty of the house itself must be seen to be appreciated, but some idea may be gained from our illustration of the central staircase. It is characteristic of the loving thoroughness of the workmanship of the period that it not only ascends to the top of the house but down to the basement with the same lovely detail.

Surely an allegory to be read by those who now are moulding impressionable and pliable human entities, that like the carvers in wood of past centuries their work should begin at the very beginning, and whether visible or not, should be done with the faithful attention to detail characteristic of work which endures.

The sitting-room of the Matron, Miss Mabel Liddiard, S.R.N., who holds the Certificate of St. Thomas's Hospital, the Health Visitors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and who is a Certified Midwife, is a room in which to see visions and dream dreams. The beautiful

oak panelling is sheer delight, and behind one portion it is believed that there is an underground passage which terminates at the Mansion House—though this has never been verified.

The name and age of the house gives colour to the belief that it was connected with the great Protector, but this is not the case, and it is only since 1833 that it has been known by this name. Originally a residential mansion, in more recent years it has been successively a boys' school,



WEIGHT 9 lbs. 3 oz.



WEIGHT AT 15 MONTHS OF AGE, 25 lbs.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)