

The Hospital World.

THE INFANTS' HOSPITAL, VINCENT SQUARE.

On Friday, March 18th, the annual meeting of the Governors of the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, was presided over by the Vice-Chairman of the Institution, Mr. J. S. Fletcher, M.P., who said that the difficulty in these days among so many institutions was to get known, and he had no doubt that when their hospital became better known, and more visited, it would receive the support it deserved.

Dr. Ralph Vincent reported two important developments. Through the generosity of Mr. Robert Mond, their Treasurer, the hospital had secured a farm directly under the control of the Committee and Medical Staff, where the diet of the cows is highly specialised, and the strictest attention is paid to the sanitation in the sheds. From the time the cows were milked at Combe Bank Farm, Sevenoaks, to the delivery of the milk in the Hospital, only four hours elapsed.

The temperature of the milk was at once brought down to 40 degrees Fahr., and was never allowed to rise higher until it was consumed. This temperature was maintained in the hospital by means of a refrigerator so constructed that the electric switches can easily be worked by a nurse, thus saving the expense of a mechanic, and there was no risk of accident. The hottest day in summer would only require that the refrigerator should be worked for an hour or so longer. This boon had also been supplied by the generosity of Mr. Robert Mond. The cost of working was one shilling a day, a great improvement on the costly system which had formerly prevailed in the hospital of keeping the milk on ice, for which 12 cwt. was required daily.

After the meeting tea was served in the Board Room, and the charming wards were open to inspection.

Were it not that the sleepy eyes of the little patients were already closing one would have been tempted to linger long in the dainty surroundings. In the upper ward the infants were clad in wee blue jackets, with snowy bibs, the cot covers were of like colour, and even the woolly toys depending from the white curtains were of the same hue.

In the lower ward the same scheme was carried out in pink, and one could not decide which to be most in love with.

But the bathrooms! They are veritably Lilliputian, and we had the good fortune to see them at tubbing time, when, shorn of the glory of jacket and bibs, the tiny creatures lay naked

and unashamed on the laps of their devoted slaves, in a temperature one felt loth to leave, and near by the most fascinating little porcelain baths you can imagine awaited them. Truly in these enlightened days, when the subject of infant mortality is so much before the public, this hospital,



A Ward Bath-room, the Infants' Hospital.

which is doing such a grand work, should be widely known, and generously supported.

The Committee appeal to all who have the welfare of infants at heart to support them in the arduous work which they have undertaken. Nothing but a conviction of its urgent necessity would have led them to undertake such onerous duties, and they rely upon the generous response of those who are in a position to support the Hospital, either by annual subscriptions or by other means.

Paying probationers are now received, and many are availing themselves of the opportunity of obtaining experience in the management of sick infants.

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