

rendered to the State by the Babies' Haven. Happy, healthy, rosy little children, in age varying from a few months (they are taken as young as ten days) up to a year and a-half and two years; indeed, one little boy is three and a-half years old. That, incidentally, indicates a problem. The infant mortality, as we know, is greatest under twelve months of age. The ideal is that the cots should always be filled with children under that age, so that they may benefit by the highly skilled care provided. But the babies grow up, they cannot be turned out, and so urgent cases cannot be admitted. There is plenty of space at Duxhurst for buildings to accommodate the older babies, if the funds were forthcoming, and it is for those who realise the good work that is being done to see that it is not hampered for lack of the necessary means. No better investment could be made than one which ensures the happiness of many little children, the majority of whom would die were it not for the care they here receive; the rest would grow up in undesirable surroundings.

Another aspect of the work is that it gives the mothers of these little children the opportunity of becoming useful members of the community. Once a woman has taken a false step, the downward path is easy, the evil influences many, the difficulty of obtaining the necessary means of support for herself and her child is a problem of exceeding difficulty, for women in happy circumstances are apt to turn the cold shoulder on those who have succumbed to temptations which they have never known, and many single mothers with their first babies drift to the life of the streets, with its misery and ultimate ruin, not from any vicious motives, but because no helping hand is held out to them in their trouble, and it affords what seems to them the only means of maintaining the child.

All the babies at the Haven are soldiers' children,

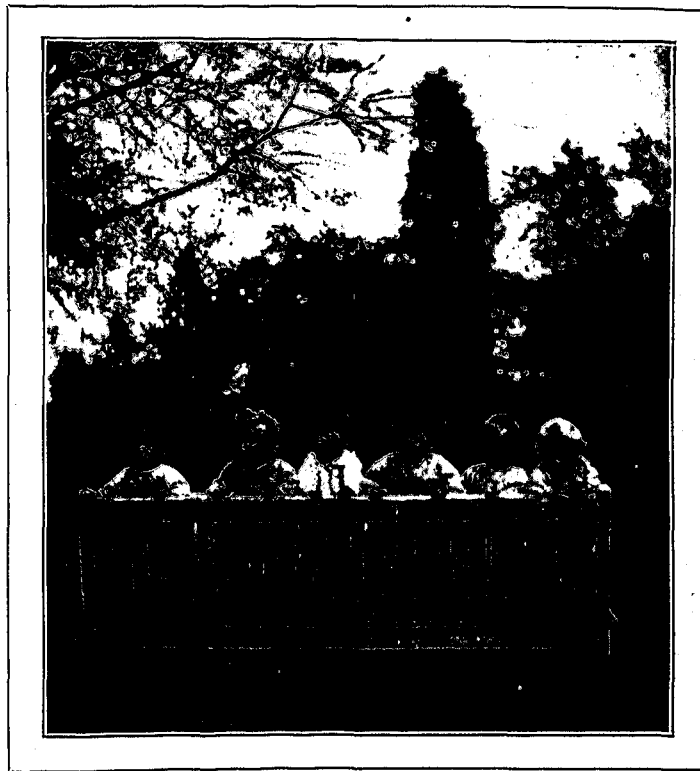
and many of the mothers have no idea where the fathers are. Every effort is made to keep the mothers in touch with the children; some of them are employed on the Duxhurst Colony, and a few of them in the Manor House itself. Many of them are very devoted to their children, and there is every hope that eventually they may be placed in good situations. There are three night nurseries, with delightful cots, and a sick room provides isolation for doubtful cases. There has been no trouble as to specific disease; every baby before admission has to be medically certified as free from infection of this kind. In regard to the feeding of the "bottle babies" only whole milk is

used. It may be modified to the extent that cream is removed from or added to it, but no other modification of any kind is employed, and the babies thrive on the pure milk supplied by the Duxhurst cows—shorthorns for the most part.

In addition to the Haven, Miss Goddard supervises St. Ann's Cottage, where there are 5 beds, 4 of which are occupied by patients from Queen Charlotte's Hospital who come there with their babies to convalesce.

Years ago the writer heard Lady Henry Somerset when eloquently

pleading for support for the Inebriate homes at Duxhurst, say that when in another world the supporters of the homes met the women their gifts had helped to rescue, she thought they would say to them, "I'm so glad you're saved." Looking round on the family of happy, healthy children placed in surroundings in which they will learn to grow up good men and women, and useful members of society, the words re-echoed "I'm so glad you're saved." Look at the pictures of the Duxhurst babies, and think of the babies you have known in hospital who come from just such surroundings as theirs would be. You too will say from your heart "I'm so glad you're saved." Then how much will you give, or get others to give, to help to save them?



A TROUGH FULL OF TREASURES, BABIES' HAVEN.

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