AN INFANT CARE COMMITTEE.

ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST AND WAPPING.

Truly the children are coming into their kingdom. It was a newborn baby—through its mother—who inspired and made possible the work of an Infant Care Committee in this corner of the East End, and probably in no part of London is such work more needed. For here, in St. George and Wapping, we have the conditions that cripple and kill the young, and

foreign tailors, and a few are office cleaners.

Large families may be born to these mothers, but there are few if any healthy large families reared.

In 1911 the infant mortality was 170, but it is not the dead babies that move one in this district, it is the living who are dwarfed both in body and soul.

Many workers, both religious and social, have heard " the call of the East," and it was from these that in the autumn of 1912 an Infant Care Committee was formed.

REGULAR ATTENDANTS AT THE CONSULTATION CENTRES.

that dishearten and degrade the adult. Most of the work is casual, wages are uncertain or low. Rents are high, many so-called homes are places where growing girls and boys can neither have clean bodies nor clean minds.

The streets are foul and noisy, the public-houses are cheerful and abundant.

The only recreation ground in St. George's is a disused churchyard. And the religious bodies touch only one here and there.

Women—mothers and expectant mothers— work in the factories, make tents, or cigars, or sort rags; some do sweated home work for

The committee and the medical officers have agreed to stand for educational work alone. The problem of the underfed mother, and the half starved baby crops up sometimes, but it is far too great a problem to be solved by a few dinners, or a grant of milk.

And whether for good or ill, the Infant Care work at St. George and Wapping, like most work of a similar nature, is most appreciated by the better-class mother. It is the intelligent woman, keen on hygiene, and temperate, who with her baby is a regular attendant at the Consultation Centres.