

whole industrial population was provided with a great nursing service.

Dr. C. W. Saleeby, in making a strong plea for a Ministry of Health, gives the following sound reasons why we want it *now*:—

(1) Because "there is no wealth but life," and only by saving the lives now being lost through our carelessness and folly can we compensate for the appalling losses of the war.

(2) Because last year's birth-rate was less than eighteen per thousand, which is less than half the rate of forty years ago; and among these relatively few children born many preventable deaths occur at all ages.

(3) Because Lord Rhondda has told us for a year, without contradiction, that a Ministry of Health would save a thousand babies' lives a week.

(4) Because progress in national health is impossible whilst fourteen Government Departments muddle the responsibility between them.

(5) Because, even when we have won the war, we cannot hope, without such a Ministry, to win the "great campaigns of peace to come."

(6) Because only a properly constituted Ministry of Health can hope to deal with the horrible menace of venereal disease during demobilisation.

(7) Because health of mind, health of body, and health of conduct are frequently interdependent, and it means much that "healthy" and "holy" are two forms of the same word.

(8) Because, in King George's words, "The foundations of national glory are set in the homes of the people."

Since people, who in the past were quite oblivious to the hardships and insanitary conditions under which the poor lived, especially in cities, have realised that "there is no wealth but life," healthy life, we should like to add, an immense interest has been aroused. We regret we have not space to deal with the signs of the times in this connection at great length, but in reading reports of District Nursing Associations, we note the awakening upon the part of the well-to-do.

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the Northamptonshire District Nursing Association held recently, over which Lady Ethel Wickham presided. It was reported that the "Need for Nurses' Week" had brought in £648 16s., and it was decided to arrange another appeal for 1918.

Referring to this effort and to the important aims which form the programme of the Associa-

tion, Lady Ethel Wickham said the work of the Society was steadily growing, and there was a great demand for larger efforts, especially in maternity and child welfare. The care of the nation's young life was of paramount importance. The country could not afford to lose one young life unnecessarily nor to allow children to grow up into degenerates or weaklings. It was a fact that one out of every four children in elementary schools was unable, through weakness or deficiency, to take full advantage of the education the State provided. This was due in almost every case to bad home conditions and ignorant parents. The demand for nurses was increasing, especially for maternity and infant welfare centres, where mothers-to-be and mothers in being can obtain advice and help. The Association wanted a home for emergency nurses. There was no possibility of standing still in the Association; in the words of the Prime Minister, they must "Go on or go under."

A vote of thanks to the district nurses was passed, and it was decided to send a copy to the nurses as a slight public recognition of their willing and self-sacrificing work. The Association realised how much the success of their efforts depended upon the nurses. Dr. Linnell said the medical profession appreciated more and more the help of the district nurses. In general cases, and especially in midwifery cases, they were of the greatest possible assistance.

To publicly thank the nurses is only their due, and also shows increased appreciation, by managers, of the indispensable skill of the worker, often totally ignored at such meetings in the past.

The Honble. Sir Arthur Stanley addressed a meeting at Plymouth on March 21st on the subject of the Nation's Fund for Nurses. We hope next week to deal with his Apologia, and to remove some misconceptions arising therefrom, as pressure on our space prevents our doing so in the present issue.

PRESENTATION.

The Board of Management, the Honorary Officers, and the Medical Staff of St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin, 262, Uxbridge Road, London, W., have presented a handsome gift of plate and cutlery to Miss A. W. Gooding, Matron of the Hospital, on her marriage, in recognition of her 7 years' devoted and loyal service to the institution. The presentation was made by the Earl of Chesterfield, K.G., President of the Hospital.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)