

THE CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION AT LYONS.

LETTER FROM M^{lle}. GUIBAL, DIPLOMÉE OF THE MAISON DE SANTÉ PROTESTANTE, ENGAGED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS TO SUPERINTEND THEIR WORK AT LYONS.

The first few days we have had very little to do. Everyone has their mind so occupied with the Children's Exhibition, which the American Red Cross has organised. The opening took place recently, and was a most brilliant success and all the important people of the town were present, including the Cardinal, the Prefet and the Mayor. Both the American doctors and professors from the Lyons University of Medicine spoke. One doctor related the whole story of the American Red Cross and in so touching a way that many eyes filled with tears. It was a magnificent manifestation of Franco-American feeling. Then there was a procession round the exhibition. All the walls were covered with frescoes and pictures, representing babies at different periods of their lives—playing in the garden—sleeping in their cradles *with the window open*—the morning tub—and at the age of five or six months being taught hygienic habits. The explanation of all this is given by "Baby" himself. His story goes on at too great a length for me to give you all the details, but as you may imagine this section has been extremely popular!

The exhibition is divided next into stands—one for the woman during her pregnancy. There are models showing her wearing a "body support" instead of a corset. No one was shocked and I took the names of several women who ordered "supports" (*serre-corps*).

Then there was mother and baby's room—mother in bed and baby in his cot. There was baby's trousseau; a demonstration of how to dress and how not to dress baby; how baby ought to be fed—by his mother and also with cow's milk, and how to sterilize at home. A young doctress gave the demonstrations.

Then follow the diets for children from their earliest age to fifteen, and then for adults. Doctor-esses also supplied this information.

Next is the tuberculosis stand. Every two minutes an electric lamp is lighted and extinguished—a poor consumptive dies. These are the things which strike the imagination of the people. There are tables and statistics on the walls; and books and leaflets are distributed. There is a specialist for the throat, the nose, the ears, the dentist, and demonstrations on daily hygiene.

On the other side are all the works already existing in Lyons, with statistics, photographs and works of other towns. Naturally, the first place is given to the "Budín" foundation—institutions, open-air schools, schools in pine forests, a library, and a plan of what the American Red Cross is doing in Lyons to help France.

There is also a glass house where a nurse has at her disposal a bedroom for baby and his room. Four times a day she bathes and dresses a baby brought to her, and returns baby to his mother dressed from top to toe in new American clothes.

Farther along there is an exhibition of toys for boys and girls up to ten years old; then farther along, another bath room and an operating theatre. There is also a cinema with frequent "health" exhibitions, and "Punch and Judy" twice a day.

In front of the exhibition is an immense space reserved for games in the open-air. A whole regiment of children pass in and out and play; and those ladies who supervise and play with them must be tired, for they play from 8-5.

This is just a short account of the exhibition, which I thought might interest you. I hope great good will come of it. Every day 5,000 visitors come to the exhibition, and each one must carry away valuable lessons on standards of national health.

THE FINANCIAL CONTROL OF THE NURSING PROFESSION.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley personally attended a meeting held at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester, on April 25th, organised by Miss Vincent, the Matron, when Mrs. Martin Harvey supported his appeal for funds in aid of the College of Nursing, Ltd. The usual statements were made as to the disorganisation of the nursing profession and the need of charity for our nurses and V.A.D.s broken in the war.

For once a trained nurse—Miss Pell Smith, the respected Matron of the De Montford Nursing Home, Leicester—ventured to ask a question. She asked if there would be *one* entrance examination to qualify for general registration after the period of grace, and if there would be an independent permanent Council to safeguard the economic position of nurses.

Sir Arthur replied that there would be a preliminary Council (but did not explain the excessive representation it is proposed to give to the employers of nurses on the Provisional Council in the College Bill) which would frame the rules, and afterwards an independent permanent Council.

Again, Sir Arthur did not make it clear that his Bill incorporates the College of Nursing, with its autocratic constitution, and that any Council set up, is, in a practical sense, the College Council to which State Registrationists strongly object.

Mrs. Martin Harvey gave advice on professional nursing matters of which necessarily her knowledge is limited.

Mr. Martin Harvey recited "A Hymn of Love for England," in which his histrionic powers were fully appreciated by his audience.

Of course no one was invited to explain the reasons for the strong objections felt to the scheme by independent trained nurses.

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