

for them to secure many probationers than to insist on high fees.

The Plaistow Maternity Charity set the fashion of reducing the fee if a certain number of candidates were sent by one Association, and this was the reason why they were able to obtain the training for their pupils at an absurdly low fee.

Then we had passed through a change in the phase of voluntary nursing, and there was a movement for associations to share in the nursing work in connection with the voluntary inspection of schools. Then there was work in connection with the National Insurance Act. The voluntary associations were not willing to stand alone and aloof from the work of public bodies. Assistance was needed for nursing the sick, and the associations were ready. There was a primitive idea of electors that the sole function of the State was the pouring out of gold, but for this there must also be a golden inflow, and those who were instrumental in producing the money should also be instrumental in seeing that it was well and efficiently spent. She had much pleasure in moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. W. J. Howarth, who, as Medical Officer of Health for Kent, has had experience of country conditions, seconded the adoption of the report, and spoke of the change taking place in rural midwifery. In the future he believed it would only be possible if subsidised by the State, or by some voluntary organisation. The midwifery work was not sufficient to enable a woman to be self-supporting unless it was tacked on to nursing. If this were done there was considerable hope for it. He referred to criticisms as to the risks and objections of such a combination, but thought they might be overcome. He seconded the adoption of the report which was carried.

Mrs. Lee, certified midwife, described the scheme proposed by her for insuring patients receiving the Maternity Benefit under the Insurance Act against payment of the doctor's fee in case of emergency.

Lady Verney raised the question of the length of training, and said that cheap nurses with short training and poor pay were the greatest plague of the country districts. If one parish employed such a nurse the next became discontented, and wondered why it should pay £80 or £90 per annum. Moreover, there were grave objections from the point of view of accommodation to these nurses residing in the cottages.

It was stated that some Nursing Associations gave short training because if they gave nurses a full hospital training they would not do the work.

The Chairman said that she believed the Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute was reducing its long training for the same reason. It was found that fully trained nurses would not do the work.

N.B.—We believe this to be a misapprehension, and think that the Queen's Institute should not allow it to pass uncontradicted.

The meeting terminated with the usual votes of thanks, after which tea was served.

EAST END MOTHERS' LYING-IN HOME.

Dr. Owen Lankester, Chairman of the East End Mothers' Home, 396, Commercial Road, E., presided at the Annual Meeting on May 28th. He spoke in terms of optimism of the "flourishing" condition of the institution, which has many benefactors, mentioning, in particular, benefactions of the "Chums" Club, which has given substantial help from the proceeds of its Annual Charity Dinner and Entertainment.

The result of a visit paid to the Home by Dr. Norman Moore and by Mr. Norris on behalf of "King Edward's Hospital Fund for London," was a grant of £200. Very excellent work has been done by the Lady Almoner, who was appointed about a year ago.

The following Resolution was submitted to the Meeting and passed unanimously:—"That the East End Mothers' Lying-In Home is engaged in excellent work and deserves wider financial support, in order that it may be able to maintain its efficiency and enlarge the sphere of its activity. That the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended December 31st, 1912, be taken as read and hereby adopted; also that the General Committee, Committee of Management, and Honorary Officers be and are hereby re-elected."

Lady St. Davids, in moving the Resolution, referred to an incident which had led her to take an interest in the blind. Upon enquiring into causes the terrible fact had been revealed to her that one third of the people so afflicted need not have been blind at all; so many cases had been due to neglect at birth; this had led her to take an interest in Maternity Homes. She pleaded earnestly for funds to continue and extend the work; referring to the extreme poverty of some of the expectant mothers, she told the audience how much baby clothes were needed, as some of them were unable to make any provision. The visitors were invited to go over the Home at the close of the meeting; certain structural alterations have been made within the year, namely more cubicles for the nurses, a more commodious staff dining-room and Dr. Owen Lankester announced very joyfully that a comfortable "Nest" had been built for the Matron, Miss Anderson, which she richly deserved. An expression of opinion with which all who know Miss Anderson and her work will agree.

The exquisitely clean wards, the well and happy-looking mothers, and the sweet babies—scarcely one uttering a sound!—were an eloquent tribute to the Home. Delicious cool air radiated from large green glass bowls full of ice which stood in all the wards. Perhaps the comfort that this brought on a hot afternoon may have accounted in some measure for the quiet babies!

By the courtesy of the Committee a liberal and dainty repast was provided for the numerous visitors.

B. K.

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