

The Chair was taken by Mr. A. V. Symonds, C.B., Assistant Secretary to the Local Government Board. The speakers were Mr. F. Morris, Chairman of the Marylebone Board of Guardians, and Lady Nott-Bower, a member of the Richmond Board.

Mr. Morris spoke in favour of the school system in dealing with the normal child needing relief. He thought that the advantages were, that a good standard of health was maintained, that children learnt the value of discipline, and that they were fitted for work in life. He hoped that the family feeling could be maintained by allowing mothers frequent access to their children.

Lady Nott-Bower strongly urged the boarding-out system, which enabled the children to share in family life, and which dealt with the children individually. She quoted Mrs. Bramwell Booth, who had said that natural law is good law. She pointed out the hard case of the unmarried mother, who was expected to pay 6s. a week for her child, out of the £20 she earned in service. She pleaded for a more humane treatment of this class of mother, and urged that the law should be amended, which compelled her to stay in the workhouse if she could not support her child. She considered that the fear of desertion was exaggerated, but said that even if it occurred it was better than the alternative.

No doubt, she said, it was a heinous offence to give birth to two illegitimate children, but did it merit seven years' penal servitude?

Miss H. Hawkins, member Barnet Board of Guardians, supported Lady Nott-Bower's views, and said that she was more than satisfied with the results from Boarding-out, more especially without the Union. She agreed with Lady Nott-Bower on the punishment meted out to the unmarried mothers, but said she would go farther, and call it penal servitude for life, for often all youth and hope had departed before they were free. She cited the case of a deserted woman who had seven children of one father; she would not be free till the last of her children attained the age of fourteen. Where it was impossible—as it generally was—for the paternity of the child to be brought home, the State should bear the father's share.

SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS IN RELATION TO CHILD WELFARE WORK.

The Afternoon Session had for its subject "Social Organisations in relation to Child Welfare Work." The Countess Ferrers presided.

The first speaker, Dr. Gray, Medical Officer of St. George's-in-the-East and Wapping Infant Welfare Committee, thought that child welfare centres should confine their energies to the education of mothers in mothercraft, and to giving advice on the management of individual babies. The causes of infant mortality were so numerous that it was not desirable that these centres should deal with them.

Cases requiring material assistance should be referred to other Social Organisations, and where organisations for particular needs were non-

existent efforts should be made to create them independently.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON CHILD WELFARE.

Mr. Robert Parr, Director of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, dealt with Voluntary Agencies and their influence on Child Welfare. He said that next to the question of how to win the war, that of Child Welfare was of the utmost importance to the nation. He advanced two main propositions—(1) That a child has the right to be properly born, and (2) That it has the right to proper treatment after birth. He further showed that owing to certain conditions, social and economic, and to various influences arising out of habit and environment, the present position of a proportion of the children of the nation is not satisfactory. Local Authorities, Voluntary Agencies and private persons must all help to mend matters through legislation, administration and co-operation. It was important to make the most of opportunity. The ideal method was to fit the parent for the fulfilment of parental duties, not to assume those duties, but if the child's right was not given it by its parents then the State should secure its enforcement.

THE EXHIBITION.

CLEAN MILK.

One of the first essentials of healthy childhood is clean milk, and the National Clean Milk Society, 2, Soho Square, W. 1, had a very interesting exhibit at the Baby Week Exhibition in the Central Hall, S.W. The right and wrong kind of milk pail for use, the correct and incorrect way of keeping milk in the home, photographs showing the milkers and their method of procedure, and a model of an up-to-date cowshed, clean, well ventilated and with plenty of air, and another not 100 miles from London, with no window nor ventilation, foul and evil smelling, afforded striking object lessons.

MODEL NURSERY.

The Model Night Nursery, arranged by Waring & Gillow, Ltd., showing white enamelled furniture decorated with nursery figures of a sort to charm a child, attracted much interest.

PRE-NATAL CLASS EXHIBIT.

The Jewish Maternity and Sick Room Helps Society, of 24, Underwood Street, E. 1, had an interesting pre-natal Class Exhibit, consisting of Cot, Basket, and specimens of clothes. The importance of pre-natal work is slowly receiving recognition.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

On Saturday, July 7th, the last day of the Exhibition, Queen Alexandra gave much pleasure by distributing the prizes and certificates awarded during the week. Her Majesty had the welcome of which she is always assured when she attends any public function.

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