

## HOSPITAL SOCIAL SERVICE.

### THE BABIES' HAVEN, DUXHURST.

The valuable work carried on in the Homes of the Holy Redeemer at Duxhurst, near Reigate, in the care of inebriate women by Lady Henry Somerset is known not only in this country, but throughout the world, and it gave one at first a pang of regret to learn that even so important a work as the care of homeless infants had been substituted for it; for many people can mother little children, whereas the care of inebriates is a difficult art, in which the founder of the Duxhurst Farm Village and the inspirer of its serene, hopeful, uplifting environment is a past master.

A visit to the Babies' Haven served to modify this opinion, for the truth is that the need for the special mission of Duxhurst in the care of inebriates has considerably decreased since the war, which has brought a great increase of occupation for women, and unhappiness and loneliness are most commonly the origin of inebriety in women, and further, the restrictions on the sale of intoxicants have decreased temptation. Therefore, although inebriates are still received, the pressure on the accommodation at Duxhurst has decreased.

The Babies' Haven is located in the Manor House, where well-to-do patients were formerly received, and which, more recently, has been used as a military Hospital; the well-built house with its spacious, airy rooms, having lovely views over one of the most beautiful of English counties, is an ideal one for the Babies' Haven.

On a recent visit to the Haven, on an August afternoon the writer found all the babies—forty in number—in their wicker cots in front of the house, and the greater part of their time is spent in the fresh-air. All except one baby, whom even the life-giving air of Duxhurst and the loving care

given there, has failed to restore completely, looked the picture of health. The ever-recurring problem of the provision of shoes and socks for so large a family does not trouble those in charge of the babies. It has been solved by leaving the feet free as nature intended, and shell pink toes curl about with no ill-fitting shoes to compress them and cause trouble in after-years.

The Matron in charge of the Home is Miss Olive Goddard, a Queen's Nurse, who was trained at the Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital, is a certified midwife, and holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Miss Goddard has belonged to the Q.V.J.I. for eleven years, during

which time she has been district nurse, and midwife, school tuberculosis nurse, and lecturer in Mothercraft and Hygiene in the Elementary Schools under the Gloucestershire County Council. Her last post has been Superintendent of the Dorset County Nursing Association, Supervisor of the Child Welfare Work under the Notification of Births Act, and Inspector of Midwives for the Dorset County Council. It would be difficult to find anyone with better qualifications for the work. The staff



IN THE GARDEN, BABIES' HAVEN.

consists of a Night and a Day Sister, two hospital trained nurses, three nursery nurses, and one nurse maid, beside the domestic staff. Each nurse has her own family of babies, eight to a family. The day begins with the babies' breakfast at 7 o'clock, washing going on in another room meanwhile. Lunch is at 10 a.m., after which, on fine days, they spend the greater part of the time in the open air; dinner is at 12 o'clock, tea at 3.30, bathing begins at 4.30 p.m. and supper is at 6. The bottle babies are fed three-hourly.

The nursery where the babies are washed and dressed is on the ground floor, a charming room in tones of blue and white. To see the bathing operations in full progress is to realise the service

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