

by the National Campaign to prevent the spread of epidemics by flies and insects, which was carried on last year. All who desire further information about saving our babies should write to 4, Tavistock Square for some of the useful publications on this subject issued by the League.

MOTHCRAFT IN WHITECHAPEL.

An Exhibition of Mothercraft was on view during the foregoing week at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. Many interesting and instructive exhibits were shown. A distinctive feature of this particular exhibition was that it was held in the heart of the Ghetto, and in connection with the Jewish Mothers' and Babies' Welcome.

The thrift stall displayed many cunningly-contrived garments from old material.

A dietary for a child of eighteen months was demonstrated. The offspring of a single female fly for one month was shown, and, if nauseating, was convincing as to the need for destroying every fly where possible. There were diagrams and maxims posted up round the hall, showing mothers the way they should walk in. "Dirty teeth soon decay," "Clothes should be loose and warm," &c.

There were models of rooms desirable and undesirable, a model of a day nursery, and many cheap and efficient cots. It was demonstrated by means of medicine bottles and an ordinary enamel saucepan how to prepare an infant's feeds for the twenty-four hours.

"Virol" had a very attractive stall, and showed their new preparation, "Virolax," a mixture of Virol and petroleum. They presented to a favoured few a little plated model of a Virol jar mounted as a charm.

Mrs. Model, the energetic Hon. Secretary of the Jewish Maternity and District Nursing Society, who has done so much work for the Whitechapel mothers, gave a lecture whose subjects included the importance, and dangers of measles, and who impressed on the mothers that it was now possible to have the valuable trained help of the nurses of the District Nurses' Association for this ailment, whereas till recently they had not been allowed to attend these cases.

Viscountess Helmsley also gave a lecture on Day Nurseries and the various duties of mothers to their infants. She much deprecated the practice of mothers with young infants going out to work, but advised them, if they were compelled to do so, to leave their babies in a day nursery, where they had skilled attention and training.

An interesting feature connected with the Jewish Maternity and District Nursing Society is the Sick-room Helps, or as they are now officially termed, Home Helps.

The idea, which originally started with the above Society, has been elaborated by the Central Committee for the Employment of Women (Queen's Fund), who now train Home Helps to work in conjunction with, but under the direction of, nurses and midwives in the homes of the poor.

The women are of the working class, and their offices are confined strictly to domestic duties during the illness or confinement of the mother, such as cooking the dinner, washing the children, and sending them to school, &c. The home help is engaged by the day or half-day, according to need. She may also be engaged if the mother is away in hospital. This excellent organisation is financed by a Thrift Society, in a well-considered plan of contributory payments. In the Whitechapel Centre for one year the contributions amounted to over £1,200; there are over 6,000 contributors, and last year there were 1,800 calls on the Society. Each member contributes a penny weekly, and when expecting confinement has to make up the contribution to £1, which entitles her to two weeks' service from the Home Help. This very excellent scheme should be widely known and practised.

THE ROYAL MATERNITY CHARITY.

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Maternity Charity of London, took place at the Charity's house, 31, Finsbury Square, London, E.C., on Wednesday, February 9th. Mr. C. J. Wilkinson-Pimbury, C.C., was again elected to the chair.

The business of electing the General Committee, etc., was accomplished, and the Secretary presented the Report. It was stated that 1,045 confinements had been attended by the midwives connected with the Charity, and that 1,066 children had been born, of whom 540 were boys and 526 girls. There had been 21 cases of twins and 36 still births. The cases requiring medical aid numbered 134. One maternal death occurred from puerperal eclampsia.

From some misunderstanding of the public on the subject of National Insurance, some subscriptions had ceased. It did not seem to be generally known that there were hundreds of women who derived no benefit from Insurance—such as street hawkers and those whose husbands were sick.

The number of patients had increased during the past year, and over 600 wives of soldiers had been attended after careful investigation.

Mrs. Probyn, the vice-chairman, in replying to the vote of thanks, said that it was a great pity they were unable to rouse people to their needs. It was so strange that they could not make themselves better known. It was perhaps owing to the fact that they had no building. They were only remembered when letters for their charity were required. The fact that over 600 soldiers' wives had been attended during the war ought to commend their Society to the public.

Tea was served at the conclusion of the meeting.

Next week we hope to publish the most interesting lecture by Dr. Eardley Holland, at the City of London Lying-in Hospital, on "Venereal Disease in Relation to Still Birth."

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