

MOTHERS AND THE WAR.

Just now we are filled with admiration of the heroes at the front, and no admiration can be too great for them. But what of the mothers who bore them, whose harder part it is to stay at home. They too are presenting an undaunted front.

Preaching at Hull on Good Friday the Archbishop of York said that among the women of the country we saw the flame of sacrifice burning with a brightness that moved our hearts. A friend of his said, "I would not detract from the splendour of my husband's offering by one word of regret. I have lost both my glorious boys, but if I had ten to follow them I would bid them go."

It is dauntless women such as this one who bear heroic sons.

"GRANNY."

A poor decrepit old woman known as "Granny" appeared at Westminster last Saturday, summoned by the L.C.C. under the Midwives Act of 1902.

Mr. J. H. Panlyn, for the L.C.C., said defendant was seventy-seven, and as the Court could see, from her unclean appearance and physical incapacity, she was not a desirable midwife. She lived in one room under very insanitary conditions. There was a certain amount of sympathy felt for the old woman, who in her way was a character in Westminster, and known for many years among the poorer classes. All that was asked was a prohibition of her further engagements.

Evidence was given that "Granny" was paid a fee of 3s. in the absence of a doctor. "And she was very good to me," said one young soldier's wife.

"You understand—you are not to go to any more of these cases?" said the Magistrate, Mr. Horace Smith.

"Never no more, your Worship," said the old woman. "It's fifty year or more now since I was first wanted, but I'll never do it again. I didn't know it was wrong. They came for me yesterday and I would not go."

She was bound over for twelve months.

"If I live so long, your Worship," she remarked.

THE MOTHERS' PENSION BILL.

There is, says a contemporary, a good prospect of the Mothers' Pension Bill becoming law in the State of New York. The proposal is to give £3 per month to each woman who has a child under fifteen years of age. If there be more than one child below that age an additional allowance of £1 a month for each child is made, to end, however, whenever such child reaches the age of fifteen years. Other States which have a similar law have found it more economical than the Poor Law system, and the children, by living at home, do not acquire what Americans call the "institutional taint," by which they mean a deadening of the social and family instincts, which is usually apparent in children trained in the State orphanages.

THE FOOD OF MATERNITY PATIENTS.

Miss Lulu Graves, Dietitian at the Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, writing in *The Modern Hospital* on the dieting of surgical and maternity patients, and referring to the question of "special orders" for patients, which, she says, indicates another need—co-operation between the physician and the dietitian, states:—

"At Lakeside we have reduced the special orders to a minimum in the private and semi-private wards by putting out a menu which gives a rather wide variety of food. For instance, for breakfast there is a choice of fruits, two cooked and two 'prepared' cereals, bacon and eggs, toast, rolls, and at all meals any of the common beverages may be chosen. We vary the menu as much as possible so that there shall be no monotony in the diet. If the patient still desires something which requires extra preparation there is an extra charge for it. It is not often that a patient cannot select enough from this menu to give him a satisfactory meal, even though there are some things being served which he does not care for.

"The number of servings required in each ward is reported to the dietitian, and she posts it upon a bulletin board in the kitchen so that the cooks know just how much is to be prepared. This type of menu makes a little more work for the dietitian and the kitchen force, but not a great deal more than would be necessary in the preparation of many special orders; and it has the advantage of giving every patient the same privilege; while by the other method the number of 'extras' a patient gets depends about as much upon the kind of a nurse he has as it does upon his actual requirement.

"As a rule, maternity patients have very good appetites and with them, too, there is sometimes a tendency to overeat. This desire for large servings, or frequent serving, has been explained occasionally by saying that they must eat a great deal because they are eating for two people—though just how or why this is the case I have never been able to learn.

"There has been a theory in the past that a mother should not eat acid foods or foods with a strong flavour during the early period of the child's nursing; it has been very satisfactorily proved, however, that the child is not affected by the diet of the mother so long as she confines herself to the things which for her are easily digested; and there need be no change in her method of eating provided her powers of assimilation are the same."

Increased financial support is needed by most of the Maternity Hospitals just now. Mr. Herbert Ewart, chairman at the annual meeting of the Belfast Maternity Hospital, said that no one would be surprised to learn that the expenditure had gone up. They all knew that they could not get their ordinary bread and butter at the same price as six months ago. Yet there was never a greater demand on such hospitals than at the present time.

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