

again, but it has been found inadvisable to keep young infants together in numbers as the mortality has always been high among them. How are we, then, to deal with these little citizens, now especially, when every life is of such value, and when it is remembered that the boy babies are the more difficult to rear, and that the coming generation will have to make good the waste of manhood in this deplorable war. If we consider then two of the preventible causes of infant mortality—artificial feeding and want of fresh air—the question arises in our minds, to use an Americanism, "What's the matter with a Babies' Camp, with their mothers to nurture them in the first year of their lives? An open-air camp, in the southern or western counties, with a baby expert at its head, and mother love, and mother's milk to supplement scientific skill? What's the matter with that? Only the essential *£. s. d.* If such a scheme were to be carried out on anything like an adequate scale, it would, of course, have to be financed by the State, and money thus expended would prove a far better investment as a preventive measure than that spent in building large institutions for the treatment of children, diseased from preventable causes. Great things have always had small beginnings, and this scheme in embryo would be a splendid enterprise for some philanthropic person with money to spare.

The eternal laundry that seems at present to be considered the one and only suitable occupation for the institutional unmarried mother, could well be carried on in the vicinity of the camp, and would bring grist to the mill. In these days of motor traffic the work could be collected and returned to the large towns and the clothes would smell the sweeter if dried by the heather where our dream camp exists. It is also possible without wild flights of the imagination to think of other occupations for the girls, which would be healthier for their bodies and minds, and would tend to restore to them the "years that the locusts have eaten."

We are informed by farmers that one reason for the increased price of milk is that it is impossible, owing to the shortage of labour, to get the milking done. For the same reason crops are spoiled with weeds, and the sowing cannot be accomplished. It appears that we are greatly dependent on imported eggs. Chicken farms are immediately suggested. Then there are bee industries, market and nursery gardening. In these days, when so much is said about the economy of making every foot of land produce, acres are lying idle, and hundreds of strong young girls are eating out their hearts in dull occupations, and their infants are pining and dying among strangers.

We shall at once be told that such a scheme is "putting a premium on vice." Many of these girls are in no sense vicious. There still clings in the minds of many persons, generally men, that a woman, once down, must remain where she fell.

Away with such un-Christian notions!

The land is crying out for these girls, and the girls will answer the call with all their hearts, if

*they are given the chance.* They would find, perchance, in it the healing of their souls.

We have only to shut our eyes and the picture rises up before us of little brown infants lying about on sweet-smelling heather or daisy-dappled meadows. We can see surrounding us the sheds, each with its little cot beside the mother's bed, the sweet air making havoc of the bed-clothes. We can figure among them our very best babies' nurse, who must have a laughing face and rosy cheeks, and who *must* love the babies. It is the dinner hour and back come the mothers with flying feet to snatch up each her own particular little possession and kiss and cuddle it.

The picture of a Babies' Camp thus sketched in rough outline invites some pioneer to fill in the detail and carry it out with capital. The State can perhaps be then induced to follow the lead in its usual leisurely fashion.

H. H.

#### FOR CATHOLIC NURSES.

Dean Dolan performed the ceremony of opening a Catholic Nurses Club on Tuesday evening, which has been established at 8, Watson Road, Broomhill, Sheffield. The club will continue the work which was carried on in Brunswick Street up to last Christmas, and will afford facilities for rest and recreation for the nurses belonging to the Catholic Women's League.

#### HORLICK'S MALTED MILK RATION.

It is unnecessary to enlarge to nurses upon the virtues of Horlick's Malted Milk. It is an old and trusted friend to most of them. The firm, ever alert to meet the needs of the moment, has now produced a neat and compact twenty-four-hour ration of Horlick's Malted Milk Tablets, which has been largely purchased by the War Office. Many of the officers and men of our Expeditionary Forces who have been fortunate enough to receive them as gifts from friends at home, and through the regular channels, are loud in their praise and appreciation. It is a flat, round, airtight tin,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter by  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. deep, weighing only 7 oz. and containing eighty tablets in three layers. From ten to twenty of the tablets dissolved in the mouth as required supply the nourishment given by an ordinary meal, and one tin provides all the nutrition necessary to maintain strength and vigour for twenty-four hours, even when other food is unobtainable. These 24-hour Ration Tins are supplied exclusively for use by men at the front, but for the soldier still in training at home sixpenny and shilling glass Pocket Flasks of Tablets are available as hitherto. The ration tins are obtainable of chemists and stores and cost eighteenpence each. We learn from a worker in a Y.M.C.A. Recreation Hut that Horlick's Malted Milk is a most popular beverage with the men. We can well believe it. It has for some time been one of the most popular drinks for men on active service.

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