

the place of seating accommodation on the tiers, the entire space is occupied by *beds* for men—1,150! The arena serves as a general dining hall, with accommodation for 3,000 men, women and children. The head of the kitchen staff is a chef, who was formerly the chief roaster to the King of Belgium. The large spaces now used as dormitories are enclosed by temporary walls made of fireproof cloth. The chapel has been evolved out of a cinema theatre, and is served by a Belgian priest. A musical entertainment is provided for the people every afternoon in another large hall where I was shown a great and magnificent Christmas tree, which has borne on its fairy branches presents for all the children, and is lit with multitudes of electric lights in the colours of the two countries.

affords sleeping accommodation for some of the nurses; and the secretary's room is the Matron's sitting-room, where I was hospitably entertained to tea.

The Earl's Court Exhibition closed October 14th, at 10 p.m. At 10, the following morning, the staff of the M.A.B. arrived; at 10 p.m., the same day, 1,377 Refugees were taken in and accommodated. Such organisation, ingenuity and promptitude could not, I am quite sure, be surpassed. Nothing has been overlooked for the comfort and well-being of the people. A laundry and eighteen new baths are now being installed to replace insufficient accommodation. Since October, 20,000 refugees have passed through the camp; 2,000 are at present resident. Arrangements for their allocation are made as soon as possible, and they



BELGIAN REFUGEES AT EARL'S COURT—SOME OF THE BABIES FROM THE CRÈCHE.
MISS MORGAN, MATRON.

Sitting rooms, study rooms, a school-room (serving also as a play-room), store rooms packed with clothing, are some of the many conveniences supplied to these relatively fortunate refugees. A recruiting station is also there, whence 1,000 men have gone back to serve their country. Last, but by no means least, there is the hospital, established in the former "Welcome Club." Fortunately, there were no very serious cases, and I was informed that they had been very free from infectious illness. It is beautifully arranged and adapted, and is under the charge of a nurse who has been there from the commencement. The drawing-room of the "Welcome Club"

are being continually drafted off to generous hosts and hostesses all over the Kingdom.

Both the Local Government Board and those who pass through this "City of Refuge," are to be congratulated upon the admirable spirit which inspires the management in every department.

BEATRICE KENT.

UNCONSCIOUS HUMOUR.

A friend of mine asked a V.A.D. nurse, "Have you any wounded in your hospital?"—"Yes, eight." "Not bad cases, I hope?"—(sadly) "Oh, no. But (brightening up) two of them have got much worse since they have been in!"—*Lord Knutsford.*

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)