

THE APRIL EXAMINATION.

The analysis of the results of the recent examination presented by the Secretary is interesting. The total percentage of failures was 22.6; in non-Poor Law Training Schools it was 20 per cent.; of those privately trained who attended institution lectures, 38.5 per cent.; pupils of private lecturers, 23 per cent.; and those trained in Poor Law Training schools, 16.7 per cent.—a distinct feather in the cap of both teachers and pupils in Poor Law institutions.

PENAL BOARDS.

The next Penal Boards will be held on Wednesday and Thursday, June 14th and 15th, at 11 a.m.

NEED FOR NATIONAL CRÈCHES.

Miss Lilian Barker (Lady Superintendent at Woolwich Arsenal) gave an address at Bedford College last Saturday, on the hygienic effects and defects of women's munition work.

Miss Barker said that the national crisis made it absolutely necessary for married women to work in order to support their children, and this ought to lead to the institution of national crèches to take the place of the nursery of the better class households. Crèches should be the means of employing what was now an almost unemployed class—the woman who was getting on in life.

The long hours that had to be worked now might unfortunately result in a lesser birth-rate and a loss of family life, but in peace times both of these should be remedied. Crèches should create a less harassed and therefore happier mother for the times of leisure.

THE POPULATION QUESTION.

In an interview in the *New York American* Mr. Bernard Shaw is reported to have said:—"The population question will be solved by treating child-bearing as the most important of the national services, and the protection, nurture, and training of children as the first interest of the State. . . . The community can have as many children as it needs by the simple expedient of paying what they cost."

VICARIOUS ADOPTION.

The *Lancet*, in a leading article on "Infant Mortality in Scotland, and the Nation's Future," referring to the suggestion of a contributor for a scheme for the reduction of infant mortality by a system of vicarious adoption, writes:—"Sympathy with 'lonely soldiers' at the Front has, as is well known, produced for them 'fairy god-mothers.' These have not only sent them parcels of delicacies to supplement their rations, but have done their best to cheer them with letters in the trenches. It may be that the 'fairy god-mother idea' will meet with a similar welcome when applied to actual infants, and that 'god-fathers' who will undertake a certain pecuniary

obligation will not find themselves excluded. In Scotland, as in England, there is ample room for voluntary agencies to work side by side and in combination with official bodies, for the war has only emphasised for the whole kingdom the need for vigorous and concerted action."

THE ROTUNDA HOSPITAL.

At a Charter Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, the Board warmly congratulated Miss Ramsden, the Lady Superintendent, upon her excellent report of the very serious condition in which the hospital and its inmates were placed during the recent rebellion, and thanked her for her very successful efforts in catering for the patients and staff under circumstances of unprecedented difficulty.

MISS RAMSDEN'S REPORT.

"On April 24th the terrible rebellion broke out, and everyone had an extremely anxious time. Two bullets entered Ward 7, causing great alarm to the patients, who were then moved out to the back of the hospital. The hospital became very full; on one day there were 113 patients in the wards. Owing to the Easter holidays our supplies had almost run out, and the situation outside was so very serious that the tradespeople could not deliver the goods, though milk was sent in by Mr. Turbett up to the 27th at very great risk. Then for two days we had none. Extreme economy had to be practised, but owing to the kind assistance of Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Conway, and Messrs. J. L. Byrne, Ltd., of Great Britain Street, who supplied different articles of food, suffering from want was avoided. Our best thanks are due to these tradespeople, and especially to Mr. Kennedy, who sent down a vanload of bread; otherwise we should have been entirely without. His vanman on leaving the hospital was fired at and the van searched by the rebels. Fortunately, the man was unharmed. The highest praise is due to our own men, who risked their lives going across the city on two occasions for meat, and in every possible way they gave me most valuable assistance. The gas was cut off on Tuesday morning, and the electricity on Wednesday, and our having to work in semi-darkness added to the difficulties of the situation. The nursing staff, however, maintained a wonderful degree of calmness under the great stress of work to the accompaniment of roaring cannon and firearms of every description. They cheerfully accepted the limited rations, and worked unceasingly for the welfare of the patients. Many wounded were treated in the dispensary, some cases being very serious, and three deaths took place. Dr. Simpson and Dr. Gilmor, Assistant Masters, with Dr. Datta and the students, worked unceasingly both indoors and outside at great personal risk. Dr. Simpson and Dr. Agar both conveyed serious cases from the extern midwifery department into the hospital under rifle fire, and many poor women were brought in by the military and the Red Cross ambulances."

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