

# The Midwife.

## THE RETREAT, MERE.

### THE NATIONAL MATERNITY AND TRAINING HOME.

For some time there has been a feeling among Rescue and Social Workers that a great deal could be done to reclaim young unmarried mothers if a course of training could be given them on broader and more interesting lines than those of the past. Especially they have advocated work in the open air, such as gardening, poultry farming, dairy work, &c. Added to this is the great need of keeping the young mother with her baby as long as possible, that the mother love which is often

The instruction is given in the course of the ordinary work of the Home. It commences before and continues after the child is born, and the normal duration is six months, when it is hoped she will be fitted to take a remunerative post, skilled workers being very much needed all over the country. Great care is taken in the choice of such a post that the girl should be with people likely to give her a helping hand in her difficult upward climb.

The house has been thoroughly adapted for its purpose at an expense of over £200, and the ground has been planned on the latest scientific methods for poultry keeping and gardening. Only first cases are taken, and the person or society recom-

mending the girl must be responsible for the weekly payment of 10s., and £1 1s. for her confinement. All correspondence in cases must be addressed to the Hon. Lady Superintendent of "The Retreat," Mrs. F. B. Rutter, Dewes House, Mere, Wilts, who will gladly give further information. The Organising Secretary is Miss Carrie E. Dugdale, 36, Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C.

Donations and subscriptions for the Home will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer.

The first annual report states that two facts have much



GROUP AT THE RETREAT, MERE, WILTS.  
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very strong in these circumstances should have a chance to assert itself properly, thus creating a strong factor towards making the girl a useful member of society and a good citizen again.

The Maternity and Training Home, arranged by the Women's Auxiliary of the Free Church Council, will, we believe, commend itself to the many who are anxious that right care should be given to unmarried mothers on constructive lines.

The Home, which is called "The Retreat," is at Mere, a small country town just under the Wiltshire Downs, in beautiful surroundings and bracing air, and has been fitted to receive fourteen girls. It is intended that each girl shall remain long enough to receive a course of training in some or all of the following:—Cooking, Laundry Work, Needlework, Care and Management of the Children, Gardening, and Poultry Rearing.

impressed the Committee, namely, the friendless position of most of the girls, even when educated and refined, and their inability to support a baby as well as themselves.

The Home has saved them from the workhouse in their time of need, but the Committee realise that if they are to be effectively helped to bear their burden in the future it is essential for the majority to receive a course of definite training so as to equip them better for the task which lies ahead of them. They gladly report that the methods adopted for this purpose have been a real success. The Matron (Miss Ada Cook) trains the girls in turn in domestic management and duties. Sister Ethel Clappen, in addition to the lying-in ward, has the charge of the babies and trains the girls in their management.

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