

### The East-End Mothers' Home.

The East End Mothers' Home, which held its Annual Meeting at 17, Cavendish Square, on Thursday, May 9th, by the kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Bessborough, is an institution which is doing excellent work among the teeming population of the East End, but its 22 beds are a pitifully small number for the needs of the district.

The chair at Thursday's meeting was taken by Mr. Owen Lankester, M.R.C.S., Chairman of the Committee of Management, and the Rev. H. P. Cronshaw, Vicar of St. Stephen's, Westbourne Park, made an eloquent appeal in proposing the first resolution that the Annual Report and Audited Accounts be adopted. The East End was, he said, absolutely unique and solitary. It was a huge town with a million and a half of people, all poor. There were different grades of poverty, the genteel poverty which was behind-hand with its rent, and the hungry poverty which did not know where to look for its dinner. The poverty of the East End was mostly of the latter quality.

If the East End was solitary, the West End was in danger of being so also. It needed something it had not got, the influence of the presence of the poor. In spite of its poverty, the East End was not a miserable place, its children were the happiest in London, and the courage of their elders, their absolute strenuousness, the light-hearted, keen, strong way in which they set themselves to do things, should help those placed in easier circumstances to face their own difficulties more bravely.

The resolution was seconded by Dr. W. J. Gow, who said that the Report was a statement of necessity. The limited hospital accommodation of the Metropolis for maternity cases was totally inadequate. Not only in Paris and Berlin, but in the smaller Continental towns, it was provided on a much more liberal scale. The importance of such an institution was obvious. It was a vast power for good to both mother and child; it was a centre of civilisation; and it was a training school for midwives, who went from it to all parts of the world. The persistence of the old-fashioned midwife had been extraordinary, but the fact was there had been nowhere for women to train in midwifery in any numbers, so they had gone to the brass plate manufacturers, and become midwives in that way.

The second resolution declaring the Home to be worthy of all support was proposed by the Earl of Bessborough, who said that when he visited the Home there were 17 women in it, and 6 of the babies were but six hours

old, but poor as the women were, getting perhaps, only 1½d. for making a pair of trousers, no loving mother in the West End could have surpassed them in affection for her offspring. The Home was doing a really good work for women, whose hours of labour were often their only hours of rest.

A warm tribute to the work of the Matron, Miss Anderson, was paid by several of the speakers. The collection was made by members of the nursing staff, who looked very fresh and dainty in their indoor uniforms.

### Distribution of Certificates in Cookery at Charing Cross Hospital.

An interesting ceremony took place at Charing Cross Hospital last Friday, when the Chairman, the Earl of Kilmorey, presented certificates to the nurses who had been successful in passing an examination in cookery, conducted by the Universal Cookery and Food Association. Lord Kilmorey first called upon Mr. C. Hermann Senn, of that Association, who said Mrs. Windsor's report as examiner showed that the candidates worked very daintily and neatly. In some instances, there was a tendency to wastefulness such as using too much flour or butter, or leaving something on the table which should be finished up, but many people were apt to be forgetful at an examination. Those who finished off well obtained the best marks. Of those who were examined, four passed in the first class, eight in the second class, and five failed.

Mr. Senn said that in looking through the papers the great need for studying the scientific side of cookery, the side which dealt with theory and the chemistry of food, was evident. It was essential to understand the chemical properties contained in certain foods in order to be a really efficient cook.

Lord Kilmorey then presented certificates to the successful nurses, who looked very neat and trim as they came up to receive them. The maximum number of marks obtainable was 200.

1st Class.—Of the four nurses in the first class, Nurse Howes gained 178, Nurse Jeffery 175, Nurse Thomson 169, Nurse Bowie 163.

2nd Class.—Nurses Roope, Bellerby, Gulston, Hudson, Maynard, Arnold, Grant, and Walton.

In presenting the certificates, Lord Kilmorey said there used to be a remark that too many cooks spoil the broth; in the present case there were twice as many cooks as last year, and the broth was not yet spoiled.

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