

were dealt with in turn. The audience were highly interested and at the close of the lecture some questions were asked. The chairwoman made a charming little speech, and presented Miss Haydon with a beautiful bouquet of red roses, in appreciation of her kindness in coming from London to give the lecture.

SAVING THE FUTURE.

A crowded audience gathered for the public meeting on the need for Saving the Future (a National Campaign to promote the Welfare of Motherhood and Infancy), in the Guildhall, on Tuesday, October 26th. Owing to the indisposition of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, the chair was occupied by Sir Thomas Vesey Strong. Messages of sympathy and good wishes were read from H.M. the Queen, H. M. Queen Alexandra, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and others.

The Chairman read the Lord Mayor's opening remarks.

He said that the nation was so absorbed in saving the present and putting forth every ounce of energy to win the stupendous struggle in which it was engaged, that as yet we had not given adequate time and thought to the urgent need of saving the future, or, in other words, of providing for the new generation which will take the place of those who to-day are falling in battle. He said, "We look to the women at home to play their part, to do their 'bit,' by lessening and preventing all unnecessary loss of life in infancy, just as unselfishly as our men are playing their part in the trenches at the Front."

The Rt. Hon. Walter Long, M.P., President of the Local Government Board, said, with reference to the National crisis, that it was the part of all to be less critics and more workers and builders. The movement which this meeting stood for did not propose to teach women to be accomplished nurses, but to teach, in the simplest way, simplest methods and simplest knowledge. With regard to poverty, statistics proved that it was the least operative of all causes in infant mortality, but it was largely due to dirt, ignorance and disease. Now, as never before, were opportunities for the social worker. He would say that the wives and children of men at the Front had a very liberal allowance. Were we sure that it was wisely and well spent. Many causes, including, perhaps, the lack of moral resistance, combined to prevent their seizing the advantages of increased revenues. He was approached by women from all over the country, wishing to take part in some "War Work." Well, there was not enough to go round, but there was a great deal of other work to be done, perhaps not quite so attractive, but quite as important. In the end he believed they would find it was real War work. He spoke of the need of co-ordination and the cessation of individualism. Everyone should be willing to give their services to the best of their ability, and should ask only for the direction in which they should be spent. He asked his hearers to believe that there was not

an unlimited supply of red tape ready to bind limbs, and said that no officialdom should be allowed to stand in the way of the public good. In the cause for which he was speaking, there was a splendid field for almost limitless good. By unselfish devotion, children could be saved to succeed those who had proved themselves so worthy of the great traditions of our race.

Sir James Crichton Browne said that it was disconcerting to find the supply of infants falling off. He said we must secure financial assistance for poor and necessitous women, when required, during the later months of pregnancy. It could be done by giving them, in addition to the insurance benefit of 30s., 5s. a week from the seventh month of pregnancy.

The Duchess of Marlborough began by giving some statistics of infant mortality and showed how in the fifteen years of the existence of mothers' schools the mortality had decreased in the neighbourhoods where they were found.

She considered that there should be a far larger number of health visitors, and women sanitary inspectors, instead of a reduction as had been suggested, and which she considered would be a very false economy.

Her Grace then alluded to illegitimate infants and showed how statistics proved the far higher percentage of deaths in this class as against legitimate births. She described the hostel that exists for unmarried mothers, where they may have their infants with them and go out to daily work till the children are weaned. The love for her child was the instinct of maternity, and should help the woman instead of hindering her. She suggested that workers should take up a course of training before embarking on work for infant welfare.

The Right Hon. Herbert Samuel, M.P., Postmaster General, said, "It is the mass that tells; numbers are of fundamental importance." In ten years the population had increased by 3½ millions; in Germany during the same period by 8½ millions.

The clinics were far too few; they should be as much a part of the national organisation as the elementary schools. There were too few persons to undertake this. There were many persons more or less efficient that did not know how to set to work.

The strength and foundation of a nation was built on nothing else but numbers and quality.

Sir Thomas Barlow said that enlightened humanity was coming to see the wisdom of keeping mother and child together. In so doing, not only was the child saved but the woman also.

Mr. Benjamin Broadbent, in a very few words, summed up. "Do something, say very little about it, but do it."

A WORD FOR THE WEEK.

No matter how long the war lasts, it will be fought out until we have conquered the right to leave a heritage of peace to our children.—

General Joffre.

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