

Many of the visitors were expressing their willingness to sit down and partake of the appetising fare that was being served with such cleverness and daintiness by the poor mothers of London. It was gratifying to observe how many vegetarian dishes were in evidence, although one woman was heard to remark that her old man wouldn't be satisfied without a bit of meat. A most delicious looking pie, whose flaky crust concealed potatoes, tomatoes, onions, green peas, carrots, and butter beans, won our special admiration. It merited and obtained an Honours Certificate.

The prize was given to a dinner composed of fresh herrings and tomatoes, vegetable soup and toast, potatoes, boiled rice and treacle, suet and treacle dumplings. Total cost, 1s. 4d.; number of persons, 4. Not bad that. Of course the centre of attraction was the baby competition, where the most charming of their charming species sat in birthday suit upon their mothers' laps while the doctor examined them in a scientific manner. He must have been flinty-hearted indeed not to give a first prize to every one. But that of course would have been too expensive for war time.

In the hall were specimens of fathers and mothers' ingenuity in carpentering and needlework, and very marvellous they were. Stockings made into jersey suits, new lamps for old of all descriptions. And the fathers—for mere men—produced some really beautiful pieces of furniture for a most trifling cost. The prize cot, costing 4s. 6d., was a triumph. Lady Plunkett, assisted by Dr. Eric Pritchard, distributed the prizes, which were 5s. War Loan vouchers.

The mothers, as they could be spared from their arduous duties, were entertained to tea, and each took away a pretty bunch of flowers.

#### LONDON PRIZE WINNERS.

*Six Simple Questions in Mothercraft.*—Mrs. Herring (St. Marylebone, North A), Mrs. Johns (Wimbledon), and Mrs. Pratt (St. Marylebone, South A).

*The Best Kept Records.*—St. Marylebone, South A; St. Marylebone, North A, B & C, and St. John's Wood; St. Pancras.

*Six Simple Questions in Home Nursing.*—Mrs. Boast (Stepney School for Mothers).

*The Mother and Child showing evidence of having profited most by the instruction given at her centre.*—Mrs. Chapman (Bethnal Green), Mrs. Angell (St. Marylebone, South A), Mrs. Titley (St. Marylebone, North C), and Mrs. Milburn (Hammersmith School for Mothers). Mrs. Milburn's baby got a special prize given by the judge himself, because it had got on so well. It was brought to the school when it was one month old (weighing 3 lbs. only), and was the survivor of premature twins. The mother carried out the doctor's instructions so well and carefully that it is getting on splendidly.

*Made-up Garments.*—Mrs. Luxton (Hammersmith Women's League of Service), Mrs. Smee (King's Cross Women's League of Service), and Mrs. Gourlay (Hammersmith, South).

*Knitted or Crochet Articles.*—Mrs. Newton (Wimbledon).

*Mended Garments.*—Mrs. Newberry (Paddington, East).

*Renovated or Adapted Garments.*—Mrs. Russell (Paddington, East).

*Practical Cooking.*—Mrs. Coleman (St. Marylebone, South C).

*Theoretical Cooking.*—Mrs. Laurie (Wimbledon).

*Laundry Work, done at the National Competitions.*—Mrs. Farrer (Holborn, Saffron Hill Branch).

*A Letter on Mothercraft.*—Mrs. Clarke (St. Marylebone, North A).

*Ingenuity Competition for Fathers or Brothers of the Baby.*—Mr. Bettinelli (Holborn, Lamb's Conduit Street).

#### THE CHALLENGE SHIELD.

The Challenge Shield is to be awarded at Bristol, on July 22nd, at the close of the competitions for the Provincial Centres. So far, Wimbledon has the highest number of marks.

#### THE LORD MAYOR AND MOTHERS' DAY.

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Charles Wakefield, has consented to become the chief patron of Mothers' Day, which is fixed for August 8th. The founder of Mothers' Day, Mr. J. A. Whitehead, of Richmond, hopes that on this occasion everyone will make a special effort to do a kindness to a mother, especially the mother who is suffering as a result of the war. No flags will be sold and no collections taken, Mr. Whitehead paying all costs of administration as a tribute to the mothers of the Empire. The Honorary Secretary is Mr. J. P. H. Bewsher, 47, Fleet Street, E.C., who will be glad to supply the fullest information.

#### THE SELECTION OF PUPIL MIDWIVES.

One of the qualities essential in a midwife is that she should be trustworthy, and this is necessary not only in the interests of the patients, but of the State, for it is the duty of midwives to make returns which are incorporated in the State Records, and if these are not accurate they are useless.

At the last penal session of the Central Midwives Board a midwife who was cited to appear on a charge of having certified as still-born a child who was born alive, and who appeared before the Board, admitted that she knew the child was born alive, that no pressure was put upon her to make this false notification, and that she did so to save expense to the mother, who was a single woman.

A midwife who can so act must have a most inadequate conception of the elements of truth and of her public duty; further, if she disregards them in one particular she is likely to do so in another. All of which goes to prove the necessity for selecting only women of probity and high moral character as pupil midwives.

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