

## MOTHERCRAFT COMPETITIONS.

The Mothercraft Competitions, organised by the Association of Infant Consultations and Schools for Mothers, which is a department of the National League for Physical Education and Improvement, and held at the L.C.C. Infant Schools in the Charing Cross Road on Saturday last, aroused an immense amount of interest amongst the Schools for Mothers, Infant Consultations, and other societies affiliated to the above Association.

The fifteen competing societies, each of which had its special badge of a distinctive colour, sent its six best members previously tested locally to enter for the central examination. The competitions were as follows, and three prizes of £1, 10s., and 5s. respectively were given in each section:—

CLASS I.—*Examiner*, Dr. Eric Pritchard. *Subject*, Six simple questions in mothercraft, *i.e.*, (1) What should be the weekly gain of a healthy baby? (2) (a) What is thrush; (b) How is it caused; (c) How is it prevented; (d) How is it cured? (3) What clothes does a baby require when it is four months old? (4) How and when would you wean a baby? (5) What steps would you take to find out the reason why your baby is crying? (6) What precautions would you take to keep cow's milk sweet? *First Prize*, Camberwell School for Mothers (Mrs. Beckenham). *Second Prize*, Fulham (South) School for Mothers (Mrs. Cooper). *Third Prize*, St. Pancras School for Mothers (Mrs. Russell).

CLASS II.—*Examiner*, Miss Atherton. *Subject*, Undressing and dressing a baby. *First Prize*, St. Pancras School for Mothers (Mrs. Gibbs). *Second Prize*, Camberwell School for Mothers (Mrs. Law). *Third Prize*, Women's League of Service, Battersea Branch (Mrs. Storey).

CLASS III.—*Examiner*, Dr. Selina Fox. *Subject*, The baby showing evidence of the best condition and the greatest care. A disappointment awaited Mrs. Stoner who would have received the first prize in this Section, as she was disqualified because her baby was unvaccinated. *First Prize*, St. Marylebone Health Society, Southern Centre (Mrs. Johnson). *Second Prize*, Fulham, North (Mrs. Imrie). *Third Prize*, Fulham, South (Mrs. Knight).

CLASS IV.—*Examiner*, Miss Goodchild. *Subject*, A knitted vest or belt. *First Prize*, Fulham, North (Mrs. Adams). *Second Prize*, St. Pancras (Mrs. Barkess). *Third Prize*, Hammersmith, Mother's Welcome (Mrs. Riddell).

CLASS V.—*Examiner*, Miss Goodchild. *Subject*, Cutting out a pattern from memory. *First Prize*, St. Pancras (Mrs. Hyde). *Second Prize*, Lancaster Road School for Mothers (Mrs. Goldson). *Third Prize*, Hammersmith Babies' Welcome (Mrs. Money).

CLASS VI.—*Examiner*, Miss Goodchild. *Subject*, A shortening flannel petticoat. *First Prize*, Fulham, North (Mrs. Adkins). *Second Prize*,

Fulham, South (Mrs. Clark). *Third Prize*, St. Pancras (Mrs. Cahill).

CLASS VII.—*Examiner*, Miss Cade. *Subject*, Cooking. *First Prize*, Fulham, North (Mrs. Heath). *Second Prize*, League of Liberal Christianity (Mrs. Everett). *Third Prize*, St. Marylebone Health Society, Northern Centre (Mrs. Eales).

CLASS VIII.—*Examiner*, Miss Skillman. *First Prize*, Lancaster Road (Mrs. Biggs). *Second Prize*, St. Marylebone Health Society, Northern Centre (Mrs. Waters). *Third Prize*, Fulham, South (Mrs. Williams).

CLASS IX. *Examiner*, Miss Marsters. *Subject*: Washing a baby's bottle. *First Prize*, Fulham South (Mrs. Morton); *Second Prize*, St. Marylebone Northern Centre (Mrs. King), and Fulham, North (Mrs. Aldous), bracketed equal. A prize of 6s. each was awarded. *Third Prize*, St. Marylebone Northern Centre (Mrs. Robshaw).

In addition to the prizes there was a Challenge Shield, given by the *Daily News and Leader*, to be competed for.

After tea, Bishop Boyd Carpenter, in an eloquent speech, announced that the Challenge Shield had been won by Fulham, North, and that St. Pancras was bracketed second with Fulham, South. Mrs. Boyd Carpenter presented the prizes. With the shield, which is to be contested for each year, was awarded a handsome pair of brass scales, which are the permanent possession of the Fulham (North) School for Mothers, and with which the mothers appeared delighted though one was heard to observe: "I say, Miss Williams, what about cleaning the scales?"

There are rumours that a consolation prize is to be awarded to Mrs. Stoner, whose disappointment is increased by the fact that had she not been disqualified St. Pancras would have won the Challenge Shield.

All the mothers who gathered for the competitions received certificates of skill, as this had already been tested at the local centres.

The promoters of the competition, and the mothers themselves, appeared well pleased with the result. Another year perhaps a building more suitable for the purpose will be secured, and the experience of the present year will show in which directions greater organization is desirable.

## PENSIONS FOR MOTHERS.

The Ohio Legislature has enacted a Bill providing pensions for mothers, the object of which is to enable poor women to bring up their children. Women with one child will receive fifteen dollars a month and seven dollars a month for each additional offspring. The condition attaching to these payments is that the mother has lived in Ohio for two years, is a widow, or has a husband who is physically or mentally disabled, or has deserted her, and has no son above 15 or daughter above 16 years old. The Court is to be satisfied that without a pension the home would be broken up, and that the woman is a proper guardian for her children. The Bill is part of the Child Code.

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