

mainly of an educational character, and just as much required by the well-to-do as the humblest mother. But they recognised that to insure the nurses being generally taken advantage of they must give their services free. It was, therefore, decided that the necessary funds should be collected mainly by memberships of 5s. a year, and that the Government should be asked for State help, which was granted, the Government giving pound for pound collected up to a certain figure.

HOW A NURSE IS ESTABLISHED.

A large meeting was held in Auckland; the movement and the scheme were explained, and sufficient funds were promised. A Committee, mainly of ladies, and an Advisory Board, chiefly of doctors, were constituted. A suitable and fully qualified nurse was then chosen, and sent down to Karitani for her three months' training. At the end of her course she had to pass a very stiff examination upon the general care of infants, and particularly upon the percentage and caloric nature of all sorts of foods intended for them. She had to write out prescriptions to meet the caloric needs of different babies, and had to be capable of calculating the percentage of proteid, fat, carbohydrates in mixtures made with whole milk, skimmed milk, and all patent foods, gruels, etc. Having satisfied the authorities, she returned to Auckland, where she was provided with an office to meet the mothers and weigh the babies, a telephone, bicycle, and the freedom of the electric trams. A leading dairy there gave the Society and nurse every possible facility for carrying out all the necessary milk prescriptions. At present there are two Plunket nurses in Auckland hard at work, and two women in the dairy fully occupied preparing the prescriptions and despatching them in carts to be delivered at the doors of the different cases. The first year the Auckland nurse attended 500 babies, one death recorded, and that was meningitis. There are at present 14 Plunket nurses in New Zealand, each nurse probably attending an average of 350 babies. In no less than 21 newspapers in New Zealand a column entitled "Our Babies" is published every Saturday evening. This article is edited by Mrs. Truby King, who works as hard as her husband in this life-saving movement. Such was the work which the Society for the Health of Women and Children was engaged upon in New Zealand. It had saved many hundred infants' lives; it had relieved much suffering and anxiety; above all, it had impressed upon the parents of the coming generation that the whole life of their children must invariably be affected by the wise or foolish treatment they received during the first eighteen months of their existence.

Miss M. McNeill, Hon. Secretary, then gave an interesting report of the work carried on by the Pasteurised Milk Depot and Infant Mortality Committee in Dublin, and Sir John Byers sent an account of the Babies' Club in Divis Street, Belfast, the first opened in Ireland.

Dr. Stafford, Local Government Board Inspector, in moving a vote of thanks, said that municipal and domestic cleanliness was the beginning and end of the whole matter.

Book of the Week.

THE DOCTOR'S LASS.*

This is a long, closely-written book, but not one line too long. One grudges each page as it is turned. Any student of Mr. George Meredith will at once recognise the school in which the author learnt his peculiar style; but its affectations in no way detract from its charm, and are handled in a manner that would not disgrace the great master himself. Here is a specimen:—

"Her tears . . . Aye! her tears were drops of holy water even when they asperged passion and lay on angered lashes. And her name! That brief monosyllable of mere domestic utility, like a milk-jug with not even a blue border round it; a title to be listed with kitchen necessities—how dear it became in usage.

"Jane . . . Jane
"Say it over softly a number of times and see how beautiful it can become. As prim as a kitchen clock; as brief as an oyster that slips down, vinegary, in one syllable; as cool as crockery; a little demure it may be, like muslin—but, oh! so charming when it rustles and is stirred by girlish animation, and it becomes wayward and alive.

"And when it is associated by a hundred ties with beggar-my-neighbour and dominoes, and gardening, and drives, and long walks, and good-nights and good-mornings, and shan'ts and don't cares, and do you love me's . . . then . . . then what a name! A name so dear that the Doctor cannot dismiss it; cannot find in his wavering heart to buy a box for it and send it away to school, packed up with grammars and tears and a new cake."

The Doctor, still a young man, had adopted the motherless child of a woman who, in former years, had jilted him for another lover. The memory of his illustrious predecessor, Dr. Dendy, still held sway in the minds of the simple Northumbrian villagers, and they yield scant confidence to more modern science.

"When a'ud Doctor looked at ye," says legend, "you knowed very well summut would 'a to gie way. Lawks! but he could see summut down your throat wi' yon eye, you may depend."

"If Doctor nobbut shook his head," says testimony, "it was owered wi' ye. Yan (one) shake was eneaf."

"Aye," corroborates the carrier; "he just gied yan wag of his head at bottom o' Tom Johnston's stairs and Tom was dead by two next morning. As big and strong a man as onybody mud wish to see."

Still, in spite of all, he wins his way, and his little ward grows into a beautiful and wayward girl, with the result that she becomes the very centre of his being. The blow falls when she asks his sanction for her engagement to a pompous young clergyman.

"Berkeley was coming to morrow to see him, to scar the final brand into his shrinking flesh. Berkeley had offered to break the news himself, Jane had said; but she had wished to have the joy of

* By Edward C. Booth. (Grant Richards, London.)

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