

"And so," writes Miss Brodrick, "the tale of abortions and still births, and syphilitic offspring, and feeble minded and idiotic unfortunates, and degenerates in mind and body, and starvelings, is made up in the upper criminal classes of England—and—'My people love to have it so, and what shall it be in the end thereof?'"

The National Society of Day Nurseries.

The National Society of Day Nurseries, 1, Sydney Street, Fulham Road, S.W., of which Mrs. Arthur Percival was the founder, was formally constituted in 1907 for the purpose of raising the standard of crèches already existing in and around London, for starting new crèches in neighbourhoods where they were wanted, supplying a central organisation where advice and help could be obtained by those crèches needing them, and for being a means of communication among all crèches by affiliating them to the Society. The President of the Society is Princess Christian and the Chairman of the Council, Muriel, Viscountess Helmsley.

Differing from Continental countries, the crèches here are run entirely by private enterprise, with the result that, though some are very nearly perfect regarding sanitation, cleanliness, feeding, etc., others fall very far below the standard of perfection. This is not surprising when one considers how many difficulties the "local committees" have to fight—lack of funds, lack of any proper supervision, very often entire lack of knowledge, and no one to whom they can apply for advice.

It is these many "lacks" in the life of a crèche that the Society endeavours to fill; the lack of funds being of necessity one of the most difficult, until the real necessity of the establishment of well-regulated crèches is more recognised by the general public. At present, however, they do as much as is possible on a limited income.

An interesting experiment has been successfully inaugurated by starting a small crèche at a "ladies' school" in Tolmers Park, Herts. A cottage in the grounds has been set apart for the purpose, and there two or three babies, in charge of a capable nurse, are dressed and fed by the girls in the head class of the school, so that during their last year all these girls will have a thorough practical training in the management and feeding of infants. A similar crèche has lately been started in a school in the North of England, and is proving very successful.

One of the rules of affiliation is that the crèche shall allow illegitimate children to be taken in. This is a rule that leads to much discussion, but the Society is of the opinion that in these cases a little timely help and sympathy extended to a woman who has been unfortunate enough to have an illegitimate child, may have the effect of keeping her "straight" by giving her an object for which to work and for which later on to become an example.

The Liverpool Maternity Hospital.

The Lady Mayoress of Liverpool has inaugurated a Coronation Fund for the purpose of placing the Liverpool Maternity Hospital in a strong financial position, and of raising funds towards the endowment of a new hospital. It will be remembered that two years ago Sir William Hartley offered to build a new hospital, but his offer was conditional on an endowment of £20,000 being raised. £10,000 is secure, and when two-thirds of the total is in hand Sir William has sanctioned the commencement of building operations, provided that the balance can be guaranteed before the hospital is ready for opening.

The Glasgow Maternity and Women's Hospital.

It was stated at the annual meeting of the Glasgow Maternity and Women's Hospital, at which Mr. Francis Henderson, the Lord Dean of Guild, presided, that her Majesty Queen Mary had consented to become Patroness, and the Queen Mother President of the Hospital. The directors stated in their report that the beneficent work carried on in the maternity department of the hospital showed a marked increase since the new buildings were opened in 1908. The total number of cases in all departments was 4,881, of which 1,383 were treated in the hospital and 3,498 in the patients' homes; while 559 operations were performed. The nurses of the hospital paid from 1900 to 2,000 visits throughout the city each month.

The Chairman, commenting on the report, said that in his opinion public health administration had been too long content to confine itself to dealing with results and had not given sufficient attention and consideration to the causes which brought about these results. He believed it would soon become absolutely necessary to make some definite public provision by legal enactment for securing the efficiency of the national physique. Much had been written lately about the lives of the people in the poorer districts of our great cities, and the pitiful tragedies that were being daily enacted there, but our legislators were too much taken up with what they considered greater questions to give much heed to such matters as the children who died or were permanently disabled owing to the conditions which surrounded their birth; the undersized, underfed men and women who married far too early and begot children even weaker physically than themselves; and all the crop of misery, physical disease, and mental debility which were bound to follow such conditions. No man or woman should be allowed to marry who was not able to produce a certificate of physical and mental fitness from a competent medical officer appointed for the purpose. They went to enormous expense in providing hospitals for the sick and ailing, asylums for mental disease, homes for incurables, and special schools for mentally deficient children, but they did little or nothing to stop the source of supply.

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